A Message from the President

As we prepare for the traditional semester, I want to assure you that we are ready to help you continue your online educational journey now at Rio Salado College. Many higher education institutions will make changes to accommodate students and support success as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. At Rio Salado College, student success is a primary objective.

Our online classes are available now for fall. We are already offering remote alternatives to most of our in-person services such as testing, advisement, financial aid, disability services and tutoring through Zoom meets, online chats, phone and email. We also have numerous scholarships, grants, emergency relief funds and community resources to assist you.

Sincerely,
Kate Smith
Interim President

Our Support of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Rio Salado College was founded on the premise of providing access to education as a means of growing social and economic equity. The work of our college, our collective work, is more important
than ever, as we provide a welcoming space and opportunity for learning, growing, reflecting and supporting.

We welcome, embrace, and celebrate every person, from every background. We have an inclusive community when we stand together, when we acknowledge our differences and welcome diverse thoughts, ideas, and beliefs, and when we support one another with courage and conviction in our pursuit of knowledge. As such, we are renewing our commitment to our core values of diversity, equity, and inclusiveness, our practices of mindfulness and empathy, and to listen and learn from one another.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Rio Salado College has made deliberate efforts to support diversity, equity, and inclusions by providing listening sessions at the college that support a variety of topics for employees and students. From these sessions we have formed Affinity Groups and action plans to enhance our culture of inclusion and belonging.

In the spirit of collaboration, Rio Salado College strives to support our students and community well. We are actively engaged in improvement processes based on feedback, performance indicators, and our experience serving our students and communities.

Rio Salado College takes great pride in being your community college of choice.

Rio Salado Alumni Survey Results

A new survey of 554 Rio Salado College alumni shows a high satisfaction with their experience with Rio Salado. The following results summarize this point:

- 91% indicated Rio met or exceeded their expectations
- 88% were able to achieve their goals from attending Rio

The source of the data was 554 Rio Salado College alumni surveyed between 2014-2019.

Comments provided by alumni were also overall positive. Here are a few samples:

“Sometimes we have some fears that can stop our development, but then one day you’ll feel stronger, more confident, and empowered. That’s [what] happens when you have an opportunity like this, and there are a lot of people who encourage you, who really cares about you and your professional goals. That’s how I felt after finish my Business Course at Rio Salado!” – 3/11/2020

“Rio Salado allowed me to achieve my career goal. I was able to attend school, be a mom and wife, and work while taking courses. I felt supported through my education from everyone at Rio. I am not a fully certified teacher and helping students in Arizona. My dreams finally came true with the help of Rio Salado’s programs.” – 6/12/2020

“After the military, I found myself well-skilled, but under certified for my needs. Rio Salado had aided me in having the credentials to match my capabilities.” – 6/21/2020

The Rio Salado College Alumni Association is interested in providing opportunities to engage our alumni in activities at the college. Please contact alumni@riosalado.edu to indicate your interest in participating in Rio Salado College activities.

National Division Announces Transfer Partnerships
The Rio Salado College National Division has created transfer partnerships as an effort to expand learning opportunities for students, alumni and employees.

Automobile pioneer Henry Ford once said, “Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is progress and working together is success.” In the spirit of coming and working together, we are proud to announce that Rio Salado College has created and deepened its relationships with many education institutions across the country to make degree attainment easier for all our learners.

As we have nationally expanded our footprint, we have purposefully increased the educational opportunities for current Rio Salado College learners, faculty, staff and alumni. Through transfer partnerships, we offer an affordable and focused option for learners who need the elasticity of an online program to quickly and affordably reach their college and career goals.

For this issue of Alumni Newsletter, we are highlighting the following transfer partner institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Modality Offered</th>
<th>Scholarship Offered</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APUS</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>“Mik” Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandman University</td>
<td>Traditional/Online</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Michelle Goyette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northcentral University</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Heather Millward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Governors University</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Bob Benson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These institutions offer Rio Salado College students a combination of guaranteed admissions, full-tuition scholarships, semester-by-semester scholarships, dedicated support services and more. Learn more.

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**College Innovation Network Announces Founding Members**

Rio Salado College has been selected as a founding member for the College Innovation Network (CIN). The College Innovation Network was launched in Spring 2020 by Western Governors University Labs. The purpose is to connect Higher Education leaders with educational technology innovators to support student success. Learn more.

**New Program at Rio Salado College:**

**Cybersecurity**

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Cybersecurity is designed to focus on the necessary skills required to secure, protect and identify vulnerabilities in a network, including various operating systems and network devices. Emphasis is placed on developing the theoretical, legal, ethical and practical skills needed to maintain security on mission-critical networking and server systems. The program is designed to meet the training needs of government and industry employees. The program covers a variety of information security technologies and structured languages. The Cybersecurity program also focuses on the skills needed for internationally recognized IT certifications and high demands in business, industry, and government. Certificates of Completion (CCLs) are also available in the following areas: Cybersecurity Fundamentals, Cyber Operations, Linux System Administration, Microsoft, Cisco Networking CCNA Security, Power Systems, and Cyber Engineering. Learn more.
Roadtrip Nation Experience Rescheduled Due to COVID-19

Earlier this year, Rio Salado College announced a partnership with the career exploration experts at Roadtrip Nation to offer a one-of-a-kind experience for three students. Roadtrip Nation empowers individuals to explore pathways that align with their passions by connecting them to real-world professionals. As seen on PBS, Roadtrip Nation’s green RV takes jobseekers and graduates across the country so they can sketch out a road map for their futures.

We had planned to send three Rio students on the road in August for three weeks in the Roadtrip Nation RV as they interviewed Rio alumni and filmed the encounters. However, the road trip is being postponed due to COVID-19. Rio Salado is committed to the health and safety of our students, alumni, and staff. We will set a new date for this voyage of self-discovering and learning when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, for more information about Rio Salado’s roadtrip, keep an eye on future installments of this newsletter and follow us on social media:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/RioSaladoCollege/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/riosaladoonline?lang=en
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/riosalado/?hl=en
Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/school/rio-salado-college/

Insurance Studies Workforce Infusion Program 2020

The Rio Salado College Insurance Program has developed an excellent opportunity for individuals seeking a change in workforce, a career re-entry-decision. The program will support scholarships for 15 students to complete a certificate in Insurance Studies in an online format. The scholarship will include tuition, testing fees, and books. Students will take two classes for three terms. The entire program will take approximately 18 months to complete. Students will follow a lock-step cohort model. Program updates will be forthcoming in October 2020. For information regarding this career re-entry opportunity email alumni@riosalado.edu and put Workforce Infusion Program in the subject line.

ALUMNI EVENT OPPORTUNITY SECTION

International Accounting Day Virtual Event Nov. 4
Rio Salado College and Paradise Valley Community College are hosting a virtual conference and celebration of International Accounting Day on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020 at 5 p.m. The event will focus on the professions of accounting and tax. All Maricopa Community College students and alumni are invited to attend. The theme is “Accounting is a Skill for Life.” The event will showcase careers in accounting and tax, along with educational programs that endorse this exciting industry. Register here.

Follow the Rio Salado Accounting Program on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/rioaccounting

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Goodyear’s Chief of Police Jimmy Rodriguez

At Rio Salado College, we don’t just see our degree programs as venues for passing down knowledge and skills—they are communities unto themselves, bringing together people with a shared passion and getting them ready to carry that passion out into the rest of the world.

Through our Administration of Justice and Law Enforcement Technology (LET) programs, we’ve helped foster a community of peacekeepers who are eager to bring a sense of safety and stability to their neighborhoods. We count many civil servants, police officers, and first responders among our alumni. And now we can add a police chief to that distinguished group of Rio graduates.

In May of this year, Santiago “Jimmy” Rodriguez was promoted to police chief of Goodyear. His law enforcement career dates back to 1996 when he got his start as a detention officer. Becoming a volunteer reserve officer in 1998, he was promoted to a full-time paid officer in 2000.

The future Chief Rodriguez swiftly moved up the ranks in the new millennium. He was promoted to sergeant in 2006, lieutenant in 2011, and deputy chief in 2015. He ran the gamut of roles on the force, transitioning from a patrol officer on the beat to investigator and later supervisor positions.

Chief Rodriguez’s meteoric rise from detention officer to police chief can be attributed to several factors: his own personal tenacity, his willingness to take on a variety of different roles in law enforcement (including community services, K-9 unit, training divisions, hiring and recruitment, and school resource officer programs), and his education.

A graduate of both the FBI National Academy (where he currently serves as Vice President of their Arizona board) and the International Association Chiefs of Police Leadership in Police Organizations, Chief Rodriguez also earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Law Enforcement Technology at Rio Salado College. He’s received a number of notable awards in his field, including the 2006 Department Distinguished Officer Award, the 2010 Chief’s Certificate of Excellence, and the 2011 Arizona in Action Award for Lids on Kids.

Describing his duties as a police chief in an interview for The West Valley View, Chief Rodriguez said that he’s focused on providing “best practices involving safety and quality of life for our employees and the
Chief Rodriguez has spearheaded several forward-thinking initiatives in his time on the force to make those best practices a reality. He helped lead the efforts to bring body cameras to the Goodyear department, bringing a higher-level of transparency to the police force and allowing for more effective prosecutions of crimes. He also teaches Law Enforcement Spanish and Supervision and Management Principles at the Glendale Community College Police Academy.

“Simply responding to 911 calls isn’t good enough for me,” Rodriguez told The Daily Independent. “Interacting with our residents one-on-one each day helps us better understand who we serve in order to prevent crime and build a stronger city.” From Rio Salado LET student to police chief and instructor, Santiago Rodriguez has embodied the best qualities of his field: a dedication to public service, a willingness to embrace change, and an understanding that justice is a collaborative effort between peacekeepers and their community.

### Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation’s Scholarship Opportunities

The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Scholarships are located at the link below. For information regarding specific scholarships available at Rio Salado College contact todd.aakhus@riosalado.edu. Put Scholarship Inquiry at RSC in the subject line of the email.

Get started at [https://mccdf.academicworks.com/](https://mccdf.academicworks.com/)

### Surplus Line Association of Arizona Foundation

The Rio Salado College Insurance Studies Program hosted the Virtual Summer Camp 2020 during June and July. The program was designed to build interest in insurance studies for students considering a workforce/career decision. The Virtual Summer Camp 2020 provided access for students online due to constraints as a result of COVID-19 challenges. The eight-week program featured popular guest speakers from the Insurance Industry to provide the students with a realistic preview of work and the benefits of a career in Insurance.
Student scholarships were made available by the Surplus Line Association of Arizona Foundation. The association provided the funding as part of an effort to promote careers in the insurance industry.

Insurance Program faculty chair Dr. Lily Davidov said, “The Surplus Line Association of Arizona Foundation has been an outstanding supporter of the Insurance Programs at Rio Salado College. They are committed to supporting the Insurance Industry and the preparation of workforce candidates with educational credentials.”

Chris Behymer, the instructor for the course explains, “The students in this year’s program represent a wide-range of experiences and knowledge in a variety of fields. Throughout the program they were engaged and expressed a sincere interest in learning more about the insurance industry.”

**Chartered Property and Casualty Association**

For the fourth consecutive year, the Arizona Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriters (CPCU) Society has donated funds for the Rio Salado College Risk Management and Insurance Program.

Dr Lily Davidov, Insurance Studies faculty chair, said the funding will be redirected to the Alpha Theta Omicron Chapter College Project 2020. Alpha Theta Omicron is the Rio Salado College chapter of Phi Theta Omicron, the national honor society for community colleges.

Throughout 2020, Alpha Theta Omicron is working with Rio Salado Interim President Kate Smith and Rio’s administrative team on a College Project to address a need related to the college’s mission. President Smith challenged Alpha Theta Omicron to research and propose a peer-mentor program that focuses on student success in the first semester of college.

The CPCU donation funding will be used to support Alpha Theta Omicron Chapter mentoring risk management and insurance students during their first semester with Rio Salado College and completing College Project 2020.

**The Yellow Ribbon Program Benefits Rio Salado Veterans**

Eligible veterans and their dependents who meet specific criteria can receive additional VA funding for out-of-state costs through the Yellow Ribbon Program.

The Yellow Ribbon Program is a part of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows U.S. institutions of higher learning to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Degree-granting institutions partner with VA to cover tuition and fee expenses that exceed VA’s maximum payable amount. Schools can contribute a specified dollar amount. VA will match the amount, not to exceed 50 percent of the difference.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill® pays a student’s public in-state tuition and mandatory fees. However, if a school participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program, additional funds may be available to the student for out-of-state tuition costs not covered. [Learn more](#).
Maricopa Corporate College (MCOR) Opportunities

At the Maricopa Corporate College, our corporate engagement division is excited to introduce you to a variety of career opportunities and training programs to bring your career to the next level! You can take advantage of these free career training programs, spanning across the tech, financial services, and healthcare industries, to get in touch with hiring employers and enhance your resume. You can also check out the Google IT Support Professional Certificate, which can be completed in as little as three months! This program is offered at $99 (plus taxes and fees) per student and is conducted online at your own pace. Not looking for training right now? No problem! You can also check out opportunities available with Bank of America and Arizona Pioneers’ Home to take advantage of incredible benefits and start your next career. Learn more.

State Farm

Are you interested in becoming the next #goodneighbor and launching an awesome career where you can help contribute to the mission of helping people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams every day? Please visit jobs.statefarm.com to see current opportunities. You can also check out the State Farm Careers Video Library – there are “A Day in the Life” videos, a virtual tour of the Tempe office location (Marina Heights), more information on the application process, interview tips, and more.

On top of a meaningful career, State Farm® offers a Total Rewards Benefits Package that rewards employees, promotes wellness, and encourages growth and development! Click here to learn more.

Freedom Financial

From humble beginnings in a spare bedroom in Silicon Valley in 2002, Freedom has blossomed into a leader in online financial services that provides millions of consumers with successful solutions for debt settlement, mortgage shopping and personal loans. We empower our people to put their ideas into action and transform their careers.

We cultivate a culture that fosters openness, collaboration, and fun. Where you are supported by everyone, from management to fellow colleagues. We have been recognized in the Phoenix Business Journal 9 times and 2 times as #1 best place to work! If you’re ready to take on new challenges and keep reaching for more, we’ll make sure you have the opportunity to do so. We are looking for folks with experience in Customer
Northcentral University

Academic Advisor

NCU is currently seeking a dynamic individual to become part of our Student Services team as an Academic and Finance Advisor. This position serves as a student’s key point of contact, providing in-depth, quality service to students from the time they enter the first course until they graduate. Learn more.

For more information regarding employment opportunities click the link below:
https://jobs.jobvite.com/careers/ncu/jobs

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.

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