



**SCOTTSDALE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Scottsdale Community College Offers “Live Online” Teacher in Residence Training to Fast Track Students into Jobs**

*Scottsdale, Ariz., Dec. 2, 2020* – Nearly 2,000 teacher jobs are vacant in Arizona right now. In fact, according to the Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association, about 28 percent of teacher vacancies across the state this year remain unfilled, while half of the vacancies are filled by teachers who do not meet the state’s standard certification requirements.

This isn’t a new issue. It’s been going on for six years. But now, Scottsdale Community College (SCC) has a new solution that goes beyond the Valley: a new, live online one-year teacher education certification model – the only one in the state and the only one approved by the Arizona Department of Education – perfect for any Arizona resident.

The Scottsdale Teacher Education Partnership (STEP) Post-Baccalaureate Teacher in Residence certification program is designed for students with a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in any discipline and would like to become a certified teacher in grades K through 8.

It’s that easy. Use your degree to teach students and start your new career giving back to the community and educating a new generation.

The program provides two solutions to Arizona’s looming teacher shortage:

1. Help the state fill vacancies with trained, prepared, qualified teachers, and
2. Help graduates with non-education degrees retool their career into something new – a career with immediate vacancies.

“As the State of Arizona constantly looks for ways to attract and train more teachers, community colleges can play a major role in narrowing the teacher shortage gap,” says Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman. “I applaud Scottsdale Community College for continuously innovating their Scottsdale Teacher Education Partnership (STEP) Post-Baccalaureate teacher certification program. Delivering instruction in a live online format will help produce more and better trained professionals who will be successful in Arizona classrooms.”

The number one reason teachers are leaving the classroom, according to the Learning Policy Institute, is “Inadequate Preparation.” That’s where SCC steps into the gap: The college’s intense field-based preparation program leaves no stone unturned or unexplored.

For 12 months, students meet two days a week. They are taught by experienced classroom teachers and college professors who integrate college coursework alongside

actual classroom experience. Much like the famed Maricopa Nursing Program, the STEP students work as a cohort, moving through the program together.

Because the teacher shortage is at critical levels, and the need for successful candidates is high throughout the state, SCC's curriculum requires three separate internships. The internships are completed in the Teacher in Residence classroom. That means, when students graduate, they are well prepared for the classroom and know what to expect.

Partnering with the Arizona Teachers Academy, whose goal is to promote education as a career and bring more qualified individuals into the classroom, SCC's STEP program provides high marketability for its graduates with reduced community college tuition cost. A true win-win for the state and students.

Knowing students need flexibility, SCC offers a Teacher in Residence Pathway with class held twice a week from 4:00-6:30 p.m. The Pathway is geared toward the student who has been substitute teaching or working as a paraprofessional and is ready to teach. A one-year cohort allows candidates to be employed full time in a classroom while completing required education courses for certification.

The Live Online STEP program allows for real-time sessions between students and instructors – deepening relationships. Students are able to ask questions and receive answers right away vs. traditional online instruction lag time and non-seamless communication. The cohort is able to interact with each other and learn from one another, too. STEP Live Online brings the physical classroom to the virtual environment – something every future teacher should experience.

SCC has been offering teacher education classes since 2002. Such a longstanding reputation helps ensure their students receive the benefit of being a well-prepared graduate who will be successful in the classroom. That sort of one-of-a-kind college programming benefits the community, the state and future generations.

For more information about the STEP program, email Mary Ellertson, Education Director, at [step@scottsdalecc.edu](mailto:step@scottsdalecc.edu) or click here. <https://www.scottsdalecc.edu/degrees-certificates/education-step#live-online>

### **About Scottsdale Community College**

Scottsdale Community College (SCC) is student centered with a focus on active, engaged and intellectually rigorous learning. The College is known for high quality, accessible educational opportunities and innovative teaching, learning and support services. SCC serves about 10,000 students a year, offering more than 100 degrees and 60 certificates of completion in diverse occupational areas. At only \$85 per credit hour, SCC is one of the most affordable colleges in Maricopa County, and the average class size is only 16 students. Through a partnership with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, SCC is honored to be the only two-year public higher education institution located on Native American land. For more information, phone 480-423-6700 or visit [www.scottsdalecc.edu](http://www.scottsdalecc.edu).

*Scottsdale Community College (SCC) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). SCC is one of the 10 colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District, one of the largest community college districts in the nation. SCC offers academic courses leading to associate degrees, university transfer, certificates and short-term job training.*

*The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals*

*with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.*

*MCCCD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: [\(480\) 731-8499](tel:4807318499). For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.*

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