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## 6 Maricopa Community Colleges Named Among Top in the Nation

PRWeb

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Six Maricopa Community [Colleges \(#\)](#) have been recognized by the Aspen Institute as being among the nation's 150 top community colleges.

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Six [Maricopa Community Colleges \(http://celebrate.maricopa.edu/\)](http://celebrate.maricopa.edu/) have been recognized by the [Aspen Institute \(http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/aspen-prize\)](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/aspen-prize) as being among the nation's 150 top community colleges.

Phoenix College and Estrella Mountain, GateWay, Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, and South Mountain Community Colleges can compete for the 2015 Aspen Prize for [Community College \(#\)](#) Excellence and \$1 million dollars in prize funds.

A full list of the 150 community colleges selected from more than 1,000 nationwide winners will be announced in early 2015.

"We are honored to have been recognized by the Aspen Institute," said Maricopa Community Colleges Chancellor Rufus Gasper. "As a system, we are among the largest in the nation. As such, we are a major supplier of students transferring to the state's [public universities \(#\)](#), and the largest workforce trainer in the state of Arizona. We are working hard to continue improving our outcomes and this honor is indicative of our students' and faculty's success."

The award, given every two years, recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

"Community colleges have tremendous power to change lives, and their success will increasingly define our nation's economic strength and the potential for social mobility for every American," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "This competition is designed to spotlight the excellent work being done in the most effective community colleges, those that best help students obtain meaningful, high-quality education and training for competitive-wage jobs after college. We hope it will raise the bar and provide a roadmap for community colleges nationwide."

The Maricopa Community College system includes 10 regionally accredited colleges – Chandler-Gilbert, Estrella Mountain, GateWay, Glendale, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Rio Salado, Scottsdale and South Mountain. It also includes the Maricopa Skill Center, Southwest Skill Center, and several satellite [campuses \(#\)](#) and business/industry, technical and customized training institutes.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on [Maryland's \(#\)](#) Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners.

For the original version on PRWeb visit:

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