

Fall 2021



*Provost's Corner by Joyce Johnson*

## **New MakerSpace, EMS Location Will Inspire Students**

Welcome to the Fall 2021 edition of our MSJC Career Education Newsletter.

I'm Joyce Johnson, the Provost of Instruction at MSJC. I oversee our Temecula Valley Campus and the college's Career Education programs that we offer to help our students get ready for high-wage, high-skill jobs in our region and beyond.

I can't describe how excited I am to launch our new Animated MakerSpace at our San Jacinto Campus. Our Eagle MakerSpace at our Menifee Valley Campus has proven extremely popular among students, faculty and staff since it opened in 2018 and the new AniMakerspace has much to offer.

I'm also excited to share that our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program has moved into a new set-up designed specifically for it at our San Jacinto Campus. We plan to expand that program in Fall 2022, when we add an important paramedics pathway.

I encourage you to read more about these exciting endeavors inside this newsletter.

Also, I would be remiss – especially as a registered nurse – if I didn't shout from the rooftops that our nursing program earned a No. 1 from Press-Enterprise readers in the annual Best of the I.E. Contest. We're thrilled about that honor and very proud of the program and the dozens of registered nurses who graduate from it each year. Congratulations!

Visit [www.msjc.edu/CareerEducation](http://www.msjc.edu/CareerEducation) to learn more about all of our programs. Please spread the word to anyone who may be interested in enrolling in our programs.

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## EMS Program Transitions to the San Jacinto Campus

MSJC's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program moved from the Menifee Valley Campus to the San Jacinto Campus. The move was necessary because the program's former home sat in an area that will host the Menifee Valley Campus' new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) building as early as 2023.

The move provided the EMS program with a unique opportunity, though, said Fabian Lopez, the director and lead instructor of the program.

"With the guidance of Provost Joyce Johnson and the amazing work of the Maintenance and Operations department, along with many others, we were able to design classrooms that meet the specific need of Emergency Medical Services training," said Lopez, who became director in July 2019.

"Additionally, we're integrating high-fidelity simulations of emergency scenarios into our curriculum," he said. "With the use of live feedback mannequins, we are able to interact with the students in real-time from a remote location and create a more realistic patient encounter."

While the program offers Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes today, a Paramedic program is planned for the near future.

"This is a major accomplishment as there is only one other community college in Riverside County that provides paramedic training," Lopez said. "We will be the first to offer a part-time Paramedic program that is designed to fit with a typical work schedule of an EMT currently working in the industry. That means that our students would be able to continue to work and go to school."

The big distinctions between an EMT and paramedic are the amount of education and the treatments they're allowed to perform," he explained.

"EMTs can perform most basic health operations such as CPR and oxygen administration, whereas paramedics can undertake more advanced procedures, such as IV line placement, drug administration, and direct insertion of an endotracheal tube," Lopez said.

Both fall under the Emergency Medical Services umbrella.

Lopez worked as a firefighter, EMT, and paramedic before he began teaching. With that experience, he learned and now stresses sage advice to his students: "EMS is a service industry. Each patient should be treated with respect and dignity."



## New AniMakerspace Will Inspire MSJC Students for Decades

MSJC has contracted with Redlands visionary Garner Holt Education Through Imagination (GHETI) to build an Animatronic Makerspace at the college's San Jacinto Campus.

The GHETI AniMakerspace -- in conjunction with MSJC design and engineering classes -- will give students the ability to learn the practices and skills needed to become great problem-solvers, designers, builders and technical operators. The \$832,472 AniMakerspace will take over two classrooms in the 100 Building on the campus and could open as soon as January 2022. It will also be adjacent to the campus' new STEM building that is scheduled to debut in 2023.

The MSJC Board of Trustees unanimously approved a contract with GHETI at its Sept. 9 meeting. A video shown during the meeting explained how animatronics inspires and teaches Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) learning.

"Animatronics bring stories to life through mechanical innovation, immersive experiences and technical wizardry," the video's narrator said. "These highly sophisticated characters require feats of conceptual digital design, creative engineering, manufacturing, programming, and visual performing arts."

Dr. Roger Schultz, MSJC Superintendent/President, said the AniMakerspace's potential is endless.

"We're thrilled with this innovative and inspiring project," Schultz said. "Animatronics has applications in such a wide range of fields. This will poise our students well for many career opportunities. The AniMakerspace will be a spark for the San Jacinto Campus and our whole district."

Animatronics date back to the early 1960s with the famed Imagineers at Disneyland. Garner Holt Productions has made nearly 500 animatronics for Disney, including the dragon in the Fantasmic show at Disneyland.

"It helps students earn that competitive advantage that they'll need for the workforce of tomorrow," said Ryan Rainbolt, the President of Garner Holt Education through Imagination.

The AniMakerspace will feature three animatronic figures, 3D printers, programming tables, two laser cutters/engravers, sewing machine, 10-needle embroider, 86-inch monitors, and more.

The AniMakerspace arrives a few years after MSJC's Eagle MakerSpace, housed on the college's Menifée Valley Campus. It features 3D printers and a laser cutter that students use throughout the academic year to create various projects. Like the AniMakerspace, it was funded by the California Strong Workforce Program, a state initiative aimed at developing more workforce opportunity and lifting low-wage workers into living-wage jobs through Career Education.

## Meet Janice Mrkonjic



Janice Mrkonjic is MSJC's new Interim Director of Workforce & Economic Development. A first-generation college graduate, she wants to do what she can to help others succeed through the power of education.

In the college's Community Education & Workplace Training department, Mrkonjic "directs traffic at the intersection of education, workforce and economic development."

"Our purpose is to bridge skill gaps and heighten special interests through interactive learning experiences that will lead our workforce, economy, and community throughout the evolution of the 21st century," she said.

"Community Education supports the needs of individuals while Workplace Training engages employers, public agencies, and community organizations to upskill adult workers through customized training and professional development programs," Mrkonjic said.

Mrkonjic transitioned from corporate and entrepreneurial adventures to higher education eight years ago beginning with Duke University, Arizona State University, Maricopa Community Colleges in Arizona, and now MSJC. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in education, is a certified project management professional, and has completed executive education programs at Harvard Business School.

Mrkonjic said she plans to reimagine program topics and content to address current and futuristic workforce needs based on local and regional economies supported by domestic and global business trends.

"We are excited to return, reskill, and reacclimate our workforce to our new post-pandemic world," she said.

## Meet Dr. Hope Farquharson



Dr. Hope Farquharson is the new Interim Associate Dean of Nursing & Allied Health, where she oversees the operations of Associate Degree in Nursing; License Vocational Nurse-RN; Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); Medical Assisting (MA); Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA); Fire Technology; and Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS). The programs offer a variety of degrees and certificates.

Dr. Farquharson has been a nurse for more than 35 years and in academia for nearly 20 years. She taught at the community college, graduate, and doctoral levels.

She graduated from a community college with an associate degree in nursing before earning her bachelor's and master's degrees at Cal State University, Dominguez Hills. She then earned a doctorate in nursing education and research at the University of San Diego. Her research interests and publications are in women's health and cancers in vulnerable populations.

Dr. Farquharson said she has never forgotten her beginnings in the community college setting and looks forward to working with students, faculty, staff, administrators and community partners to ensure students continue to receive quality education so they can best serve their communities.

"I'm passionate about mentoring and educating the next generation of the healthcare workforce while working with teams to promote initiatives culminating in improved student outcomes," she said.

She said she's delighted to help launch new programs in the near future at the college, including Paramedics, Medical Laboratory Technologist, Gerontology, Radiologic Technologist, and Licensed Vocational Nursing.

