

# Creating Dynamic Environments that Support Student Learning

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**Finding:** **Learning Will Continue to Occur in Media-Rich Environments**

- A recent study suggests that new media will enable technology-savvy students to immerse themselves in context rich settings, to express themselves individually, and connect to social groups for affinity and support. A student, who develops their digital literacy building worlds, and role playing in games, will expect learning to parallel those environments. Students will want technology to support collaboration with each other.

**Implications:** Learning within media-rich environments will continue to be an important factor contributing to student success. Both Maricopa and EMCC should continue to consider this trend as course curriculum and competencies are developed and modified.

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**Finding:** **Recession May Drive More Adult Students to Take Online Classes**

- Downturns in economic conditions often see two-year colleges and private for-profit institutions enrolling more students. 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, as well as non-degree, and nontraditional students.

**Implications:** MCCCDCD may choose to increase the geographic reach by offering more online courses while concentrating on specific student demographics that have indicated an interest in online course offerings.

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**Finding:** **Program Teaches High School Students Specific Job Skills**

- Programs once referred as “vocational” education no longer exist in many high school curricula. A good number of today’s “vocational” programs consist of classes known as career and technical education, or CTE. The Arizona Department of Education has aligned the curriculum for every CTE course with corresponding academic standards. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 18 of the 20 fastest-growing occupations within the next decade will require career and technical education.

**Implications:** The State commitment to high school CTE programs offers potential opportunities for the MCCCDCD. Continued career and technical education could impact vocational training courses and programs offered through the community colleges.

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**Finding:** **Learning Will Continue to Take Place Anytime and Everywhere**

- As more millennial students enroll in postsecondary education, the expectation of a tailored college experience will increase. Learning environments often include home, work, and college. Students can expect learning to occur at a high speed with instant feedback and payoffs.

**Implications:** Understanding the unique learning needs of incoming students and incorporating these strategies into the classroom may be fundamental in attracting and retaining millennial students.

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