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College honors Avondale police officer

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An Avondale police lieutenant has been chosen by Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale as the "Outstanding Alumni for 2010."

Cuauhtémoc "Memo" Espinoza is scheduled to receive the award May 8 during a ceremony at the Wigwam Golf Resort & Spa in Litchfield Park.

"All of us at the Avondale Police Department are proud of Memo's accomplishments," said Kevin Kotsur, the Avondale police chief.

"It is always impressive when someone who grew up in Avondale becomes a role model for the community," Kotsur added. "He certainly has done just that."



Memo Espinoza

Espinoza, who started with Avondale in 1997, began as a student at Estrella Mountain Community College in 1993 and completed an associate degree before joining the Marine Corps, said Detective Reuben Gonzales, a police spokesman.

Later, while rising through the Avondale ranks, Espinoza earned a bachelor of science degree in public safety administration from Grand Canyon University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix, Gonzales said.

Espinoza has held several leadership posts and was named a police supervisor of the quarter in 2007, Gonzales said.

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1 of 1 4/26/2010 12:21 PM