2015 Employee Awards and Recognition

Awards

Chandler-Gilbert Community College Awards

- Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching 2015 Community Engagement Classification
- President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
- CGCC, Veteran Supportive Campus Designation, Arizona Department of Veteran Services
- Learning Communities, CGCC Innovation of the Year
- CGCC Chapter, Male Empowerment Network (MEN), MCCA Diversity Advisory Council Excellence Award, Chapter of the Year and Advisors of the Year (Tony Little and Jill Wendt)

Chandler-Gilbert Community College Individual Awards

- Scott Adamson and Regi Munro, 2014 John and Suzanne Roueche Excellence Award, League of Innovation
- Monica Bilka, Walter Rundell Award for Dissertation Research
- Lara Bruner, 2014 APA TOPSS Charles T. Blair-Broeker Excellence in Teaching Award
- Alex Cannell, Linda Lujan, Pam Woodbury receive Appreciation Award, Leadership Award and Educator of the Year Honoree, Si Se Puede Foundation
- Miguel Fernandez, Employee Recognition Award, Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation
- Margie Gomez, Gail Haase and Yanci Murphy, Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member, MCCA Adjunct Faculty Association
- Joshua Gottry, ASCAP Plus Award
- Dawn Gruichich, CGCC Woman of Distinction
- Ron Keller, Marcus Denton, Sally Jesse, ariZoni Theater Award of Excellence
- Bernadette La Mazza, Pandora Festival of New Works
- Vanessa Sandoval, CGCC Service-Learning Faculty of the Year
- Linda Shaw and Ted Wolter, Gilbert Community Excellence Awards
- Diane Travers Shipman, Distinguished Toastmasters Award
- Jill Wendt, CGCC Service-Learning Lifetime Achievement Award
CGCC recognized by Carnegie Foundation for community engagement

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching awarded Chandler-Gilbert Community College (CGCC) with its Community Engagement classification, a significant and competitive recognition that highlights dedication to community service. This is a renewal of CGCC’s initial 2006 designation. CGCC is one of only three Arizona schools and just 361 colleges and universities nationwide that currently hold the designation. Mesa Community College (MCC) also received the designation. Between MCC and CGCC, more than 5,000 students performed upwards of 115,000 hours of community service last year. Read more.

President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes CGCC for eighth straight year

CGCC was named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the eighth consecutive year. The college is among only 766 higher education institutions nationwide, and among only four in the State of Arizona. The recognition highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community challenges, and helps students pursue a lifelong path of civic engagement. Read more.

CGCC named Veteran Supportive Campus by state agency

Chandler-Gilbert Community College (CGCC) was named a Veteran Supportive Campus by the Arizona Department of Veteran Services (AZDVS) in February.

The Veteran Supportive Campus program was established by the Arizona state legislature in 2012 as a means of establishing measurable, meaningful criteria for determining if a school is indeed “veteran-friendly.” Among the eight criteria are requirements to provide resource and study centers, to conduct training for faculty and staff, to survey veteran students annually, and to offer veteran-specific orientation sessions. Read more.
Learning Communities selected as CGCC Innovation of the Year

The proposal “Reinventing Developmental Education Learning Communities” was selected at the 2014 Innovation of the Year at CGCC. As a high-level summary, a team of CGCC staff and faculty renovated the CGCC developmental education learning community offerings in reading, mathematics and English which were implemented in fall 2013. The renovated offerings integrated with student success courses as well as classes in psychology, sociology, English and humanities. Data demonstrated that students in these classes had the same or higher success rates and retention rates than students in stand-alone classes. More notably, evaluation of CCSSE results indicate students in developmental learning communities have statistically significant higher student engagement than students in stand-alone classes in five areas: active and collaborative learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction and support for learners. Read more.

Male minority chapter at CGCC wins diversity award, Chapter of the Year and Advisor of the Year

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Diversity Advisory Council recognized the CGCC chapter of the Male Empowerment Network (MEN) with its 2015 award. MEN, a district initiative, was formed to increase retention of the minority male student population. The CGCC MEN chapter has become a model for many of the sister college chapters and won Chapter of the Year in 2014 as well as 2015.

The CGCC chapter consistently connects students to support systems necessary for student success, including assistance with registration, advising, mentoring and the collaboration of philanthropic efforts with student clubs.

Chapter advisors Tony Little and Jill Wendt were selected as 2015 Advisors of the Year. Read more.
2015 Employee Awards and Recognition Awards

Chandler-Gilbert Community College Individual Awards

Scott Adamson and Regi Munro, 2015 John and Suzanne Roueche Excellence Award, League of Innovation

Chandler-Gilbert Community College mathematics faculty Scott Adamson and biological sciences division chair and faculty Regi Munro were selected as recipients of the 2014 John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards presented March 8 during the annual League for Innovation in the Community College Innovations conference. Read more.

Monica Bilka receives award for dissertation research

The Western History Association recognized history faculty Monica Bilka with the Walter Rundell Award for Dissertation Research in October of 2014. The title of her dissertation is “When we heal the land, we heal the people”: Klamath Tribal Empowerment through Natural Resources Management, 1960-2014.

Lara Bruner recognized for teaching excellence in psychology

Lara Bruner was one of three high school psychology teachers honored with the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award by the American Psychological Association’s Committee of Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS). Bruner was recognized for her student-centered teaching style that encourages students to think about psychology outside of their own lives.

Si Se Puede Foundation honor three at CGCC for leadership, education and appreciation

The Si Se Puede Foundation recognized Chandler-Gilbert Community College Service-Learning Coordinator Alex Cannell with an Appreciation Award in March 2015 as well as President Linda Lujan with the Leadership Award and mathematics faculty Pam Woodbury as an Educator of the Year Honoree in April 2015. Read more.
Training faculty to better serve veterans leads to foundation employee recognition award

The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation recognized English faculty Miguel Fernandez with the 2015 Employee Recognition Award for his outstanding contributions to the District’s mission. Fernandez, who is a faculty liaison for veterans as well as a co-sponsor of the Chandler-Gilbert Community College chapter of the Student Veterans Organization (SVO), spent his sabbatical semester (Fall 2014) researching and developing an online training program to assist faculty members in understanding and dealing with student veterans. Working closely with the SVO, the result was “Toolkit for Training Faculty to Best Serve Student Veterans.” Read more.

Margie Gomez, Gail Haase and Yanci Murphy, Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Members, MCCCD Adjunct Faculty Association

The District’s Adjunct Faculty Association has given Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Awards to Margie Gomez, Gail Haase and Yanci Murphy. The award is provided to those who complete an assessment process that includes an evaluation of their performance on criteria in five areas: pedagogy, assessment, enrichment, development and professionalism as well as forward at least two letters of recommendation. (At least one from the department chair, dean, or vice president of Academic Affairs and one or more additional recommendations from residential faculty, adjunct faculty or students.)

Joshua Gottry receives ASCAP Plus Award

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) selected Joshua Gottry as an ASCAP Plus Award recipient for his music composition and works performed in 2013. Gottry first received an ASCAP Young Composer Award in 1995 and has been selected every year since 2001 for the ASCAP Plus Award.

Leadership, innovation and service describe woman of distinction

Dawn Gruichich was selected as the CGCC 2015 Woman of Distinction. Gruichich, who is the director of Student Support and Transition Services, was nominated by her peers for her leadership, innovation, service and contribution to women. Read more.
2015 Employee Awards and Recognition Awards

Ron Keller awarded two ariZoni theatre awards
Over the last two seasons, Ron Keller, technical director and scenic designer for the CGCC Arnette Scott Ward Performing Arts Center has been nominated for six and received two ariZoni Awards for theatrical design for shows produced by our performing arts department. His last award was for property design for *The Bold, the Young and the Murdered* in the fall 2014. Marc Denton was nominated for Best Musical Direction of a Musical and Sally Jesse was nominated for Best Stage Direction for CGCC’s production of *Seussical*.

Bernadette La Mazza, Pandora Festival of New Works
Bernadette La Mazza won the 2015 Pandora Festival of New Works for her full-length comedy “Vegetal Salvaje,” a play about a vegetarian cooking show pilot hosted by aging telenovela stars, a sports announcer, a washed up B-movie actor turned exercise promoter and a model.

Vanessa Sandoval, Service-Learning Faculty of the Year
Communications faculty Vanessa Sandoval received the CGCC 2015 Service-Learning Faculty of the Year award recognizing her for her excellent work in service-learning. Vanessa incorporated Into the Streets and several class projects in her courses this year, including the Then They Came For Us... exhibit and World War II-era rail car from East Valley Jewish Community Center.

Linda Shaw and Ted Wolter selected for educator and employee of the year
Linda Shaw and Ted Wolter were selected as the Chandler-Gilbert Community College (CGCC) Staff Employee of the Year and Educator of the Year for the 19th annual Gilbert Community Excellence Awards. As the founding art faculty, Wolter shaped the art program from its inception, mentored new art faculty as they joined the college, and shepherded the program through growth and change. Director of Admissions, Registration and Records Linda Shaw is known for her extensive knowledge and focus on student service and is a valuable resource who willingly serves on a variety of local and district-wide committees benefitting hundreds of thousands of students. Read more.
Diane Travers Shipman, Second Distinguished Toastmasters Award

Diane Travers Shipman was awarded her second Distinguished Toastmasters Award (DTM) in May 2015, the highest accomplishment possible in Toastmasters. Travers achieved her first DTM in June 2010. Travers’ home club is the Power Play Toastmasters. In September 2012, she secured approval to allow the club to meet weekly on campus every Thursday. The group has open meetings allowing students who are interested to participate. To date, more than 700 students have attended a Power Play Toastmasters meeting and multiple other students have attended additional Toastmaster

Jill Wendt, Service-Learning Lifetime Achievement Award

Jill Wendt received the Service-Learning Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her for her commitment to service-learning during her time teaching at CGCC. Dr. Wendt has taught at CGCC for seven years and has incorporated a service-learning component in her courses each semester. She has been involved with Into the Streets, numerous class projects, and individual placements.