

## **Mesa Community College Mortuary Science Program**

The creation of the Mesa Community College Mortuary Science Program began sometime in the early 1990's. At least four other attempts to create a mortuary science program in Arizona had been unsuccessful.

A commitment was made by the administration of Mesa Community College during early 1993 to establish a program. It was the closing of the Old Williams Air Force Base and the subsequent finding that a building would be available that really allowed the effort to get underway.

During the year 1994, Dr. Thomas R. Taggart was contacted and asked to work with the admissions office and the architects on the design of the curriculum and building. In 1995, Taggart was hired by the college and charged with establishing candidacy for the program with the American Board of Funeral Service Education.

The first class of 18 students entered in the fall of 1996 and graduated in May of 1997. The program received its full accreditation in April of 1997. The program has operated continuously since that time, graduating a new class every spring. The program is the only one of its kind with a full service operation and an on-site crematory.

MCC Website: [www.mc.maricopa.edu](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu)

Mortuary Science Department website: <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d26/msp/index.html>