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###  NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LAUNCHES**

**NEW 8-WEEK BLOCK SCHEDULE OPTION**

**FOR ITS POPULAR ASSOCIATE OF BUSINESS DEGREE**

*Scottsdale, Ariz., Feb. 13, 2020* – Scottsdale Community College (SCC) today announced a special 8-week block semester scheduling option for its popular Associate of Business (ABUS) degree debuting in the Fall 2020 semester to help ensure greater student outcomes. Numerous research studies\*, based on other U.S. colleges that have implemented a shorter 8-week schedule, have demonstrated improved retention, GPA scores and overall completion rates.

“SCC continues to provide innovative solutions so our students can choose the educational journey that best suits their needs,” said SCC Interim President Chris Haines. “Students now have the option of pursuing the ABUS degree in the new 8-week format or in the traditional 16-week format.”

The ABUS degree at SCC prepares students for an upper-division program at a university business school\*\*. Students earning the ABUS can transfer 62 credits to the university and be halfway done with a bachelor’s degree in a business area of study. SCC has transfer partnerships with Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona, Grand Canyon University, and many others. After earning the ABUS at SCC, students transfer as a junior to the university, generally without the loss of credit (depending upon the university).

For more information about SCC’s Business degree and certificate programs, please visit: <https://www.scottsdalecc.edu/divisions/business-and-computer-information-systems/business>

Enrollment and registration for the Fall 2020 semester open March 16. For additional information, please phone 480-423-6700 or visit <https://www.scottsdalecc.edu/getting-started>.

**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 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.*

*The Maricopa County Community College District 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**.  For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system,* [*http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination*](http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination)*.*

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\*The third-party research studies listed below have shown positive outcomes of an 8-week schedule:

--Geltner, P., and Ruth Logan. “The Influence of Session Length on Student Success.” 2010.

Santa Monica College.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/267544985_The_Influence_of_Session_Length_On_Student_Success>

--Gamboa, Benjamin. “Impact of Course Length on and Subsequent Use as a Predictor of Course

Success.” 2013. Crafton Hills College.

--Wyatt, Joe “Student Success on the Rise thanks to AC’s 8-week Class Model.” 2016. Amarillo College.

--Austin Community College. “Austin Community College Eight-Week Course Feedback

Survey.” 1998. Austin Community College Website.

<http://www.austincc.edu/oiepub/pubs/surveys/survey_archive.htm>?

--Odessa College. “Odessa College named finalist for THECB 2017 Star Award.” 2017. Odessa

College Website. <https://www.odessa.edu/announcements/StarAwardFinalist.htm>

--Veneskey, Kevin. “Eight-Week Semesters as the Default.” Innovation Day Pitch Letter—

Inaugural Event. 2017.

--Ivy Tech Community College, Spring 2016-Spring 2017. Chronicle of Higher Education.

\*\*Completion of the ABUS guarantees acceptance at any Arizona state university and qualifies students to apply to the business school. However, it does not guarantee one’s acceptance to the business school. A separate application, a high GPA, and test scores may be required for university business programs.