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More than 500 Students Receive Associate Degrees Through Innovative Maricopa Community Colleges Programs

Reverse Transfer Partnership Between Maricopa Community Colleges and Arizona Universities Enables Students to Earn Degrees and Increase Employment Options

(June 8, 2017) Phoenix, AZ-- Maricopa Community Colleges has conferred hundreds of associate degrees through the recently implemented Reverse Transfer Program. This initiative, combined with other recent efforts, has resulted in 550 associate degrees being awarded to students. In 2015, the Maricopa County Community College District began developing the Reverse Transfer Initiative through a grant provided by the Helios Foundation.

Reverse transfer is the process of transferring university credits back to a community college to fulfill associate degree requirements. For students who have attended a Maricopa Community College, and transferred onto a university without first completing an associate degree, coursework can be transferred backwards (or in reverse) from a participating Arizona university to a Maricopa Community College.

Maricopa Community Colleges reviewed each students' coursework to date including university coursework to determine if those credits can be transferred back to the student's original Maricopa Community College for completion of an associate degree. This initiative is a partnership between Maricopa Community Colleges and four major Arizona universities: Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, the University of Arizona and Grand Canyon University.

"We are pleased to see the tremendous success of the Reverse Transfer program in such a brief timeframe," **said Dr. Maria Harper Marinick, Chancellor of the Maricopa County Community College District.** "For many years, leaders in the higher education community have talked about the concept of a reverse transfer and we now have a model in place that is truly an innovative partnership with our major Arizona universities. We recognize the value in providing additional paths for degree completion which allows more students to be eligible for better job opportunities and higher wages in Arizona."

The Reverse Transfer Program is one of the many tools education and community leaders affiliated with Achieve60AZ are utilizing to reach Arizona's new attainment goal. Achieve60AZ is a grassroots initiative supported by Governor Doug Ducey and a statewide coalition of more than 70 business, philanthropic, community, and education organizations. The initiative establishes a new statewide goal that at least 60 percent of Arizonans achieve a college degree or certificate by 2030.

“I applaud Maricopa Community Colleges and their partner universities on the success of this innovative program,” said **Christine Thompson, Project Manager of Achieve60AZ**. “Creative approaches like these will help our state reach our attainment goal. We are hopeful that this approach can be replicated across the state, providing community college students the ability to earn an associate degree with applicable university earned credits.”

To learn more about the MCCCDC reverse transfer program, please visit: www.maricopa.edu/reverse-transfer/

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About Maricopa Community College System: The [Maricopa Community College](#) system includes 10 colleges – Chandler-Gilbert, Estrella Mountain, GateWay, Glendale, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Rio Salado, Scottsdale and South Mountain. It also includes the Maricopa Skill Center, Southwest Skill Center, the Maricopa Corporate College and several satellite campuses and business/industry, technical and customized training institutes.

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCDC) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

About Achieve60AZ: More than 60 organizations in Arizona form [Achieve60AZ](#) that is fueled by a community-based effort to ensure Arizona remains competitive through the power of education. Their collective goal is to generate greater awareness of the importance of increasing Arizona’s level of educational attainment while building support to improve college entry and completion; boost adult education and training; and fuel a pipeline of competitive talent for Arizona’s employers. Achieve60AZ promotes support for the long-term steps needed in college entry and completion, adult education and training, and identifying and closing skills gaps to better prepare our workforce and our state for the future when the majority of jobs in Arizona will require some type of higher education.