MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ballet Arizona Hosts Residency Estrella Mountain Community College

The week-long residency culminates in a performance with professional dancers and EMCC students

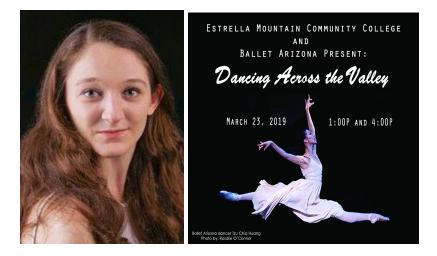
AVONDALE, AZ, Feb. 26 – Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) will host Ballet Arizona company member Colleen Buckley in a week-long residency with the school's Dance Program. Buckley, who has been with Ballet Arizona since 2017, will choreograph an original piece for EMCC dance students that will be performed as part of Dancing Across the Valley on March 23, 2019. Audience members will also have the opportunity to participate in a brief Q&A with dancers and event organizers at the end of the show. The Dancing Across the Valley performance is a series featuring Ballet Arizona professional company dancers, studio company dancers, and the Estrella Mountain dance students. During the residency, Community Engagement Manager, Alexandra Papazian, will offer special insights about the lifestyle and career of ballet dancers.

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019
Time: 1:00pm and 4:00pm
Location: EMCC Performing Arts Center Mainstage (PAC), 3000 North Dysart Road, Avondale AZ
Box office info: boxofficeatestrellamountain.edu | 623-935-8141 or 623-935-8444

Since opening in 2015, EMCC's Performing Arts Center (PAC), a 30,000 square-foot facility, has quickly become a premiere performance venue for the West Valley. "We are proud to partner with EMCC with such a wonderful program. It really fulfills part of Ballet Arizona's mission to make dance accessible for all," states Samantha Turner, Ballet Arizona Executive Director. "EMCC is helping us extend our reach in the Valley beyond our Phoenix-based performances and classroom offerings."

The Ballet Arizona residency and collaborative performance is the educational vision of EMCC Residential Faculty, Janaea Lyn McAlee. For McAlee it is important that the opportunity be available to majors and non-majors. "The participation of professional and studio companies and the educational facilitation provides an informative and educational overview which connects the residency experience and the professional

performance," states McAlee.



Tickets for Dancing Across the Valley cost \$10 for general admission and are free to Maricopa Community Colleges students with student ID. They are available at the door.

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<u>Estrella Mountain Community College</u> 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.

Photo Credits: Ballet Arizona dancer Tzu Chia Huang (leap). Photo by Rosalie O'Connor. Ballet Arizona dancer Colleen Buckley (headshot). Photo by Keith Alstrin.