RIO SALADO COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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WHO WE ARE 2022-23

Since 1978, Rio Salado College has focused on making education accessible and equitable for all, especially working adults and parents. That journey began with classes at community centers and store fronts in the 1970s and evolved into online learning in the 1990s. Today, we serve students in 50 states with 24/7 support services, flexible Monday starts, more than 650 online classes, 143 programs, and more.

Rio Salado is recognized nationally as an innovative leader in online learning by making education accessible, flexible, and affordable. Rio Salado serves as one of 10 Maricopa Community Colleges and is headquartered in Tempe, Arizona.

VISION We empower learners everywhere through innovative education.

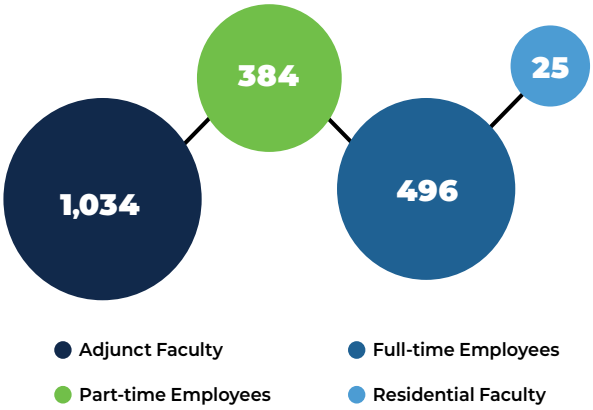
MISSION We redefine the educational experience by anticipating the needs of our students and future workforce. We support learners where they are and provide high-quality, flexible, and accessible education to empower individual goal attainment, foster partnerships, and strengthen communities.

VALUES Rio Salado College honors everyone's unique qualities with respect and dignity. We value:

- Innovation and Learning
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- Integrity and Stewardship
- Sustainable Practices
- Collaboration and Service

Commencement Student Speaker Jacqueline Elliot completed two degrees—an Associate of Applied Science in Addictions and Substance Use Disorders and an Associate in Arts with a 4.0 GPA— as a single mom who overcame significant challenges. She transferred to our partner, Ottawa University, to complete a bachelor's degree with the plan of becoming a counselor for the recovery community. "As a working parent, attending classes on a college campus was out of the question. Rio was the difference between me being able to go to school or not."

Our expert faculty and staff collaborate with local and national partners to develop programs that help students and employers fill high-demand jobs and meet the unique needs of the communities we serve.



Our programs, services, and caring employees help students earn stackable credits, microcredentials, certificates, associate degrees, credit for prior learning, professional certifications, and more. The college also serves as Arizona's largest provider of adult education and dual enrollment instruction and works with local and national partners to create other programs, services, and lifelong learning opportunities.

RIO SALADO COLLEGE · HSI · HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION

MHEC • NEBHE • SREB • WICHE
NC-SARA
PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

WHO WE SERVE

We serve nearly 40,000 students annually including 19,000+ online learners and the following communities:

- Active military, veterans and their families
- Adult education students
- Business, community and government partners
- Dual enrollment students
- Incarcerated re-entry students
- International students
- Lifelong learners
- Transfer students
- Workforce students

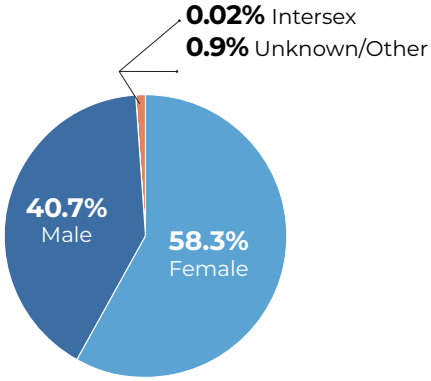
STUDENT SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

2,889	Certificates of Completion
763	Associate Degrees
401	Arizona General Education Curriculum Awards
61	Academic Certificates
205	High School Equivalency Diplomas
7,280	Transfer Students*
204,800	Transfer Credit Hours*

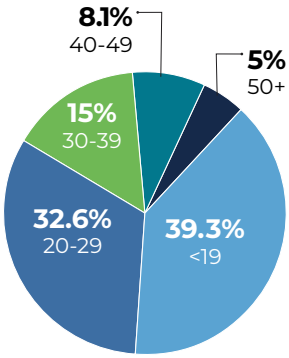
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

- Maricopa County: **77%**
- Out of State: **13.5%**
- In-state, Non-Maricopa: **9.5%**

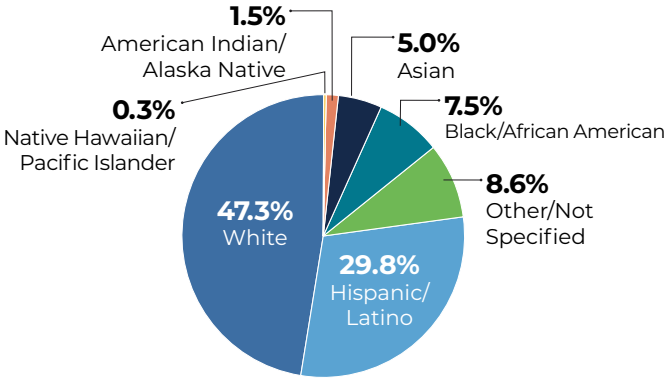
GENDER



AGE



ETHNICITY



POPULATIONS

- Dual Enrollment: **9,749**
- Adult Education: **5,507**
- Customized Educational Partnerships: **3,255**
- Veterans: **1,247**
- Incarcerated Re-entry: **1,552**
- Active-duty military: **171**
- Lifelong learners: **293**

HEADCOUNT: 39,116**

- For-Credit: **33,977**
- In-state: **29,464**
- Online: **19,662**
- Full-time student equivalent: **8,835***
- Full-time: **5,172**
- Out-of-state: **4,581**
- Non-credit workforce training: **55**

PELL ELIGIBLE****

Yes: **74.5%**

No: **25.5%**

FIRST GENERATION

Yes: **43.5%**

No: **49.5%**

Not Reported: **7%**

A record 309 dual enrollment high school students earned associate degrees including 113 Xavier College Preparatory graduates.

Many students attending other colleges take classes with us to save time and money— and stay on track.

*2022-23 data provided by Rio Salado College's Institutional Research Department. *Includes students who transfer 12 or more credits from Rio Salado to a state university. **Total sum not representative of combined student populations due to the number of students who take credit and non-credit classes. ***Approved by Arizona Auditor General. ****Based on data from applications submitted.*

HOW WE SERVE

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Academic Degrees (District-wide): **45**
- Associate in Applied Science Degrees: **27**
- Academic Certificates: **9**
- Certificates of Completion: **117**
- AZ General Education Curriculum Certificates: **3**

NEW CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

- Emergency Medical Technology
- Financial Services Retirement Accounts: Customer Service
- Firearms (Law Enforcement Training)
- Sustainable Food Systems: Food Entrepreneur
- Sustainable Food Systems: Food Service

RECOGNITIONS

- Approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer two **bachelor's degree programs**: a BA in Education with dual certification in Elementary/Special Education and a BAS in Public Safety Administration
- Named sub-grantee for a $4.6 million **National Science Foundation** grant to expand nanomanufacturing training for military affiliated students with ASU and Penn State
- Received a $2.9 million Department of Education Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions grant to expand opportunities for underserved students **(Avanzar Project)**
- Received a $90,000 donation from **American Family Insurance Institute for Corporate and Social Impact** to fund an early childhood education program for dual enrollment students
- Established an agreement with **Lake Michigan College Powered by Rio** to add 20 Rio language courses
- Partnered with the **Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers** to create a new associate degree pathway
- Selected as primary online education provider for employees of **Master Electronics** and **State Farm**
- Received MCCCD's Diversity Advisory Council **Award of Excellence** for the Adult Education division's DEIB training
- Received MCCCD's League for Innovation, **Innovation of the Year** award for developing a career training model to upskill adult education students
- Received a $1.5 million **Beyond Completion Challenge** grant from the Strada Education Foundation and Taskforce on Higher Education to expand adult education services
- Launched the **Workforce Skills Accelerator** program with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce
- Partnered with the City of Tempe in the **Good Jobs, Great Cities** academy

TRANSFER OPTIONS

We have 40+ **transfer partnerships** with other colleges and universities including pathways to Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Our **alumni association** helps graduates stay connected, share news, and network. More than 103,000 alumni have earned more than 125,000 degrees and certificates since 1978.

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

As America's Online Community College® we are increasing access to under-served students across the country. Our partnerships with American Family Insurance, JBS, Master Electronics, State Farm, The Guild Career Opportunity Platform, and other collaborations are further expanding our efforts to increase online educational opportunities for working adults through **company-sponsored tuition benefits**.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Rio Salado has 30+ years experience delivering customized educational services and programs to a variety of industries. We provide students access to workforce education and higher-learning pathways with these and other partnership programs:

- **Dual Enrollment:** 47 Maricopa County high schools
- **Corporate:** Cox Communications, USAA, State Farm Insurance, Salt River Project, and many other employers
- **Public Safety:** Arizona Department of Corrections, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, and Phoenix Police Department
- **Incarcerated Re-entry:** Certificates and 3 degrees in Construction, Small Business Start-Up, and more

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As Arizona's largest provider of **adult education**, we serve more than 5,000 students with GED® test preparation, English language classes, and career training. Instruction is available online and in-person at six college locations and at West-MEC and South Mountain Community College partner sites. We partner with the Maricopa Community Colleges to offer unique pathways for adult education students to earn academic and occupational certificates and degrees—and provide scholarships, mentoring, and individualized support services.

WHERE WE SERVE

ONLINE AND VIRTUAL

Online portals and services give students the freedom to take college classes at a time and place that's convenient for them. Students have 24/7 access to courses, technical support, library services, and RioConnect to engage with other students, advisors, and instructors. Virtual and remote support services provide additional options for busy students.

LOCATIONS

1. Tempe Headquarters
   - Café at Rio
   - Conference Center
   - Dental Clinic
   - Radio Stations: K-BACH, KJZZ, and Sun Sounds of Arizona
2. Southern
3. Downtown
4. Avondale
5. Luke Air Force Base
6. Surprise
7. Northern
8. Thomas
9. Communiversity at Queen Creek

Hillary Broughton knows about the power of education. She completed our High School Equivalency program, which led to a promotion at work, was **inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society**, and was named Adult Education **Student of the Year** by the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning.

WE PLACE YOU AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO.

MINDFULNESS EMPATHY HAPPINESS RESILIENCE

ON-AIR

Our award-winning public radio stations and services provide educational and enriching multi-media programs supported by thousands of generous members.

K-BACH 89.5 FM: Classical music, arts, and cultural programs.

KJZZ 91.5 FM: Local, NPR and BBC news, jazz, and other engaging programs.

SPOT 127: Youth media center teaching teens digital media and journalism skills.

Sun Sounds of Arizona: Information services for people who have difficulty reading print publications.

KJZZ The Show hosts Mark Brodie and Lauren Gilger

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HIGHLIGHTS 2022-23

STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Student Public Policy Forum members **Brianna Bonnell** and **Beka Namachanja** led group research about challenges students face, crafted proposals, and presented their work to Congressional staff and advocacy groups in Washington D.C.
- Meet our scholarship awardees, 2023 Chancellor's Scholarship recipient, **Alexandria Dodd** and Foundation scholars, **Amaki Ogasawara** and **Meagan Borchart.**
- Dual alumnus **Lennon Audrain** was featured by ASU for his extraordinary accomplishments as an educator and scholar.
- **Emma Harlow** and **Martha Salter** were named our 2023 All-AZ Academic scholars.
- Alumnus **Cordero Holmes** received a "Living the Dream" award from the City of Phoenix at the Arizona MLK Awards breakfast.
- Student **Meredith Jackson** led the design and launch of our Alumni Network.
- **Hillary Marissa Broughton** was named Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning's 2022 ABE Student of the Year.

COLLEGE AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- The **Community Development Team** won MCCCD's Innovation of the Year Award for its career training model to upskill adult education students and the **DAC Award of Excellence** for its DEIB training.
- Rio Salado's PTK chapter won several awards**: Dr. Greg Pereira** was named a Distinguished College Administrator; **Dr. Lily Davidov** and **John Bastian** received a Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team Award; and alumnus **Cordero Holmes** was named a PTK advocate.
- Several faculty members earned awards for their extraordinary leadership and contributions to student success: NISOD Excellence: **Michael Hodgins, Dr. Lily Davidov, Karen Docherty;** League for Innovation: **Dr. Melanie Abts, Mitra Mehraban, O'Tafari Osayande;** and Faculty Emeriti: **Dr. Kirk Bowden, Dr. Kerrie Specker, Robert Semmler, Dr. Janine Adkins.**
- Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections named **Klysia Hand** an Outstanding Community Partner.
- **Dr. Wanda Tucker** was named a Faculty of the Year Award finalist by the American Association of Community Colleges and **Angela Kwan** was nominated for a Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award.
- Adjunct faculty member **Dawn Chamberlain** received the Arizona Art Educator Award-Secondary Education Division.
- Arizona Women in Higher Education named **President Kate Smith** Woman of the Year.
- Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning named Community Development employee **Araceli Galinis** Support Staff of the Year and co-worker **Aliza Dodell** Learnng Advocate of the Year.

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- State Farm **and Rio Salado entered into a partnership** to provide employees educational opportunities through employer paid benefits.
- **Dr. Jennifer Gresko** was selected to join **Governor Katie Hobbs' Educator Retention Task Force** from a pool of 650+ applicants.
- The Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers and Rio Salado partnered to create a new Associate of Applied Science in Broadband Telecommunications.
- The Career Paths in Construction Trades program with SMCC launched to help students complete their Rio Salado HSE and ESL coursework and SMCC's Construction Trades Institute program.
- Rio Salado was selected to serve as a **sub-grantee for a** $4.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation to provide microelectronics and nanomanufacturing training for veterans.
- Rio Salado **was awarded** $1,490,796 as part of a Beyond Completion Challenge grant by the Strada Education Foundation **in partnership with the Taskforce on Higher Education and Opportunity** to help improve career and life opportunities for students.
- Rio Salado's Avanzar Project received a $2,939,518 **Department of Education Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Title V grant** to expand educational opportunities for Hispanic students and other underserved students. Rio Salado received HSI designation in 2021.
- American Family Insurance **Institute for Corporate and Social Impact donated $90,000** to fund an Early Childhood Education Program for dual enrollment students.

- The Lake Michigan College Powered by Rio partnership served 68 students in six articulated courses in three languages: Sign Language, French, and Cybersecurity. The colleges will expand the partnership by adding 20 Rio Salado language courses in Japanese, Spanish, German, and Chinese.
- The **Adult Education team hosted a focus group as part of its U.S. Department of Education funded CAEL-led Connected Pathways project;** an initiative to develop a national career-exploration technology system that will help Black, Latinx, and other underserved learners make informed choices as they navigate complex educational and career options. The team was also invited to represent the state of Arizona during a three-day training in Washington D.C. to become trainers for the national leadership initiative, Teaching Skills That Matter Cohort 5.
- The college **launched a partnership with** The Guild Opportunity Platform to serve as an online provider, welcoming 116 students who enrolled in 273 courses through employer tuition assistance benefits.
- Master Electronics **selected Rio Salado to serve as the online educational provider** for its employees as part of a new partnership with MCCCD.
- **Rio Salado joined MCCCD and Education Design Lab to celebrate the launch of the** Maricopa Growth Engine Fund**.** The lab highlighted Rio Salado's work and presented a check for $300,000 (part of a $1.2 million grant) to support the development of high-demand microcredential pathways in IT and advanced manufacturing.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

KJZZ led all year long as the #1 Valley News Station—and was listed as a top 5 national news station in July 2022.

SPOT 127 received a National Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Rocky Mountain Southwest Regional Student Production Emmy Award.

KBACH celebrated its 30th anniversary with special programming and remained a top classical station in the country, ranking 7th nationally among public radio stations.

LEADING

- The **college reported significant increases in enrollments and instructional hours,** especially among adult education, educator prep, and dual enrollment students. Dual headcount increased by more than 1,300 for fall 2022-23, compared to 2021-22.
- The **Higher Learning Commission approved two new bachelor's degrees for fall 2023:** a Bachelor of Arts in Education with dual certification in Elementary/Special Education and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Administration.
- Rio Salado **welcomed the Ministry of Education and Culture of the State of Sonora** Secretary Aaron Grageda Bustamante, the Sonora Department of Education, Arizona-Mexico Commission and Maricopa Community College presidents in October to discuss how educational leaders can collaborate and partner to provide opportunities for students. Rio Salado shared updates about its workforce development, microcredentials and online English Language Learning for Educators initiatives.

ENGAGING

- Rio Salado **joined the Tempe Chamber of Commerce to host the annual State of the District with Representative Greg Stanton** at our conference center.
- The **DEIB Committee hosted** our MLK Day celebration with a keynote address by Tempe Council member Berdetta Hodge and our Black History Month celebration featuring a discussion with Dr. Wanda Tucker about retracing her family's history as part of the 1619 project. It also hosted its annual **Day of Remembrance** for employees to honor people who have passed away, and helped host Women's History Month**,** Asian Pacific Islander Month**,** International Education Week**, and** Native American Heritage month celebrations. The DEIB Council resumed work on its strategic plan; launched a survey to measure outcomes; and began researching Native American Land Acknowledgment.
- Our **philanthropic spirit continues to shine.** Employees volunteered to help **Feed My Starving Children,** walked for the **Lymphoma Research Foundation**, and joined forces with **Dsquared Homes** to build sleeping mats for people who are homeless. Our faculty hosted its annual auction to benefit the **Jo C. Bennett Student Assistance Fund**, which provides emergency assistance to students. We joined MCCCD for the annual **Be a Student's Hero Day** fundraiser and hosted our **Dash with Splash 5k/10k fundraiser** to benefit Adult ACE students. President Smith hosted two tables at the **We are United Annual Community Breakfast**, inviting top Rio Salado employee donors. Rio Salado won the **2022 United Way Chancellor cup** for its outstanding fundraising efforts, which raised $20,650 from 93 donors.

INNOVATING

- Two Rio Salado **cohorts completed** ACUE's Inclusive Teaching **for Equitable Learning microcredential**. The cohorts included 53 employees who earned 253 ACUE badges and 49 who earned the full microcredential. Rio Salado's ACUE team and cohort members provided substantial feedback to ACUE in regards to making the course even more inclusive for all college employees. Rio Salado will be among the first colleges to pilot the new course.
- Rio Salado **launched three new programs to help students fill demands for skilled workers:** Associate in Arts (AA), Emphasis in Community Health, Certificate of Completion in Esports and Certificate of Completion in Real Estate: Prelicense.

PUBLISHING

- President Smith co-authored an op-ed featured in The EvoLLLution with StraighterLine Chief Learning Officer Amy Smith about ways higher education can best support student-parents.
- Data scientist **Dr. Fermin Ornelas** published Estimation of Persistence at a Community College: A Comparison of Alternative Machine Learning Models in the **International Journal of Computer Science, Engineering and Applications.**
- **Dr. Floyd H. Hardin III and Michelle Reese** published in the Journal of Campus Activities Practice and Scholarship's DEI special edition with Dr. Janet Athanasiou from American Public University System about our DEIB efforts to increase engagement and belonging.
- **President Smith** joined Presidents Forum leaders to reflect on their hopes and dreams for their students and their institutions in The Christensen Institute.
- Rio Salado contributed to a new **InsideTrack.org report**: Reconnect, Re-Enroll & RISE: Five Imperatives to Help Community Colleges Enroll Stopped-Out Students.
- Vice President **Janelle Elias** co-published Assessment and evaluation of microcredentials: What success looks like and to whom with Dr. Claudia Arcolin Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Experiences, **University of Texas in WCET Frontiers.**

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