



## COUNCIL MINUTES

October 24, 2013

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on October 24, 2013 at 7:31 a.m.

### COUNCIL PRESENT

Alex Finter  
Christopher Glover  
Dennis Kavanaugh  
David Luna  
Dave Richins  
Scott Somers

### COUNCIL ABSENT

Scott Smith

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Dee Ann Mickelsen

(Vice Mayor Finter excused Mayor Smith from the entire meeting.)

### 1. Review items on the agenda for the October 28, 2013 Regular Council meeting.

Councilmember Richins requested additional information on item 4-j, and expressed concern with regard to the City's purchase of the home located at 713 North Date Street because he has spoken with constituents who are interested in purchasing this property.

City Manager Christopher Brady replied that the City may have already acquired the home under the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant, and noted that he would have to review this purchase and get back to the Council. He advised the Council that this item will be removed from the Regular Session Agenda.

Councilmember Somers suggested that this item be scheduled on a future Study Session or Community and Cultural Development Committee Agenda in order to consider the City's policy.

### 2. Hear a presentation and discuss an update on the Mesa Counts on College program.

Mesa Counts on College Director Amy Trethaway introduced Dr. Naomi Story of Mesa Community College, who was prepared to assist with the presentation.

Ms. Trethaway displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and explained that Mesa Counts on College is a partnership between Mesa Public Schools (MPS), Mesa Community College (MCC) and the City of Mesa. She discussed the Communities Learning in Partnership grant, which was established in 2010 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

She reported that the three-year grant period will end in December 2013 and that the purpose of the grant was to improve college completion rates.

Ms. Trethaway highlighted the Scorecard, which outlines percentages of students graduating from high school and enrolling in or completing post-secondary education. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1) She noted that because the number of students who actually complete post-secondary education decreases to less than half of those who enroll, the program will continue to focus on completion-related initiatives in the City of Mesa as the end of the grant period approaches, even though there will no longer be grant funding.

In response to a question from Councilmember Somers, Ms. Trethaway defined “completion” as any post-secondary experience resulting in a certificate, two-year or four-year degree.

In response to a question from Councilmember Luna, Ms. Trethaway stated that the metrics for Bachelor’s Degrees were obtained from the National Student Clearinghouse, Arizona State University, MCC and MPS, who share the data.

Ms. Trethaway commented that approximately 56% of high school graduates in the community may not be prepared to transition into community colleges or universities and may need to complete remedial courses in Reading, Math, or English. She added that this is a common issue nationally.

Dr. Story remarked that MPS has progressed towards not only focusing on high school graduation, but on college preparedness, which MPS has included as part of their strategic priorities.

Ms. Trethaway presented the new Mesa Counts on College Mission Statement (See Page 4 of Attachment 1), and outlined the 2013 Successes, as follows:

- **Mesa’s Healthcare Learn to Earn internships** – partnership between City of Mesa and MPS where 45 high school students within Mesa were chosen from over 200 applicants to attend a six-week paid internship at either Mountain Vista Medical Center or Banner Cardon Children’s Medical Center. The program gave participants the opportunity to be exposed to careers in the healthcare industry.
- **Mesa’s Urban Corps** – partnership between City of Mesa, MCC and Southwest Conservation Corps for youth ages 18-23 who are out of the educational pipeline but interested in a conservation career. This program will continue in 2014.
- **GED to MCC Program** – partnership between MPS and MCC that assists students with completing their GED and introducing them to the college experience. The next phase of the program will focus on progression from a GED to the workforce.
- **Pathways to Completion unveiled** – MCC web-based program that allows students to use the MCC website as a tool to determine the pathway needed to complete their degree program.

Dr. Story informed the Council that MCC is positively impacting the curriculum system within the community college district by tracking programs and giving faculty the opportunity to make course recommendations.

Ms. Trethaway explained the Key Strategies, including Resource Development, Community Commitment and Engagement, Workforce Development, and Engaging Disconnected Youth/Pipeline Efforts. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Luna, Ms. Trethaway explained that the Mesa Counts on College program includes a College Access Center (CAC), which identifies where the at-risk youth are located. She added that Mesa Counts on College also has a partnership with A New Leaf/Mesa CAN, whereby space at their facility on Broadway Road and Mesa Drive will be adapted for the CAC, similar to the College Depot in Phoenix. She advised that individuals who are already using A New Leaf/Mesa CAN will receive educational support at the CAC, which will ultimately lead to employment and added that walk-in assistance will be available for things such as financial aid workshops, assistance in choosing colleges, locating college scholarships, and parent support.

Ms. Trethaway pointed out that the long term plan includes the creation of satellite college access centers and possibly a college-access component at the Red Mountain Library THINKspot and the Mesa Center for Higher Education. She added that Mesa Counts on College has also partnered with Mesa United Way (who will be serving as a fiscal agent for funding and grants) and with the healthcare industry. (See Pages 7 on Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Luna, Ms. Trethaway said that the marketing plan has not yet been developed, but the community partners will be included in that process. Ms. Trethaway concluded the presentation and displayed the next steps in the process (See Page 8 of Attachment 1), as follows:

- Strengthen partnerships with new colleges
- Expand the Learn to Earn Internship Program to the Aerospace industry
- College Access Center proposal
- Raise funds to continue the current programming and increase in the next five years

Mr. Brady remarked that the three partners, MCC, the City of Mesa and MPS, have committed resources to maintain the program.

Councilmember Luna thanked everyone for their hard work and effort.

Vice Mayor Finter thanked Ms. Trethaway and Dr. Story for the presentation.

3. Information pertaining to the current Job Order Contracting projects.

There was no information provided under this item.

4. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

Councilmember Kavanaugh:	Mesa Arts Center fundraiser; Dobson Ranch Retirees Breakfast Meeting; Eagle Scout Project by Nathan Richins
Councilmember Richins:	Make A Difference Day
Councilmember Luna:	Celebrate Mesa
Councilmember Somers:	Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) Dinner
Vice Mayor Finter:	Central Corridor Village Meeting at Johnson Elementary School

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, October 28, 2013, 5:00 p.m.	-	Study Session
Monday, October 28, 2013, 5:45 p.m.	-	Regular Council Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2013	-	Wear Purple in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:06 a.m.

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ALEX FINTER, VICE MAYOR

ATTEST:

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DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 24th day of October, 2013. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

Pag/ljm  
(Attachment – 1)



The City of Mesa



Mesa Public Schools



Mesa Community College



# Communities Learning in Partnership

- ▶ Grant from Bill & Melinda Gates established the need for education reform in our community
- ▶ Established relationships between the three institutions
- ▶ We have the foundation for student driven collaborations in the community

 mesa counts on  
**college**  
SCORECARD

## Laying the Framework for Mesa's Future



Yearly updates will be provided on the Mesa Counts on College website: [mesacountsoncollege.org/](http://mesacountsoncollege.org/)



# Our New Mission

- Mesa Counts on College, a collaborative alliance cultivates college completion and workforce readiness in our community, through partnerships, to empower individuals and to improve the quality of life in our community.
- Target population: Low income Mesa residents with limited or no post secondary credentials

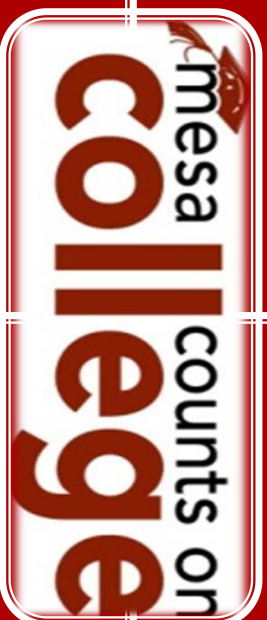
# 2013 Successes

- ▶ Mesa's Healthcare Learn to Earn internships
- ▶ Mesa's Urban Corps
- ▶ GED to MCC program
- ▶ Pathways to Completion unveiled

# Key Strategies Now

Resource Development

Workforce Development



Community  
Commitment &  
Engagement

Engaging Disconnected  
Youth / Pipeline efforts

# New Partners

Mesa United Way

A New Leaf/Mesa CAN

Healthcare Industry

# What's next?

- ▶ Strengthen our partnerships with the new colleges
- ▶ Expand our Learn to Earn Internship program to the Aerospace industry
- ▶ College Access Center proposal
- ▶ Raise funds to continue our current programming and increase in the next 5 years