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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Estrella Mountain Community College Awarded \$40,000 to Participate in the Adult  
Learner 360 (AL360) Academy**

The three-year initiative provides valuable tools for Hispanic Serving Institutions

**AVONDALE, ARIZONA, October 30** – Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) has been awarded a three-year \$40,000 award to participate in the AL360 Academy, which was created for higher education institutions by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Funded by grants from CAEL and Excelencia in Education, the initiative provides tools for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) to examine how they are serving adult students in order to implement best practices for the future.

A combination of research methods from both funding organizations, including CAEL's AL360 diagnostic tool will help measure the results of the program's short- and long-term goals. EMCC will use the collected data to develop strategies to increase enrollment of adult Latino students. EMCC is committed to not only increasing the Latino population on campus but to developing innovative strategies to best serve all adult students so they complete their programs and either continue their educational path or move into a career armed with the knowledge and tools needed for success.

Engaging in the AL360 Academy allows EMCC to continue focusing on creating quality educational experiences for its Latino adult student population. "We strive to provide the highest level of institutional support for adult students at Estrella Mountain Community College. Doing so contributes to our students' academic success and ensures that we achieve our plans for future growth", states Dr. Patricia Cardenas-Adame, Vice President of Student Affairs at EMCC. Dr. Cardenas-Adame leads the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) team of faculty and staff from cross-functional departments who have oversight of the AL360 Academy. She continues, "AL360 provides valuable resources to help us include student, faculty, and staff insight in our assessment process."



Part of EMCC's mission is to build new and strengthen existing relationships with individuals and businesses in the community. Participation in the AL360 Academy provides opportunities for EMCC to continue to support the economic and workforce development needs of West Valley communities while benefiting higher education pursuits of current and future students.

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[Estrella Mountain Community College](http://www.stellamountain.edu) is one of the ten colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District, one of the largest community college districts in the nation. EMCC offers academic courses leading to associate degrees, university transfer, certificates, and short-term job training to more than 14,000 students annually. The flagship campus is located on Thomas and Dysart roads in Avondale. Classes are also offered online and at two Buckeye locations: EMCC's Buckeye Educational Center, located in downtown Buckeye, Arizona, and at the EMCC @ West-MEC Southwest Campus at 500 N. Verrado Way.