



55th *Annual*
Commencement Ceremony

May 8, 2025



**SCOTTSDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A **MARICOPA** COMMUNITY COLLEGE



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Scottsdale Community College (SCC) credits the diverse Indigenous people still connected to the land on which we gather. Our college resides on the tribal territory of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC). SRP-MIC is a federally recognized nation — one of 22 Arizona Indigenous nations and one of 574 across the United States. Attached to this physical space is a painful history of forced removal and the resulting intentional genocide of its Indigenous people. We remain appreciative of our ability to teach, learn and serve in a space of such importance and reverence.

SCC acknowledges the land on which we are situated today as the traditional land and home, established by Executive Order on June 14, 1879, of two distinct tribal nations: the Onk Akimel O'odham (Pima) and the Xalychidom Piipaash (Maricopa) people. We take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land. We offer our respect to their Elders and to all O'odham and Piipaash people of the past, present and future.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SCC Administration and Letters.....	4-5
MCCCD Administration.....	6
MCCCD Governing Board and Letter.....	7
Academic Attire.....	8
Order of Commencement.....	9
Associate Degree & Certificate Candidates.....	10
Faculty Emeriti and Administrators Emeriti.....	11
Faculty of the College.....	12
Administrators and Managers of the College.....	13
Alumni Engagement Program.....	14





SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eric Leshinskie, Ed.D.
President

Stephanie Polliard, Ed.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Damita Kaloostian, Ph.D.
Vice President of Student Affairs

Lucas Messer, Ph.D.
Dean of Instruction

Jamie Martin, Ed.D.
Dean of Instruction (Interim)

Winona Thirion, M.Ed.
Dean of Student Affairs

Antonio Bracamonte, M.A., M.Ed.
Dean of Student Affairs (Interim)

Vargha Mohebbi, M.Ed.
*Associate Vice President
Chief Technology Officer, ITS*

Lori Lindenberg, M.P.A.
*Associate Vice President,
Institutional Research & Planning*

Eric Sells, M.B.A.
*Director of Marketing and
Public Relations*

Melanie Burm
*Director of External Affairs
Workforce/Community Partnerships*

May 8, 2025

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations! All of the faculty at Scottsdale Community College join me in congratulating you for your accomplishments, which we are so happy to celebrate today. Thank you for being a part of our community, and thank you for your hard work, open-mindedness, and drive to succeed. Your resilience, drive, and talents are apparent to everyone, and we are proud to have you as part of the Artichoke family. Your time at SCC represents only the beginning of this journey, and we know that you will use the knowledge and skills you developed here to improve yourselves, your families, and our community. Please take the time to thank everyone who helped you reach this milestone. We truly hope and believe that the gifts and talents you have honed at SCC will help you to improve your families, communities and the world itself.

Congratulations on this extraordinary achievement, and here's to the remarkable journey that lies ahead!



Shawn Patton Mitchell
2024-2025 Faculty Senate President
Scottsdale Community College



May 8, 2025

Dear Graduates, Families and Friends,

Congratulations, Artichokes – you've made it!

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and the entire Scottsdale Community College family, I can't express enough how thrilled we are to be here today, celebrating this incredible achievement with you. When you receive your degree or certificate, you will not only hold a symbol of your hard work and dedication, but also a testament to your unwavering resilience and the countless hours you've invested in making this moment possible.

Each of your journeys has been a powerful source of inspiration to us all. Watching you rise to meet challenges, grow beyond your own expectations, and now stand poised to step confidently into the future has been a true privilege. Thank you for sharing your story with us, and for choosing to be an Artichoke. You have made this community stronger, and you will continue to make it proud.

As you embark on the next chapter of your life, I encourage you to carry with you the same curiosity, determination, and passion that have brought you this far. Let your experiences at SCC be the foundation on which you build a future full of purpose, fulfillment, and endless possibilities. Know that the road ahead, no matter how it may twist and turn, is yours to shape.

To the families, friends, and supporters who have stood by our graduates every step of the way—thank you. Your encouragement, love, and belief in their potential have been invaluable. You embody the very spirit that makes Scottsdale Community College the special place it is.

Graduates, while today marks a significant milestone, it is only the beginning of your next great adventure. The world is ready for you, and I have no doubt that you will continue to inspire and lead with the same drive that brought you here.

Congratulations on this extraordinary achievement, and here's to the remarkable journey that lies ahead!

With great pride and hope for your future,

Sincerely,

Eric Leshinskie, Ed.D.
President
Scottsdale Community College



MARICOPA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Steven R. Gonzales, Ed.D.
Chancellor

Lisa Armour, Ph.D.
*Executive Vice Chancellor
and Provost*

Lee Ann Bohn, M.A.
Chief Operating Officer

Jess Evans, Ph.D.
Chief Information Officer

Janice Falkenberg, Esq.
General Counsel

Georgetta Kelly, Ed.D.
*Vice Chancellor and
Chief Human Resources Officer*

Eddie Genna, Ph.D., J.D.
*Interim Senior Vice Chancellor
of External Affairs*

Kimberly Brainard Granio, CPA, M.Ed.
*Vice Chancellor of
Business Services*

Cathleen Hernandez, Ed.D.
*Chief of Staff and Vice Chancellor
of Enterprise Performance*

Brian Spicker
*Foundation President and
Chief Executive Officer*

Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo, M.P.A.
*Associate Vice Chancellor of the Center
for Excellence in Inclusive Democracy*

**MARICOPA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD**

Susan Bitter Smith, M.B.A.
*President
District 2*

Marie Sullivan
*Secretary
District 3*

Jacqueline Smith, J.D.
District 1

Donna Davis, B.A.
District 4

Tom Nerini, Ed.D.
District 5

Kelli Butler
At-large

Linda Thor, Ed.D.
At-large

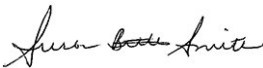
Temya Jackson Long
Student Trustee

May 8, 2025

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! Tonight we are celebrating you and your accomplishments and looking forward to seeing you take the next steps into exciting new endeavors!

On behalf of the Maricopa Community College District Governing Board, I commend you for all of your hard work and wish you well as you go into the workforce or future educational opportunities. Scottsdale Community College has been a positive force in empowering student success for over 50 years. We are very proud to add you to the SCC Alumni ranks!

Best wishes,



Susan Bitter Smith
Maricopa County Community Colleges
Governing Board President



ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The custom of wearing distinctive dress for academic ceremonies goes back to the Middle Ages when people dressed in keeping with their class: nobility, clergy, or third estate. The clergy were the literate class; hence, early academic costume was that of the Church. A heavy and dark gown was worn at all times. Hoods were also necessary during European winters because the buildings where scholars lived, studied and taught were cold.

Oxford, Cambridge and some of the Scottish universities still require students to wear a gown, both on and off the university premises, as do two or three small church-related American universities. In general, however, academic costume is worn in the US by persons taking part in ceremonies: commencement exercises – and, at various inauguration ceremonies, such as the installation of a president, the conferring of an honorary degree on a distinguished guest, or the laying of the cornerstone of a building. Also, some Protestant clergymen wear academic costume in the pulpit.

The Bachelor of Arts degree is recognized by a solid gown, often black, closed in front and with long sleeves. The gown of a Master of Arts graduate is also usually solid and has long sleeves with a short slit near the elbow to free the hand and forearm. Generally, the Doctor's gown has velvet panels five inches wide extending down the front edges to the bottom. There are also three horizontal velvet bars on each sleeve. Panels and bars are often the gown's color but may be of the color indicating the field of study in which the degree is granted.

The square mortar board is worn for most degrees. Bachelor/Associate of Arts students start the ceremony with the tassel on the right side and will be asked to move it to the left side, signifying their official graduation. Tassels can range in color from that of the gown to that of the field of study to that of the institution.

The greatest degree of symbolism is shown by the hood. The Master's hood is typically of black material, and it is three-and-one-half feet long with a three-inch velvet border. The lining is typically in the color or colors of the institution. The Doctoral hood is four feet long with a five-inch velvet border that can also be lined with the colors of the institution granting the degree. The border of the hood designates the area of specialty such as white for Arts, light blue for Education, dark blue for Philosophy, and scarlet for Divinity.

Although the styles of academic regalia have changed over the centuries, the pageantry involved in academic ceremonies lends dignity to these solemn occasions. Here at SCC, an additional designation is given to students graduating with a specific GPA (green cord, 3.5 - 4.0 GPA); Honors students (green medallion); Phi Theta Kappa students (gold stoles and tassels); and DECA students (blue and white cord).



ORDER OF COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

SCC Jazz Combo Directed by Dr. Eric Rasmussen
*Playing a selection of jazz standards - Jonathan Angeles, David Caldera,
Shaquill Colbert, William Fazille, Adrian Oliva*

Arrival of Faculty & Graduates (Please stand)

Processional *Pomp and Circumstance, Op. 39: March, No. 1 in D*
Sir Edward Elgar, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra & Andre Previn

Ceremony Decree Shawn Patton Mitchell
SCC Faculty Senate President, 2024-2025

National Anthem *Star-Spangled Banner*
F.S. Key, Skylar Patrick

Land Acknowledgement Crystal Morehouse

Master of Ceremony Dr. Eric Leshinskie
SCC President

Guest Speaker Ms. Susan Bitter Smith
MCCCD Governing Board President

Guest Speaker Dr. Steven R. Gonzales
MCCCD Chancellor

Honored Speaker Mr. David Antone
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council Member

**SCC Concert Choir: Combined choirs -
Artievox and Concert Choir** Directed by Dr. Kira Zeeman Rugen,
Collaborative Pianist - Mary Wagner
"May it Be" - arranged by Mark Brymer

*Combined Choir Members - Jianna Bickle, Matthew Blackwood, Lea Caraway,
Alyssa Collinwood, Indiana Filbrun, Bailey Finch, Neve Galusha, Alexis Gribilos,
James Hollcroft, Carlos Huicochea, Liam Kruidenier, Kathryn Lafrance, Lindsey Lara,
Jake Lashbrooke, Anna Lawrence, Cora Lemen, Jennifer Lin, David Mcclure,
Leana Murrow, Rai Ortega, Faith Rivera, Shelby Rosenow, Allison Rugen,
Benjamin Rugen, Andrew Ryan, Gianna Vlcek, Jaden White, Tyrese Yazzie*

Student Speaker Scott Murphy

Alumna Speaker The Honorable Aristina Sanchez

**Presentation of the Class and Conferring of
Associate Degrees and Certificates** Dr. Stephanie Polliard
SCC Vice President of Academic Affairs

Closing Remarks & Graduation Declaration Dr. Eric Leshinskie
SCC President

Recessional (*The audience will please stand during the recessional*)

ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES

View the complete list of
Scottsdale Community College
graduating students online:



bit.ly/scc-grad-list





FACULTY EMERITI

Abbruscato, Joseph J., M.B.A.	Glasper, Debra, M.A.	Nelson, Anita J., M.A.
Ashley, Karisa, Ph.D.	Gray, Bonnie, Ph.D.	Nelson, Nellie, M.S.N.
Attanucci, Frank, M.A.	Greenwell, James R., Ph.D.	O'Brien, Edward J., M.S.
Barnes, Roy, M.S.	Groenke, Glenn, Ed.D.	Overley, Winifred (T. J.), M.N.S.
Baumgart, Edward J., M.A.	Goudard-Ryan, Marie-France, M.A.	Peterson, Susan, M.B.A.
Belsher, Brian E., M.C.	Gyurko, Eugene R., M.A.	Pirman, Mary R., M.S.N.
Biglin, Karen, M.L.S.	Hackett, Donald G., M.A.	Richards, Rita A., M.A.
Booher, Jerry G., M.S.E.S.	Hicks, Linda, M.A.	Saffron, Stephen, M.A.
Bradley, Patricia A., M.A.	Howard, Sharon, M.L.S.	Scharf, Lorraine L., M.A.
Brock, Patsey A., M.A.	Jacobs, Alan, M.A.	Schmidt, Eugene, M.S.
Brooke, Edna M., M.A.	Jensen, Ava Lynn, Ph.D.	Schwarz, Kathryn J., Ph.D.
Burley, John, Ed.D.	Jenson, Norman C., M.M.	Scudder, John R., M.A.
Carruthers, Connie, M.S.	Johnson, Donald R., M.A.	Serrano, Pat, M.Ed.
Chadwick, Kirby, M.A.	Kearns, Ronald L., M.A.	Sessions, Charles M., D.M.A.
Chandler, Edgar, M.A.	Keefe, Richard C., Ph.D.	Shaffer, Gary M., M.S.
Calogero, Sirio, M.A.	Kelly, Suzanne V., Ph.D.	Sickafoose, John P., Ph.D.
Combs, Bernard, M.S.	Kendall, William D., M.A.	Silberman, Philip L., M.S.
Copp, Darrell, M.A.	LeMoine, Kenneth R., M.A.	Sklar, David, M.F.A.
Coracides, Carmen J., Ph.D.	Liffiton, John, M.A.	Slater, Rodger D., Ph.D.
Cox, Ruth R., M.A.	Lippert, Nancy M., M.A.	Snow, Donald H., Ph.D.
Crutchfield, Julie, M.A.	Little, Gloria R., Ph.D.	Steinmann, Phyllis, M.A.
Darland, Fara G., M.A.	Losse, John, M.S.	Taylor, Annie A., Ph.D.
Deck, Larry S., M.F.A.	Martin, William J., M.A.	Tobiason, Rolf V. (Toby), Ed.D.
Desjardins, Sandra, M.A., M.F.A.	Massion, Dennis D., Ph.D.	Trollen, Thomas, M.B.A.
Dudley, David, M.A.	McKinney, Roger, M.F.A.	Wambach, Julie A., Ph.D.
Dugan, Thomas F., Ed.D.	Medeiros, Patricia, M., Ph.D.	Werner, Donald A., Ed.D.
Dyer, Clarence R., M.F.A.	Miller, Nancy L., Ph.D.	Williams, Larry, M.B.A.
Ells, Beth, M.A.	Miller, Robert W., Ph.D.	Williamson, Kim, M.A.
Everroad, Edward K., M.A.	Moore-Haines, Jamie	Winters, Robert, M.A.
Fahey, Barbara, Ph.D.	Moore, Susan, M.A.	Worth, Keith A., M.S.
Ferguson, Christine, Ed.D.	Mugford, Robert, M.A.	Wyatt, Jeannie, Ph.D.
Fields, Pamela B., M.A.	Munn, Ruth S., M.A.	Vicich, James, Ph.D.
Gillett, Kathleen P., M.S.	Nance, Linda, Ed.D.	



ADMINISTRATORS EMERITI

Couch, Carl, M.Ed.	Stahl, Virginia, Ph.D.
DeCabooter, Art, Ed.D.	Walker, Herman G., Ph.D.

FACULTY OF THE COLLEGE

Abry, Dennis, Ph.D.	Gudino, Roberto, M.F.A.	Reyes, Miriam, M.S.N.
Allen, Karryn, M.F.A.	Guess, Jared, M.B.A.	Robb, Cherise, M.S.D.
Amado, Robin, M.A.	Haas, Eric, Ph.D.	Robinson, Janet, M.Ed.
Aragona, Jared, Ph.D.	Healy, Matthew, M.F.A.	Robinson, Jennifer, Ph.D.
Ashby, Patricia, Ph.D.	Helzer, Mark, M.S.N.	Rock, Serene, M.A.
Avalos, Brianna, Ph.D.	Hoffman, Janelle, M.A.	Romero, Cristobal, A.A.S.
Backalukas, Angelica, M.P.H.	Holian, Ashley, B.S.	Root, Philip, M.N.S.
Barton, Mark, M.B.A.	Ivester, Elizabeth, M.S.	Rosenkrans, Angela, M.F.A.
Baurichter, Tracey, M.S.	Jackson, Janet, B.S.	Rugen, Kira, D.M.A.
Beakley-Mercill, Sara, M.S.	Jackson, John, M.S.	Sabin, Kim, M.F.A.
Bierson, Carver, Ph.D.	Jarrett, Kirticia, M.Ed.	Sage, Elizabeth, M.S.N.
Bloom, Matthew, M.A.	Jesse, Aaron, Ph.D.	Sandblom, Susan, M.B.A.
Bohart, Jenifer, M.N.S.	Kale, Joanna, M.S.	Santiesteban, Ramona, M.Ed.
Brace-Stille, Rachel, M.F.A.	Kline, Robert, M.S.	Santo, Chris, M.C.S.
Brandt, Sheila, Ph.D.	Klobas, Mark, Ph.D.	Saporito, Maria, M.S.
Butcher, Jeffrey, Ph.D.	Kuzmik, Michael, B.A.	Scherer, Andrea, M.C.
Cameron, Sara, M.S.Ed.	Leaf, Julia, M.S.N. Ed.	Serafin, Nikki, M.Ed.
Carter, Candy, M.Ed.	Lins, Matthew, M.Ed.	Shank, Albert, M.A.
Cedergren-Healy, Anne, M.S.	Linton, Rebecca, Ph.D.	Simmons, Rachel, M.S.D.
Clark, Philip, Ph.D.	Lybbert, Andrew, Ph.D.	Smith, Brandi, M.Ed.
Clements, Jay, M.S.	MacElvee, Cameron, Ph.D.	Spiker, James, M.A.
Combellick, Daniel, M.Ed.	MacKay, Neil, Ph.D.	Stallings, Danielle, M.F.A.
Cooner, JamieLynn, M.S.F.S.	Marsio, Lisa, Ph.D.	Stein, Joel, M.S.
Cooper, Charles, M.Ed.	Martin III, Robert, M.S.	Stewart, Amy, M.S.N.
Crockett, Bobra, Ed.D.	Mawo, Relindis, Ph.D.	Stroud, Carla, M.A.
Cwengros, Kristine, M.A.	McCalla, Shana, M.S.	Sutor, Judy, Ph.D.
Cwierz, Chris, M.A.	Mitchell, Shawn, Ph.D.	Sweet, Mitchell, M.S.
Damask, Nicholas, Ph.D.	Monroig, Ronald, M.B.A.	Taber, Daniel, M.S.
Danielson, Jonathan, Ph.D.	Moulder, Richard, M.S.N.	Tarr, Gabriel, M.A.
Deal, Peggy, B.A.	Nagano, Michael, M.S.	Tavassoli, Paniz, M.S.
Dedakia, Nancy, B.S.	Nagy, Bethel, Ph.D.	Thorlaksdottir, Anna, M.F.A.
Deegan, Nancy, Ed.D.	Nagy, John, Ph.D.	True, Bill, M.F.A.
Diggins, Keri, M.A.	Nearing, Daniel, M.A.	Tualla, Larry, Ed.D.
Dion, Denise, M.S.N.	Novak, Christina, D.M.A.	Uran, Ted, M.F.A.
Dow, Mark, B.A.	Olsen, Walter, B.S.	Valle, Michael, Ph.D.
Drougas-Popovich, Stavroula, M.A.	Orbegoso, Meghan, B.S.N.	Volpe, Amy, M.N.S.
Dueck, Patricia, M.S.	Orent, Nicole, M.S.N.	Ward, Gary, M.B.A.
Dunn (Schager), Erin, B.A.	Ortiz, Jeffrey, M.A.	Wedding, Loraine, M.S.N.-Ed.
Ellertson, Mary, M.Ed.	Ortiz, Joseph, Ed.D.	Weser, John, Ph.D.
Ellis, John, Ph.D.	Pancamo, Sharla, M.S.N.	Weser, Paul, Ph.D.
Embry, Amanda, M.F.A.	Pasco, Mary, M.Ed.	Wilk, Jennifer, M.B.A.
Fair, Karen, M.S.N. Ed.	Peace, Lisa, M.F.A.	Williams Jr., Don K., M.F.A.
Gemberling, Cynthia, M.A.S.	Polser, Kymberly, M.A.S.	Wilson, Anne Marie, Ph.D.
Geraghty, Sean, Ph.D.	Puisto, Jaakko, Ph.D.	Wilson, Meredith, Ed.D.
Goth, Ramona, M.A.	Quest, Christian, A.A.	Wyngaard, William, Ph.D.
Greep, Laura, M.S.N. Ed.	Rasmussen, Eric, M.M.	You, Robert, M.F.A.
Groves, Anesia, M.C.	Redden, Carole, M.A.	Young, Lisa, Ph.D.



ADMINISTRATORS AND MANAGERS

Alcon, Kristine, M.A.
Arberry Jr., Michael Anthony, M.Ed.
Beck, Stacie, B.A.
Biebel, Christina
Blau, Terri, M.Ed.
Campbell, Gregory
Cota, Rosalinda, M.Ed.
Curley, Adrienne, Ed.S.
Diglio, Matt
Dodge, Brian
Dzbenksi, Michael, Ed.D.
Figueroa, Mark
Garduno, Nate, A.A.

Garza, Sandra
Greeley, Darryl, Ph.D.
Gutierrez, Belinda, M.P.H.
Hasson, Christina, M.Ed.
Kalcich, Deanna, M.Ed.
Kelley, Ian, B.S.
Kennedy, Sean, M.Ed.
Klinefelter, Corrie, M.S.Ed.
Levin, Sherry, B.A.
Mader, Mike, Ed.D.
McNally, Michael, M.S.L.
Monge, Shannon, M.Ed.
Pierce, Isaiah, M.A.

Pike, Alice, B.A.
Rachel, Tawni, M.Ed.
Rosas, Mirna, M.Ed.
Shal, Andrey
Shumusic, Travis
Silver, Charles, M.A.
Sutherland, Mollie, M.A.
Thomas, Pauline, M.S.
Torres, Aaron, M.Ed.
Trede, Ereka
Walz, Arlyn, A.A.
Zobel, Nicolle, A.A.



ALUMNI

Scottsdale
Community
College

As a new graduate, Scottsdale Community College welcomes you to stay connected with the SCC Alumni Engagement Program (SCCAEP). The alumni program is a network of proud Artichokes supporting each other and encouraging new students to engage in all our college has to offer. SCCAEP members are active in communities from local to global and contribute their time and talent to make a difference, mentor students, support scholarships and champion the major initiatives of our college.

Membership is free and includes news from SCC, special events and networking opportunities, and a number of benefits. Please visit our Alumni webpage at scottsdalecc.edu/alumni-friends to learn about the myriad of opportunities available to help you stay engaged with the college and the community we serve.

May you continue the tradition of excellence and embark on a future made bright by the power of learning and SCC's commitment to your lifelong educational, professional and personal growth.

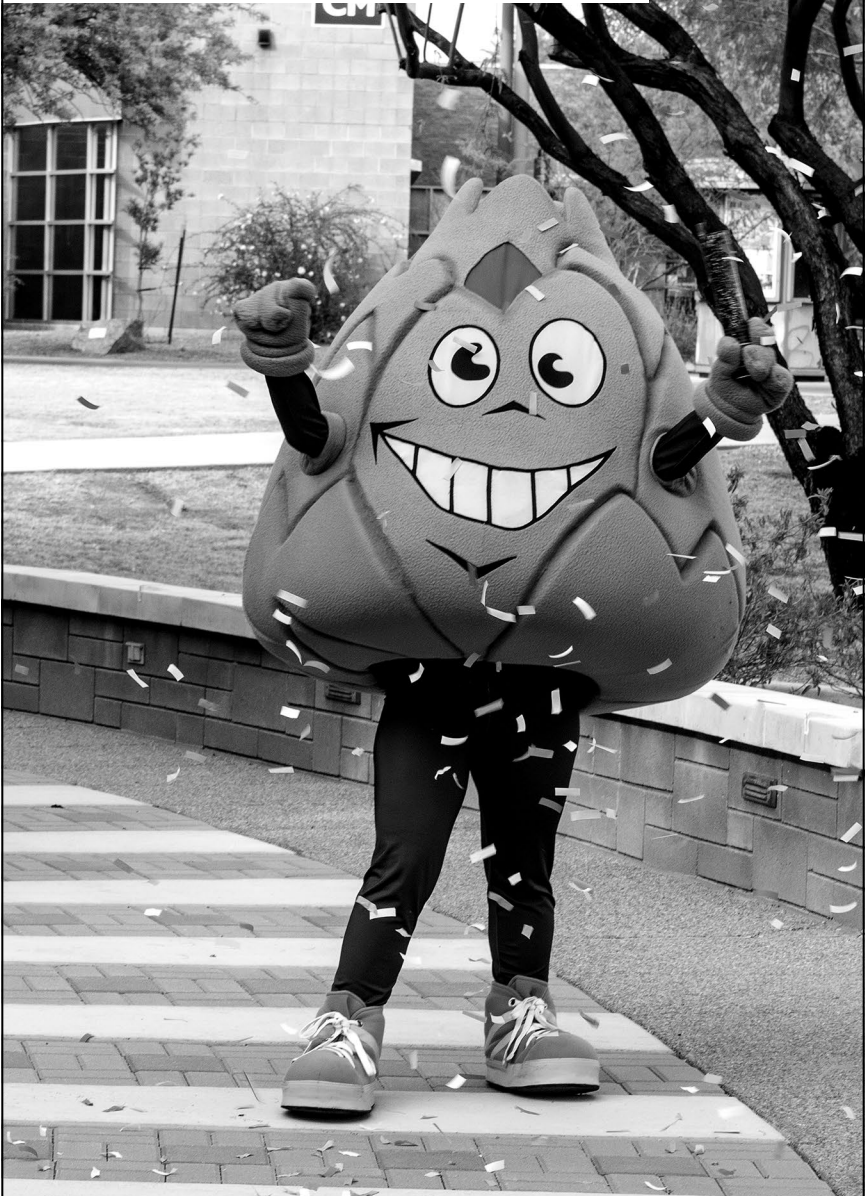
Congratulations and best wishes!



**Stay Connected
with SCC!**

bit.ly/scc-alumni-friends

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES

View the complete list of
Scottsdale Community College
graduating students online:



bit.ly/scc-grad-list



The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) 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, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination.
