

Did You Know?

Estrella Mountain 2009 Environmental Scan Overview

For the Complete 2009 Environmental Scan and Fact Book go to: http://www.estrellamountain.edu/ie/ie_reports.asp

Trends

See Section 2 of the Environmental Scan for more details!

Maximizing Student Success

- *Some community colleges are considering a 'new' model to streamline program completion. The new model requires a narrower curriculum and mandates students to take a predetermined core curriculum related to majors focusing on pre-career fields such as nursing, surgical technology and energy service management.*
- *The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) is studying a plan to nearly double the college and university student enrollment by 2020.*
- *A study of Maricopa County public school district enrollment indicates that outlying areas (e.g. Higley, Dysart, Chandler) are showing enrollment increases, while districts in established older areas (e.g. Mesa, Phoenix) are experiencing enrollment declines).*
- *According to the U.S. Census Bureau, strong growth in Hispanic public school enrollment is expected to continue for decades. The number of Hispanic students in the nation's public schools nearly doubled from 1990, accounting for 60% of the total growth.*
- *More Arizona students are taking Advance Placement (AP) courses and exams as a way to cut college costs and become more prepared for higher education. In 2008, 10,573 public high school students took at least one AP exam compared with 5,720 students five years ago.*

Creating a Culture of Assessment

- *According to a study by Hart Research Associates of members of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU), 78% of participating institutions have a common set of learning outcomes for undergraduates. The skills most commonly assessed are writing, critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, oral communication.*
- *Approximately 72% of member institutions assess learning outcomes across the curriculum, and an additional one in four (24%) are planning to incorporate this type of assessment. More institutions assess at the department level (68%) than the general education level (52%).*
- *A recent report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching found that to improve the success rates of students who are unprepared for college-level work, community colleges must develop enhanced forms of student learning assessment, analyze the data to discover best teaching practices, and get faculty members more involved in the assessment process.*

Creating an Organizational Culture that Supports Learning

- *As a result of the economic downturn, some college administrators are considering long-range systematic changes that previously lacked the support to actualize. Ideas under consideration include: adjustments in employee and student health care, administrative systems, services provided, and vendor contracts. Additional strategies include centralization of functions at decentralized universities, and sharing resources or programs with other colleges.*

Creating Dynamic Environments that Support Student Learning

- *New media will enable technology-savvy students to immerse themselves in context rich settings, to express themselves individually and also to connect to social groups for affinity and support.*
- *Competition for the growing pool of students interested in online learning is increasing and may be leading schools to increase their geographic reach while concentrating on degree-seeking, non-degree, and nontraditional students.*

Maximizing Partnerships & Resources that Support Learning

- *About 54 million people in the labor force have no college degree, and of those, 34 million have no college experience at all. Many states are now taking efforts to persuade thousands of adults with some college credits to re-enroll at one of the state's public four-year institutions.*
- *For the first time in modern history, Phoenix's population could be decreasing. A variety of factors suggest that fewer people could be living in the valley such as increased foreclosures, decreases in water hook-ups and trash collection, and less money generated by tax revenues.*

Service Area Demographics <i>See Section 3</i>	Service Area Growth <i>See Section 4</i>	Business and Industry Data <i>See Section 5</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Individuals traditionally recognized as “minority” represent more than 50% of the population in the EMCC service area.</i> • <i>Educational attainment has improved for all cities within EMCC’s service area.</i> • <i>EMCC service area cities are diverse in age. Litchfield Park (22%) and Surprise (25%) have large percentages of residents 65 and older. Families with children under the age of 10 (12%-22%) are well represented in other West Valley cities.</i> • <i>Home prices in the West Valley dropped from their 2006 peak. All EMCC service area cities experienced double digit percentage declines during 2008.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Between 1990 and 2000, the EMCC service area grew 68%.</i> • <i>Service area population grew nearly 122% between 2000 and 2008, approximately 500,000 residents. Annual FTSE at the college increased by 81% over the same 8-year period.</i> • <i>By 2020, the college’s total service area (including Surprise and Buckeye) is projected to include more than 1.6 million residents. EMCC’s core service area (closest to the college) will exceed 500,000 residents.</i> • <i>While the service area remains poised for long-term growth, the number of single family home building permits in 2008 was lowest since 1997. This signals slower growth for the next 2-3 years.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Major employers (100+ employees) account for more than 35,700 jobs in the service area.</i> • <i>Education and retail trade represent the largest employers in the service area. Military, Manufacturing and Public Administration represent the next largest industries (for businesses that employ 100 or more employees).</i> • <i>In Arizona, 7 of the 10 projected fastest growing occupations are related to postsecondary teaching. Occupations in the K-12 area are not among the fastest growing.</i> • <i>Arizona jobs with the largest projected number of openings include Retail Sales Workers, Information Record Clerks, and Food Services.</i> • <i>The Arizona unemployment rate has steadily declined from 2002 through 2007; however, the decline has reversed in 2008 and unemployment rates have continued to increase in 2009.</i>
Public School Data <i>See Section 6</i>		EMCC and MCCD Enrollment Facts <i>See Section 7</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>While some high school area feeder schools indicate 2007 graduation rates above the Maricopa county average (76%), other schools reported declining graduation rates compared to this standard. The schools below the county graduation rate include: The Buckeye Academy (33%) Buckeye Union (75%), Dysart (74%), Trevor Browne (73%), Wickenburg Alternative (68%), and Lito Pena (27%). However, many of the schools below the county average have made considerable increases when compared to the previous year.</i> • <i>Some schools in the EMCC have dropout rates above the Maricopa County average (3.0%). Schools with the lowest dropout rates include: Verrado (1.3%), Estrella Foothills (1.3%), Valley Vista (1.4%), and Tolleson (2.0%). The highest dropout rates include Buckeye Academy (30.6%), Tonopah Valley (7.1%), Gila Bend (6.7%), and Wickenburg Alternative (4.4%).</i> • <i>Although AIMS test scores improved at many schools in 2009, the majority percentage of EMCC schools that fall far below in math increased for most service area high schools.</i> • <i>Enrollment for 2008-09 show EMCC feeder high schools with a combined enrollment of more than 33,000 students ... approximately 67% being ethnic minorities... more than half (52%) are Hispanic and 10% are African American.</i> • <i>The percentage of graduates from EMCC feeder high schools that attend EMCC within one year has consistently ranged from 17-21% for the last five years, the rate is approximately 40% if one includes all MCCCDColleges.</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approximately 50% of Estrella Mountain students are minority, the greatest percentage being Hispanic (35%).</i> • <i>Since 2000-2001, Estrella Mountain’s annual headcount has consistently grown by an annualized rate of 4% and FTSE by 7%. Growth is expected to accelerate over the next several years. In 2008-2009, the college increased by 11% in FTSE and 5% in annual headcount. During this same year, the Skill Center FTSE increased by 98%! As we enter the fall 2009 semester, credit headcount and FTSE exceed 20% growth rate.</i> • <i>Fall 2008 produced an all time high for full-time student enrollment (25.6%), in contrast with 14.6% for fall 2001.</i> • <i>Students 24 and younger accounted for a record 65 % of headcount in fall 2008, compared to 48% in fall 2001.</i> • <i>More than 9,000 students in the Estrella Mountain service area enrolled in another Maricopa Community College in spring 2009. This represents a 7% increase from spring 2008.</i>