

# MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## ACADEMIC PLAN<sup>1</sup>

### EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

In alignment with our College values, Mesa Community College is committed to shared governance and transparency. We aim to embed these values into all of our processes and practices. Each of these values should be used to guide the operationalization of the following priorities and strategies.

#### A. **Educational Priority:** The Student Experience

**Goal:** MCC is committed to facilitating a positive and inclusive college experience for each student from first contact to transfer, program/course completion, and/or job training and placement. We support students from recruitment to completion through a college-wide culture where all employees are committed to student success. As a Hispanic-Serving Institution, we are responsive to demographic changes through services and programs that are reflective, supportive, and inclusive of populations served, fostering an environment of continuous improvement that includes integrated planning through data-informed practices.

**Strategy 1:** Student Affairs, Administrative Services, College Technology Services, and Academic Affairs collaborate to more effectively provide student

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<sup>1</sup> The original version was endorsed by the Shared Governance Council on April 13, 2015 and updated in April 2016 with the addition of Strategy 3 supporting Educational Priority B: Personalized Educational Pathways. This version, endorsed by the Shared Governance Coordinating Board on May 8, 2023, incorporates the prior Priority D: Institutional Effectiveness into Priorities A-C and refines verbiage to align with the 2020-25 MCC Strategic Plan.

support services that are seamless, integrated, functional, consistent and timely, translating into a positive student-centered experience.

**Strategy 2:** Student Affairs, Administrative Services, College Technology Services, and Academic Affairs collaborate to align services, practices, approaches, and campus cultures to address the needs of our diverse student body and communities served.

**Strategy 3:** MCC will develop data-informed improvement processes in order to enhance the student experience utilizing an assessment model that is aligned with activities occurring at the district, college, department, program, and course level.

#### **B. Educational Priority:** Personalized Educational Pathways

**Goal:** MCC is committed to helping each student develop and achieve their own clearly defined, structured, and personalized pathway to reach their educational goals of transfer, degree/certificate completion, job placement, and/or personal enrichment.

**Strategy 1:** MCC establishes and provides innovative and sustainable educational opportunities that are responsive to community and industry needs and that prepare our diverse students to achieve their varied educational and career goals.

**Strategy 2:** MCC offers baccalaureate degrees and also partners with universities to expand access to baccalaureate degrees at the college. MCC works with industry and community partners to expand access to the workforce through the offering of exemplary Career and Technical Education programs.

**Strategy 3:** MCC incorporates components of the Guided Pathways to Success (GPS) model, such as coordinated pathway scheduling, to help students identify their goals and needs through clearly-defined pathways leading to timely

completion. Starting with courses shared among broadly-related areas of study, students progress through carefully sequenced courses with recognizable academic milestones and integrated support services.

### C. **Educational Priority:** Academic Excellence

**Goal:** MCC is committed to academic excellence through high quality teaching and learning experiences that lead to high levels of student success. Through a shared governance process, MCC crafts curricula, environments, and experiences that foster the development of knowledge, skills, and habits of mind. MCC sustains and builds innovative academic programming and services that adapt to the needs of our local and global partners, including community and civic engagement opportunities and options for remote and/or flexible attendance. MCC will use the assessment of learning and instructional programming data to make evidence-based improvements to our institution.

**Strategy 1:** MCC hires, cultivates, and retains a highly-motivated, talented, knowledgeable, and diverse workforce recognized for teaching and service excellence and who value the diversity of our students in order to ensure deep learning and high levels of student success.

**Strategy 2:** MCC engages in timely, comprehensive, and appropriate assessment of student learning outcomes at the course, program, and institutional levels, intentionally reviewing data from an equity perspective to eliminate gaps in completion and student success. Academic assessment is recursive and sustainable which leads to a culture of assessment throughout the college to ensure strategic academic programming and a high quality educational experience for all students.

**Strategy 3:** MCC offers community and civic engagement opportunities to provide experiential learning in real world contexts to support the development of community leaders and responsible citizens.

**Strategy 4:** Utilize MCC's strategic planning model to align academic program outcome measures with resource development, prioritization, and allocation.