

Letter: Arizona must hate working-class students

Dave Quadlin 5 p.m. MST December 29, 2015



(Photo: The Republic)

It must be tough to be a poor, working-class student attending college in Arizona. Little attention seems to be paid to the dramatic cuts made to higher education in both community colleges and our three state universities.

Take Maricopa Community Colleges in the greater Phoenix area. Roughly 265,000 students attend 10 campuses across the Valley. Many of these students work, raise families and have the fortitude to pursue higher education as a means to improve their lives. Yet state support for MCCCDC has been completely eliminated from the budget.

Between 2009 and 2011, state funding declined from \$59.5 million to \$45.3 million. Even more dramatic, state funding collapsed to the \$7 million to \$8 million range between 2012 and 2015. For 2016, the state budget for Maricopa is zero.



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[MCC losing students; Red Mountain campus at risk](#)

[\(http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/mesa/2015/11/27/mcc-losing-students-red-mountain-campus-risk/76217450/\)](http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/mesa/2015/11/27/mcc-losing-students-red-mountain-campus-risk/76217450/)

These cuts come at a time when there is a shortage of vocational and technically trained students nationally. Other states, in contrast, are increasing funding of community colleges, recognizing the importance of providing quality education for working-class students.

Creating opportunity through education should be a priority in Arizona. Sadly, it is not a priority in this state.

— Dave Quadlin, Scottsdale

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