

EDUCATION

# All Ages Can Learn, Explore, and Have Fun at MCC Red Mountain Campus

Submitted by Mesa Community College

The Mesa Community College Red Mountain Campus is buzzing with special events, critter activities, and holiday celebrations as well as educational opportunities and fun for all ages. Located on 98 acres of Sonoran Desert in Northeast Mesa, Mother Nature serves as an instructor, classroom, and inspiring learning habitat.



The community is invited to enjoy the created desert spring known as a *ciénega*. Landscaped with native riparian plants, it is a habitat for endangered species, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and fish. Seating around the water offers a popular study area as well as a place for a picnic or a moment of Zen.

Families and all critter fans flock to the Saguaro building, which is a living laboratory with a huge terrarium in the lobby offering up-close yet safe observations of Sonoran Desert wildlife, including four species of rattlesnakes, non-venomous snakes, a Gila monster, and Sonoran Desert toad. Two more terrariums are built into the walls, featuring more reptiles and native frogs, toads, and other exciting animals.

New Frontier for Lifelong Learning (NFLL) is a Mesa Community College non-credit, community education program designed by and for the active senior community. NFLL members create peer-led classes, social events, volunteer opportunities, and physical activities such as hiking, biking, and walking groups. For less than \$10 a month, classes and activities are free (except for no-host social events such as dining out).

Curriculum chair Suzane Brown and co-chair Jacki McDugle point out that classes and activities are driven

by member interests and invite seniors to not only join NFLL but to participate in selecting class topics, activities, travel, and culinary adventures. Find out more at [newfrontiers.mesacc.edu](http://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu) or call (480) 461-7497.

The annual *Empty Bowls* event, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 8 in the Saguaro building, is an opportunity to take part in World Hunger Day. Donate \$10 and take home a hand-crafted bowl created by MCC art students. You can also donate canned and non-perishable food to the Mesa Market, which helps students facing food insecurity. Empty Bowls is also taking place on the Southern Avenue and Dobson Road campus on Nov. 15. Proceeds benefit the Paz de Cristo Community Center.

Come celebrate those who serve our nation on Nov. 9 at the *Veterans Day Trail Run/Walk* beginning at noon in the Mesquite building, room 200. Student, faculty, staff, and community member veterans will share their experiences and ways to support them on campus. Then runners and walkers will gather in Saguaro Mall for stretching and the *National Anthem* followed by an untimed one or two-mile trek.

Find some great gifts and peruse classic vehicles at the *Holiday Boutique and Classic Car Show*, 5 to 8 p.m., on Dec. 8. Explore the beautiful campus as you shop from dozens of vendors selling home goods, crafts, jewelry, and other great gift ideas. ■

Register now for the Spring Semester beginning Jan. 13, 2024. To find out more about academic degrees, career classes, financial aid, and more, stop by the Red Mountain campus Enrollment Center in the Mesquite building, call (480) 654-7600, or go to [mesacc.edu/enroll](http://mesacc.edu/enroll).

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# College Admissions

A poem by Camryn Long

*What they don't tell you is that you will edit and revise yourself with efficient brutality. You will shatter yourself on the floor until you crumble in shards of ceramic, like a pink piggy bank which you hope conceals your golden ticket. You will pilfer the dirt for small pieces of what you once called a person, and arrange them in a more flattering mosaic on the cement. You will assume that the art is better for being broken, and that revision is like the circle of life: unscrupulous and unavoidable, and that a Frankenstein of a portrait is more attractive than a breathing, beating, whole one. They don't tell you how you will scavenge. They don't tell you how you will core yourself like a peach, fingers finding purchase in your own identity and bruising as they tunnel inward. There must be something worth something in there! You will be the vulture picking through your own innards, hunting for the heart. Real people not admissible! They tell you in fine print. No mushy soft parts that don't hold up to probing. No inconvenient inner core to bite around. What is left? You ask. And they don't tell you. ■*

**A COLLEGE EDUCATION AS UNIQUE AS ME**

**REGISTER NOW FOR CLASSES**

Red Mountain Campus ■ 7110 East McKellips Road, Mesa, AZ 85207 ■ 480-654-7200 ■ [mesacc.edu](http://mesacc.edu)



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Red Mountain Campus