

Grant to help EMCC transition into 'learning college'

Aug. 25, 2008 07:22 AM
The Republic | azcentral.com

Estrella Mountain Community College leaders are working to transform the Avondale campus into a "learning college" through the League for Innovation initiative. That work has paid off with the college receiving a \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

"This year has been an exciting one, working with the League for Innovation to bring the learning college model to EMCC and receiving this grant to help us reach that goal," said Ernest Lara, who was appointed college president in July 2007.

Lara believes high school students need an early opportunity to realize they can be successful and move on to college. His success-builds-success philosophy is embedded in the four goals of moving EMCC into the learning college mold: building student preparedness and development; increasing student engagement; transforming campus climate and culture; and growing and aligning endowment support.

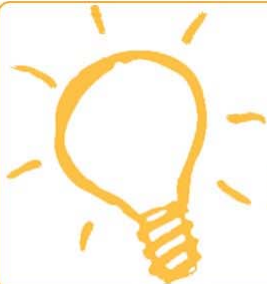
The Title V grant, called Strengthening Hispanic Institutions, will be allocated to the

college over five years to support these goals.

The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, allows EMCC to expand services to all students and improve academic programs, student services, technology and facilities. Grant funds may be used to implement community-outreach programs with local and secondary schools, for special programs to improve student academic success, and for resource materials.

The \$2.8 million grant includes a \$375,000 non-federal endowment match. To maximize this match, the college must raise at least \$75,000 per year in the next five years.

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