

[Click here](#) to view this message in a browser window.



A Message from the President



Last year, Rio Salado worked thoughtfully as a college to envision our next era while honoring our 40-year legacy as innovators in higher education. We surveyed current students, alumni, employees, and the President's Advisory Council to help define our future. We analyzed the insights and feedback, culminating in the following new mission, vision, and values statements for the college

Vision: Empower learners everywhere through innovative education.

Mission: We redefine the educational experience by anticipating the needs of our students and future workforce. We support learners where they are and provide high-quality, flexible, and accessible education to empower individual goal attainment, foster partnerships, and strengthen communities.

Values: Rio Salado College honors everyone's unique qualities with respect and dignity. We value:

- Innovation and Learning
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Integrity and Stewardship
- Sustainable Practices
- Collaboration and Service

We would like to thank our alumni for your continued support and belief in Rio Salado College. Your dedication to your own education shines as a guiding light to future students and inspires us as education professionals. Please share your Rio Salado story with us through the alumni [survey](#) or through email at alumni@riosalado.edu.

We know future generations of Rio Waves have a multitude of pathways in their future because we've seen it in those who came before them.

Kate Smith
Interim President
Rio Salado College

College News



Rio Salado hosts virtual signing events to highlight new academic partnerships

Rio Salado College Interim President Kate Smith shared the virtual stage with leaders of three partner universities recently to highlight educational agreements that make it easier for Rio graduates to obtain a bachelor's degree in a number of programs, including business, information technology, addiction studies and more.

The events were held last quarter and the first quarter of this year.

Learn more about these partnership events in recent stories and our website.

- [Brandman](#)
- [SUNY](#)
- [APUS](#)

To learn more about Rio's partnership programs, visit <https://national.riosalado.edu/partners>.



Rio Salado College and the Tempe Chamber of Commerce: Synergy 2020

On December 3, 2020, the Tempe and Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce held an inaugural event: Synergy 2020. The event was designed for high-level community leaders, with a focus on higher education and workforce readiness.

Arizona State University President Michael Crow was the keynote speaker and addressed "Innovative Approaches in the 2020 Education and Workforce Environments."

Rio Salado Interim President Kate Smith and Scottsdale Community College Interim President Chris Haines facilitated discussion on the topic of workforce readiness.

Smith provided an informative and innovative presentation on workforce opportunities at Rio Salado College. She used examples of how Rio Salado addresses workforce solutions for local populations, business and industry, and governmental entities. Smith's depth of knowledge and enthusiastic character resulted in an engaging experience for the program participants.

Due to COVID 19 the event was held virtually. [View the Workforce Readiness Breakout session with President Smith online.](#)



Helping Arizona Military and Veteran Communities Succeed

Rio Salado College and the Maricopa Community Colleges are partnering with [Pipeline AZ](#) to provide services and career tips for military members, veterans and their dependents. Read one of the blogs online: [Salute Your](#)

[Military Skills: They're Transferable](#)



Rio Salado College Workforce Opportunity: Enrolled Agent

Learn How to Become an Enrolled Agent!

Rio Salado now offers a Certificate of Completion in Enrolled Agent to get you started on a new career path.

Every Wednesday in February 2021, Rio Salado College will host a virtual information session where you can hear from experts in the field about how to become an enrolled agent and why this is a great career choice!

Learn more in [RioNews](#) or [sign up today](#)

Alumni Spotlights



Where are They Now? Meet 2019 Rio Graduate Helen Ly

It's been a year and a half since Helen Ly graduated from Rio Salado College. What has the teacher education program alumni been up to since then? Find out in our new series, "Where are They Now?" [Read more.](#)



Where are They Now? Meet Dr. Renee Rosati

Fresh off of graduating high school from Xavier College Preparatory in 2010, Renee Rosati turned her thoughts to college. Thanks to her Rio Salado dual enrollment credits, she was already halfway there. [Where is Rosati today?](#)

Give Back

Donations Sought for Emergency Student Assistance

College students face a multitude of challenges while seeking their education at a community college. Life challenges can be disruptive when students face them. Often, community college students have to make difficult choices when faced with a financial challenge that could stand between them being enrolled in college or having to stop-out to address such challenges.

Rio Salado realized that the COVID-19 changes would likely present additional challenges for students completing college courses. The college decided to make Emergency Student Assistance a priority initiative for directing resource development (scholarship funding).

Faculty, administration and staff have made donations in support of student emergency assistance. External partners such as Fry's Food Stores and State Farm Insurance have committed recent funding specifically dedicated to student assistance during this time at the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation.

"The Rio Salado College Alumni Association has also committed some funding for emergency student assistance, but the need is still there," said Todd Aakhus, Director of Development, Scholarships, and Alumni Relations. "We encourage alumni to join the Rio Salado College Faculty Association and others to support this cause."

Funds are available to students through debit cards and food resources.

If you would like to donate to emergency student assistance visit <https://www.riosalado.edu/alumni/give-back> and designate the Jo C. Bennett Student Assistance Fund for your donation.

Career Corner

A Freedom Financial Employment Opportunity



Customer Service – Debt Relief: As a Client Advocate, you are the primary point of contact for consumers experiencing financial hardship. Working in a fast-paced and energetic environment, you will partner with our clients through complex issues, providing logical and rapid solutions.

What makes you a Client Advocate?

- You have 1-3 years' experience in a phone based/customer service role.
- You care about people and want to see them succeed.
- You display strong problem-solving skills.
- You are a great conversationalist and people love talking to you.
- You are a self-starter who is comfortable taking initiative and making swift decisions.
- You know how to multitask, prioritize, and manage time effectively.
- Visit their website here: <https://jobs.freedomfinancialnetwork.com/>



Join the State Farm Community of Good Neighbors

Make an impact while being a part of the number one auto and home insurer in the United States. State Farm, a Fortune 50 company, is consistently recognized as a top employer in the U.S. We have just the right balance of training, mentoring and development you need to succeed.

Two Spanish Bilingual opportunities (part-time customer service and full-time sales) available with a 3/22/21 start date:

Part-Time CCC Retention Specialist II (entry level)

- \$1,000 sign-on bonus + \$1.25/hr extra bilingual pay following training period.
- Our part-time roles come with our Total Rewards Benefits Package, including tuition assistance after 6 months of service for many insurance-related majors!

Spanish Bilingual - CCC Acquisition Specialist (*Sales*)

- Competitive candidates have a minimum three years' customer service sales experience, omni-channel preferred.

Learn more on the [State Farm Career Page](#)

Scholarships



The Melody Layne Miller Memorial Scholarship

The Melody Layne Miller Scholarship was established by Ruby Miller (Rio Salado College Associate Dean), Melody's parents, family, friends, and co-workers at the college. Melody Layne Miller was Ruby's granddaughter.

Ruby said, "We lost Melody on January 11, 2019. She had a beautiful smile and adorable dimples. She was a senior in high school planning graduation and attending college. She was a kind, giving and loving young lady who loved her family and friends. She was active in her dance classes and loved her art classes. She also loved being a teacher's assistant in one of her classes where she worked with special needs children."

When Ruby worked at Rio Salado College, she had a significant involvement with dual enrollment and education students. This helped Ruby and Melody's parents determine that a scholarship established for the student groups would align to a scholarship need and support two interests that Melody felt passionate about: high school students and future educators.

Ruby said, "We are all very proud the scholarship has assisted both groups."

Melody would be very happy to know that she is contributing to other students' success.

Contributions can be made to the Melody Layne Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund # 4388-1 in support of Dual Enrollment and Education students at:

<https://mcccdf.org/give/>

Designation: Melody Layne Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund # 4388-1

Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Scholarship Applications Open



The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation supports student success opportunities through scholarships. The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Scholarship application is NOW OPEN for the Summer and Fall 2021 semesters! Applications are due April 16, 2021. Click below to get started!

<https://mcccdf.academicworks.com>

If you have any questions, please contact a Scholarship representative at foundation.scholarships@domail.maricopa.edu.



Maricopa Corporate College Offers Free Training to Meet Increase IT Demand

Maricopa Corporate College is excited to offer FREE Computer Support Tech Job Training for parents with children under the age of 13, those who are unemployed and low-income workers! With many companies transitioning their operations to remote environments, computer support and cybersecurity skills are more important than ever. Prepare for the CompTIA A+ and Network+ certification exams, receive a guaranteed job interview upon program completion, and engage with experienced instructors, all from an easily accessible virtual classroom. Get ready to enter the job market in as little as 10 weeks! Visit their [website](#) today to learn more!



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 <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.



Copyright © 2021 Rio Salado College
Our address is 2323 West 14th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281, USA

If you do not wish to receive future email, [click here](#).
(You can also send your request to **Customer Care** at the street address above.)