

MCC Mohave
Community
College

IMPROVING LIVES. IMPROVING COMMUNITIES.



Strategic Planning

2020 - 2026

UPDATES



Areas of Interest: Putting MCC Students First, Part 1

MCC is addressing a key component of the 2020-2026 Strategic Plan by embarking on a long-term and large-scale initiative currently labelled the “Areas of Interest” project. *Areas of Interest*, based on the nationwide Guided Pathways model, puts student success and completion rates as the focal point of college effort. Dr. Stephanie Dieringer, co-chair of the Guided Pathways Steering Committee tasked with coordinating the project, explained: “Guided Pathways can help students successfully complete an educational program sooner by organizing key college services and student experiences within an academic or career community, or at MCC an “area of interest.”

When asked to broadly define the guided pathways model informing the MCC Areas of Interest project plan, Dr. Dieringer’s fellow co-chair, Rosemarie LeFebvre, answered: “Guided pathways are a framework intended to streamline a student’s journey through the college, providing structured choice, holistic student supports (support for all student needs, not just academic needs), and clear learning outcomes – ultimately helping more students achieve their college completion goals.”

The MCC strategic plan emphasizes focused attention on students and providing them a high-quality experience that addresses their holistic needs. MCC Executive Vice President Tim Culver described the importance of the topic. “It’s about the student experience. Almost a year ago I began to consider joining the MCC team. I was shown the MCC Strategic Plan, it’s four goals and 22 objectives. However, the one part I was most happy to see was the Student Experience Statement.”

Crafted by and for students, the MCC Student Experience Statement includes the following statement Culver identified as crucial: “Mohave Community college aims to provide an inspiring education exemplified by clear pathways as a stepping stone to completion, transfer, or post college success.” Said Culver, “That statement gets to the heart of the Guided Pathways framework. Each Pillar of the framework is directly related to improving the student experience. If we can establish the framework, under the leadership of the Guided Pathways Committee, and continue to focus on the student experience we will certainly be able to articulate the transformation that happened and will continue to happen into the future.”

Areas of Interest: Putting MCC Students First, Part 2

The MCC strategic initiative labelled “Areas of Interest” impacts everyone in the college community in a holistic effort to increase student success and improve the opportunities for students to complete their intended programs of study. Complete implementation of the Guided Pathways framework involves rethinking and often fundamentally redesigning most student processes—a transformation requiring time and sustained effort.

Will Areas of Interest begin to impact students during the current academic year, Year One of the strategic plan? Yes, say the co-chairs of the Guided Pathways Steering Committee, a group designed to coordinate the complex work. Associate Dean of Instruction Dr. Stephanie Dieringer shared her expectations. “In this first year of the strategic plan MCC’s students’ experience of guided pathways begins with the implementation of areas of interest. MCC’s organization of programs and certificates, along with the addition of academic advising, into areas of interest will enable students to begin their explorations of educational interests and career aspirations resulting in experiences that can be measured in timely progress towards their goals.”

Associate Dean of Student Success & Retention Rosemarie LeFebvre broke down the 2021-2022 action plan. “Through the enhanced recruitment process, newly enrolled students will be contacted by advisors based upon the student’s area of interest. Then, teams of MCC personnel, including student success coaches, will provide specialized support by area of interest via a system we call case management. Finally, new student orientations will provide students with information on campus life, academic pathways, financial aid, student organizations/clubs, tutoring, and other support services along with workshops on time management, studying effectively, stress and anxiety reduction, setting academic goals, and other topics.”

The MCC folks working on Areas of Interest are enthusiastic about the project goals. Dieringer summed up her feelings. “What excites me the most is the focus on students and working with them to succeed in all aspects of their education. With Guided Pathways MCC students are enveloped in an educational experience that is purposefully directed towards the fulfillment of their professional and personal goals. That is an exciting experience to be able to share.”