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MCC Alumnus and Spouse Establish Endowed Business Scholarship

Karl and Aurelia Schroeder Scholarship benefits MCC business students

Mesa Community College announces the establishment of the Karl and Aurelia Schroeder Endowed Scholarship to assist MCC students pursuing a degree or certificate in business, with preference to students who are the first in their families to attend college.

“Given my personal experience, I am well aware of the challenges in making that first step to pursue a college education,” said Karl Schroeder, a 2017 MCC Hall of Fame honoree and president of the Seattle Division, Albertsons Companies (Safeway).

He credits earning an associate’s degree from MCC in 1987 for putting him on track to earn a bachelor’s degree and rise through the ranks of the food industry.

Today he manages approximately 240 stores in Washington, Alaska and Northern Idaho. Schroeder serves on the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC), whose mission is to raise funds for educational opportunities for food industry employees. As a speaker, he shares his story as an example for others, pointing out the benefits of education.

“Early on, I had doors open for me because of just the little education I had, which was an associate’s degree and a certificate,” Schroeder said. “Plus, I picked up important skills I needed for the job. So, I tell them, yes you can be successful in the grocery industry without a degree, but why not get it and move up maybe even faster than I did?”

He said one of the most helpful aspects of his education at MCC was conquering math. His instructor assured him and others who admitted that they didn’t like math that the professor would change that mindset.

“I realized that there were basic formulas I didn’t know and needed to build on,” Schroeder said. “People who know me today say I’m a very analytical person. I learned at MCC that math was not a weakness for me, but a strength. That experience probably changed the trajectory of my career. Getting the basics under my belt took the clouds away and let the sun shine through.” Schroeder also said that the management concepts he learned at MCC helped him tremendously in his work life and still hold true today.

Students pursuing a degree or certificate in [MCC's Business Program](#), demonstrating financial need, and with a minimum grade point average of 2.5, are encouraged to apply for this scholarship, which is being awarded for the first time this Fall Semester 2018. The scholarship application is available on the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation website, mcccdf.academicworks.com.

Any individual, corporation, foundation, trust, estate or other legal entity may contribute to this fund by contacting [Christos Chronis in MCC's Development Office](#).

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