



Dec 2008

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Register

Show Events

West Valley Forum

To Do Doing Business Newcomers / Visitors Education Services Real Estate Cool Resources Register

### West Valley Communities

- Home
- All West Valley
- Anthem
- Avondale
- Buckeye
- El Mirage
- Gila Bend
- Glendale
- Goodyear
- Laveen
- Litchfield Park
- Peoria
- Phoenix
- Sun City
- Sun City West
- Surprise
- Tolleson
- Wickenburg
- Youngtown

### Survey

How should we pay for new freeway lanes?

- We don't need more or they're not worth it
- Increased sales tax
- Increased gas tax
- Toll roads
- Congestion, or time-of-day use tax

Vote

View results

### zzyy 12-15-08 EMCC art students

EMCC art students showcase work locally and nationally Dec. 15, 2008



Some might say that an artist paints his or her own way into the world of art, but Estrella Mountain Community College Adjunct Faculty member Amy Ronhovde is there to give students the little push they need to find their place in the colorful and diverse field that is art.

Ronhovde is new to the college but has already made her mark on her students. Her dedication and passion for her craft has opened many opportunities for the college's art students - locally and nationally. A requirement in her drawing classes is for her students to submit their work to Mariposa, a literary magazine the college publishes annually that includes Estrella Mountain student

artwork, creative writing samples, poetry, etc. Students also showcased their work at a student-run art show on Saturday, December 13.

But the opportunity to showcase their work doesn't stop there. Ronhovde is always keeping her eyes open for shows and contests for her students.

"As a working artist, you've got to be dedicated to creation and tireless self-promotion," she said. She wants her students to not only learn and develop their talents but to experience first-hand what it is like to be an artist and how to participate in various activities.

Photo: Amy Ronhovde and Kathy Miller

A new restaurant in Litchfield Park presented an opportunity. Owner Alex Corona was looking for art to adorn the walls of the aquarium restaurant that will feature a 60,000-gallon shark. He held a contest, exclusive for EMCC art students, with a little incentive to sweeten the deal. Corona and his co-owners will select a few pieces to hang in the restaurant, and the customers will vote for first, second, and third-place winners who will receive \$300, \$100, or \$50.

Those students will also be able to offer their artwork for sale while it hangs in the new restaurant and were invited to attend the soft grand opening of the restaurant on Dec. 20, where there will be many of the West Valley's movers and shakers. The public grand opening will be Dec. 29.

Ronhovde didn't stop there. She encouraged her students to participate in a charitable event in New York City - "Postcards from the Edge," an AIDS and HIV awareness event. The students will not attend but will submit their artwork to be hung on the walls next to prestigious artists and will be sold to benefit the charity.

Kathy Miller, one of Ronhovde's students, felt that this opportunity was not-to-be-missed because of its charitable nature. "I've gotten so many opportunities to make my art public and make my art stronger," she said. "This was something I just had to give a chance."

Miller is a first-year EMCC student just starting on her artistic path. Her uncertainty has turned into confidence and appreciation of her talent through the support and passion of her instructor. Miller is participating in both projects and is learning what her style is. She is "completely elated" to showcase her work not only to the public but to her family, peers and most of all, her instructor. But there is one thing that Miller isn't sure of, as most fresh college students aren't - what to major in and what to do with that major. After all, what kind of career can she have as an artist?

"With a degree in fine arts, students can become educators, art therapists, museum curators, gallery artists, graphic designers, fashion designers, photographers, do public sector art, work in the television or music industries, and much, much more," said Ronhovde. "Integrating these wonderful professional opportunities into the classroom allows them to explore different opportunities and also teaches them what it means to be a working artist and the quality that is expected of working professionals in the art field."

The college offers several art classes as part of its Associate of Arts in Fine Arts. For more information about class offerings, call



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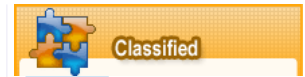
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Estrella Mountain Community College is on Thomas and Dysart roads in Avondale and offers transfer-ready academic courses and job-specific occupational training to approximately 13,000 students annually. Estrella Mountain is part of the Maricopa County Community College District, one of the largest community college districts in the nation. For more information visit [www.estrellamountain.edu](http://www.estrellamountain.edu) or [www.maricopa.edu](http://www.maricopa.edu).

[The seahorse artwork done by Miller was submitted for the Tiburon opening.](#)

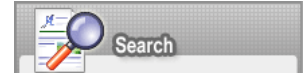


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