



## CCC Feeds Educational Pipeline by Admitting 1,000th Student to CCC2NAU Program

Coconino Community College student Lauren Herd has had her life planned out since she was a sophomore in high school. She would attend Northern Arizona University, study psychology, run on the university's Cross Country team and eventually work with military veterans.

But fate had other plans.

As a senior in high school, Herd injured her ankle and lost her scholarship that would pay her NAU tuition. Faced with incurring thousands of dollars of debt, she remembered the plan a fellow running mate had told her about - CCC2NAU.

CCC2NAU is a nationally-recognized transition program designed to save a student thousands of dollars by taking courses at CCC, while at the same time preparing the student to transition to NAU. When the student is ready, she transitions to the university and continues her coursework to obtain a bachelor's degree. CCC2NAU started in 2008 with 12 students. Since then, the program has exploded in growth. Herd became the program's 1,000 student during the fall 2012 semester.

A community college partnering up with a university is an idea whose time has

students totally prepared," she said. "Students are told what classes to take to make the transition to the university, but the advising is customized for every student."

An analysis of retention and academic success of CCC2NAU students who have transitioned to the university and now enrollment is promising. CCC2NAU students transfer to NAU with a higher grade point average than community college students who did not participate in the program, according to data collected. Because of its success, the program has garnered national awards for its advising program and been copied by dozens of community colleges and universities nationwide.

For Herd, the program is expected to save her thousands of dollars before she transfers her credits to NAU to continue on to a bachelor's degree in psychology. "Coming to CCC was better for me," Herd said. "I like how it's smaller and you can ask questions and get them answered."

She plans to use her degree to work with active military veterans. She became interested in helping veterans after volunteering at a veterans' hospital, where veterans would share war stories with her.

"I want to study psychology to help veterans because it is really needed," Herd said. "I want to be a part of that."

Herd is also able to take advantage of the many perks of being in the program. Living in the NAU residence halls is one of them. She lives on campus in McConnell Hall. "I love living on campus," Herd said. "You get the NAU experience and use all the amenities and take classes

for cheaper."

CCC2NAU students are issued student identification cards from both campus and are able to get into NAU athletic events for free. "I call it a dual citizenship," Long said. Herd plans to take as many classes as she can at CCC and eventually transfer to NAU in 2014, where she will walk-on to the Cross Country team.

## H.S. Programs of Study Help Students Get A Head Start



Kathy Nesbit

By Kathy Nesbit

Coconino County high school students are getting a head start on college by earning college credit for courses taken in high school. It helps save time and money

and allows students to become more familiar with college-level work and explore career interests in more depth.

National data indicates that students who participate in programs like these are more likely to transition to postsecondary education, more likely to complete college or university certificates or degrees, and less likely to have to take remedial courses in college. My grandkids attend high school in Florida and I wish they could have this opportunity. They would likely graduate

Continued On Page 2 - Programs of Study



Daniel Stephani - CAVIAT Student

## Hard Work & Persistence Pays Off Big for CAVIAT Students & Their Families

Daniel Stephani is like many young high school students; he plays a varsity sport, has a part-time job, and loves to pursue his hobbies in his "spare" time, but there is one thing that really sets him apart from most of his Flagstaff High School classmates.

For the past two years, Stephani, 17, has been experiencing college life at Coconino Community College and earning college credit. When Stephani graduates in May, he will be well on his way to an Administration of Justice Degree, having earned 50 college credits while still in high school. How did he do it?

Stephani took advantage of the CAVIAT program, which stands for Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry and Technology. The CAVIAT Central Programs are a partnership between CAVIAT, CCC and the Flagstaff Unified School District and available to local high school juniors and seniors at no cost to the students.

The CAVIAT Central programs are two-

Continued On Page 2 - Hard Work

## CCC2NAU Students Gain Higher GPAs

CCC Cumulative GPA

NAU Cumulative GPA



CCC2NAU Transition Students

CCC Transfer Students

CCC2NAU Transition Students

CCC Transfer Students

come, said Robin Long, coordinator and advisor for CCC2NAU. "Parents and students ask me all the time, 'Why don't they do this all over the country?'" Long said. "Parents like the partnership and students like being in the driver's seat. They go over to NAU when they're ready."

The key to the program's success is the advising, Long said. "Our job is to make the



year programs designed to give high school students a jump start on college," said Kathy Nesbit, CCC's High School Transitions Coordinator and oversees the program at the College.

The courses are offered from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at CCC's Flagstaff campuses after the student has attended high school classes in the morning.

For Stephani, at first college was a challenge, mainly because it was a little awkward being around older students, but it became less of a challenge with each class. By his second year it was no big deal, he said. Now, in addition to dual enrollment, Stephani said he has dual friendships with his high school and college classmates.

"The sacrifice has definitely been worth it because now I know what to expect when I transfer to Northern Arizona University after completing my AA degree at CCC," Stephani said. "The college classes I took at CCC are definitely harder than my high school classes, but because I was interested in the subject learning the material seemed to come easily. The other benefit to the CAVIAT program is that it saved my parents and me a lot of money and will go a long way in reducing college debt for us."

Continued From Page 1 - Programs of Study

from college two years sooner.

Two high school program of study opportunities through Coconino Community College are dual enrollment and CAVIAT Central Programs. CAVIAT classes are offered through a partnership between the Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry and Technology (CAVIAT), CCC and Flagstaff Unified School District. It's one of the first steps in CCC's educational pipeline to help residents lead successful careers.

About 100 students per year participate in CAVIAT. This is how it works: students attend high school in the morning and are transported to one of the CCC campuses to take college classes in the afternoon. Current CAVIAT programs include: Alternative Energy Technician, Business, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Law Enforcement, and Pre-Health Careers. Programs are constantly updated based on student demand, workforce needs and legislative policy.

The success of the students after leaving secondary education is extraordinary. Last year, seven students graduated with college certificates before graduating from high school. There are currently three former CAVIAT students in the CCC Registered Nursing Program and several other students are participating in university healthcare programs. David Ramos, CCC Administration of Justice Department Chair, recently attended the graduation ceremony of another former CAVIAT student who graduated from the county detention academy.

The second program is called dual enrollment. The program is a partnership between CCC and local high schools. Both Career and Technical Education (CTE) and

The Administration of Justice program Stephani has been studying at CCC is designed to prepare students to enter the workforce in the criminal justice arena. This program teaches students specific knowledge and skills, which will assist in securing employment in a wide variety of law enforcement and corrections/juvenile detention positions.

"My goal is to become an Arizona Game and Fish officer, but the degree will provide other opportunities for me too," Stephani said. Stephani is part of CCC's fifth cohort of CAVIAT students, Nesbit said.

"I am continually amazed at the dedication and drive these kids have," she said. "Most adult learners could not do what they are doing. One of the best parts of my job is watching the CAVIAT students arrive on campus the first day as kids and quickly become adult students who know what they want in life and what they need to do to reach their goals."

The CAVIAT program is the beginning of the educational pipeline and is a key component to helping high school students earn associate and bachelor's degrees faster and at a lower cost than the traditional route. It is another example of CCC's quest for Excellence, Efficiency and Effectiveness.

core academic dual enrollment classes are offered via dual enrollment. Dual enrollment courses allow students to earn both high school and CCC college credits simultaneously.

These courses are taught at the high school, during the high school day, by high school teachers. Dual enrollment teachers must meet the same credential requirement as college instructors teaching the same course. They use the college textbook or one approved by the Department Chair and teach all college outcomes for the course. One of the reasons for the success of the program is the commitment of the high school teachers who do the extra work to provide the opportunity for their students.

On average, more than 1,000 students participate each year in dual enrollment courses earning college credit that are either free or at a much reduced tuition rate. This allows students to begin their college careers earlier and saves Coconino County parents thousands of dollars each year. Dual enrollment courses are offered at Coconino, Flagstaff, Fredonia, Grand Canyon, Greyhills Academy, Page, Ponderosa, Tuba City, and Williams High Schools.

Many students participate in both the CAVIAT Central Programs and dual enrollment to earn even more college credits. It is not unusual for students to graduate from high school with 40, 50 or even 60 college credits. CCC is dedicated to helping students get connected to clear, meaningful educational pathways, which lead to successful career opportunities.

*Kathy Nesbit serves as Coconino Community College's High School Transitions Coordinator.*

CCC GENERATES

**\$15.10**

for every taxpayer dollar invested

**CCC is Vital to Your Future**

**\$167 million**

Annual Economic Growth

**\$305 million**

Added to the Economy

(Economic growth + increased graduate income productivity to date)

## Dual Enrollment by The Numbers

- More than 6,000 students have participated in CCC's dual enrollment since 2008.
- More than 22,000 college credits have been awarded.
- Nearly \$2 million saved by parents on college tuition.

College Anytime, Anywhere, Something for Everyone

- More than 70 degrees and certificates
- Non-credit workshops
- Distance Learning
- Developmental Courses
- Workforce Training
- Small Business Development
- CCC2NAU and other university transfer programs
- Dual Enrollment, CAMAT and Concurrent Enrollment Programs jump start high school students' higher education goals

## CCC Dual Enrollment Classes in Tuba City Prepare Navajo Nation Students

### Early Education Classes Funded Through State Grant

Coconino Community College is preparing Tuba City High School students for early childhood education jobs through its Dual Enrollment program.

First Things First, a statewide early-childhood program funded through a tobacco tax, awarded the College a first year grant of \$38,512 in July. The grant can be renewed for two additional years. CCC and Tuba City High School have partnered for dual enrollment classes since 2004. Tuba City High School already offers introductory classes in early childhood

education and the grant allows educators to expand that offering.

The money will be used to prepare Tuba City High School students to complete the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential by the summer following high school graduation. The project will provide scholarships, textbooks, career counseling, academic advising and college placement test preparation.

"Our goal is to ensure students are college-ready when they graduate high school," said program director Kathy Nesbit, who oversees the Dual Enrollment program for CCC.

The Navajo Nation Regional Partnership of First Things First asked

college officials to explore the possibility of offering professional development opportunities on the Navajo Nation to early childhood development professionals.

"Part of what we we've promised Navajo Nation students who intend to stay on the Navajo Nation is a way to transfer to college to continue their education," Nesbit said.



# SMART FACTS

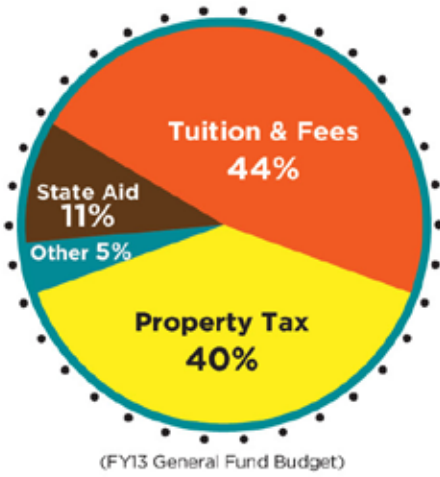
## Impact of State Funding Cuts

CCC's Financial Initiatives Offset State Aid Cuts Of Over 50% For The Past 4 Years

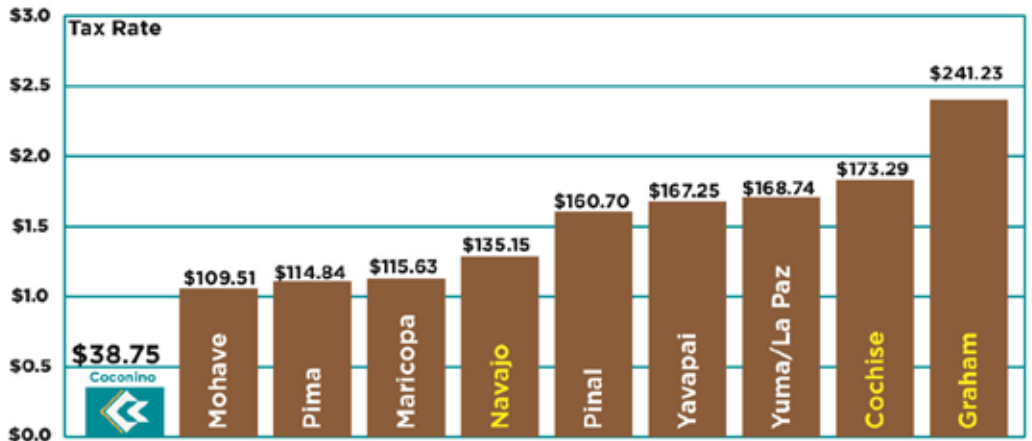
CCC's proactive Sustainable Financial Plan was developed specifically to ensure the College would survive and thrive in spite of state funding cuts. The cuts have shifted responsibility from the state to local funding sources and the students themselves. As a direct result, CCC's District Governing Board raised tuition to help offset the cuts,

but property tax rates have not changed since the college was founded in 1991. Coconino County's property tax allotment for CCC is currently far lower than any other community college district in the state and does not support current levels of demand or sustainability.

### CCC's Funding Sources



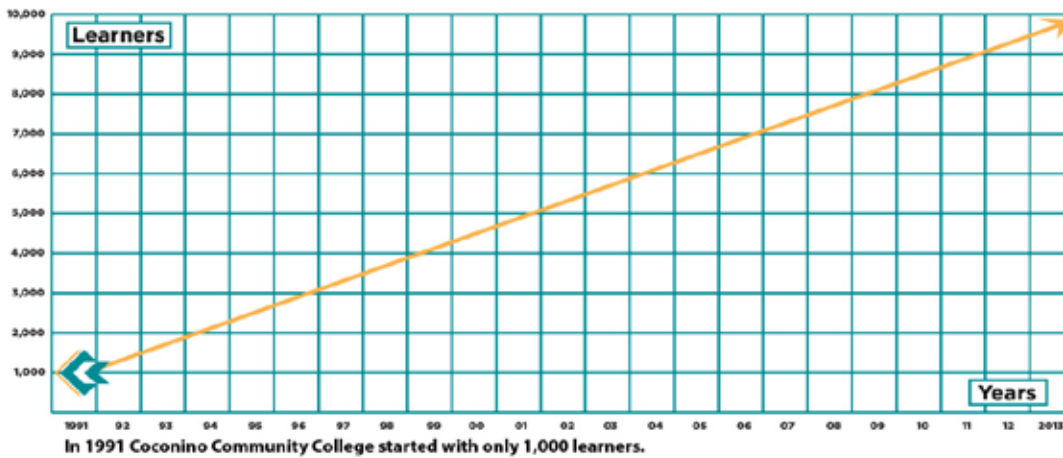
### FY13 Community College Primary Property Tax Rate Comparisons



Arizona Counties (Based on \$100,000 of Assessed Property Values)

Counties in **yellow** receive supplemental money from the state, called equalization funding, which is based on those counties having a lower assessed property value compared to the rest of the counties.

### Explosive Growth: Today CCC Serves 10,000 Learners Annually



### LEARN more EARN more

**EARN UP TO 80% MORE WITH A COLLEGE EDUCATION**

**\$1.8 million**

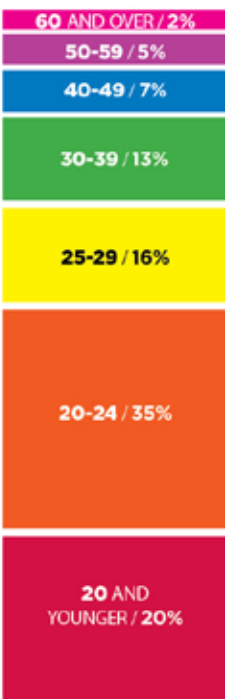
**\$1 million**

**No High School Diploma**

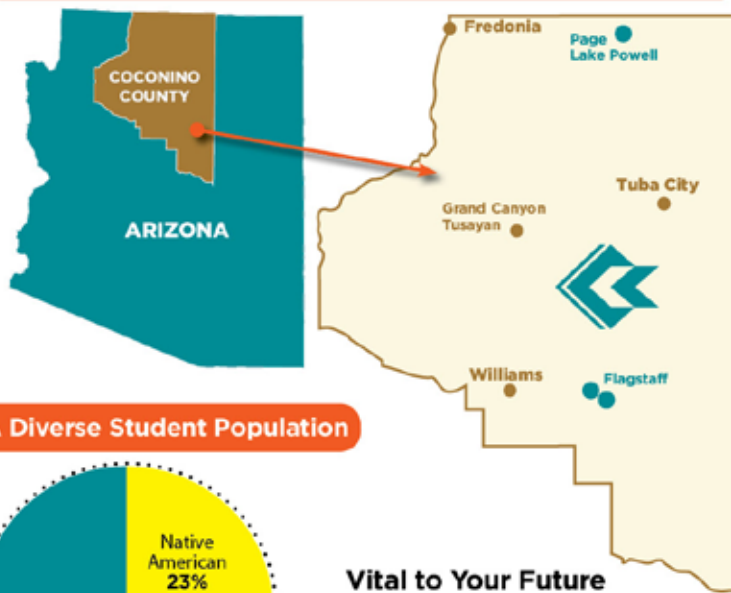
**Community College Associate Degree**

2011 U.S. National Data Based On Lifetime Earnings

### Students of All Ages



### CCC Campuses and Instructional Sites



### A Diverse Student Population



**Vital to Your Future**  
Coconino Community College is at the heart of education throughout all 18,000 square miles of Coconino County.

The CCC STAR is a publication of Coconino Community College

**Public Relations & Publications Coordinator**  
Ofelia Gonzalez  
928.226.4374  
Ofelia.Gonzalez@coconino.edu

**Senior Graphic Design Specialist**  
Trevor Welker  
928.226.4372  
Trevor.Welker@coconino.edu

#### CAMPUSES:

**Flagstaff Lone Tree Campus and District Offices**  
2800 S. Lone Tree Road  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
928.527.1222

**Flagstaff Fourth Street Campus**  
FMC Institute for Nursing Education  
3000 N. Fourth St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004  
928.526.7600

**Page/Lake Powell Campus**  
Navajo Generating Station  
Technology Center  
475 S. Lake Powell Blvd., Page, AZ 86040  
928.645.3987

#### INSTRUCTIONAL SITES:

**Williams**  
636 S. 7th St., Williams, AZ 86046  
928.635.1325  
**Fredonia**  
475 S. Lake Powell Blvd., Page, AZ 86040  
928.645.3987

**Grand Canyon**  
1 Boulder St., Grand Canyon, AZ 86023  
928.638.2461, ext. 404

**Diné College - Tuba City**  
475 S. Lake Powell Blvd., Page, AZ 86040  
928.645.3987

Scan Here to Learn More About CCC





## CCC Student to Use Her Degree to Benefit the United States Air Force

Since she was a young girl, Sheila Hollow Horn knew she wanted to be an engineer. With three uncles who are engineers, Hollow Horn knew that was her path, too. "People keep saying, 'You might change your mind,' but the older I get, the more interested I get," she said.

In 2010, Hollow Horn enrolled at Coconino Community College, with plans to attain her associate of science degree and transition to Northern Arizona University for a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Despite a busy schedule from an active modeling career, being an American Indian activist and part of the NAU ROTC program, Hollow Horn has racked up several scholarships, including the Navajo Nation, American Indian Services scholarship and AISCE scholarship through NAU.

Hollow Horn, 26, grew up on the Navajo



Sheila Hollow Horn

Reservation and heard about CCC from older family members. "I knew the class sizes were smaller and it was more affordable," Hollow Horn said.

She also had an interest in the military, where her father and uncles all served.

"I plan on using my degree in mechanical engineering to benefit

the military," Hollow Horn said. By the time she graduates from NAU, she will be a fully commissioned officer in the United States Air Force.

Through the help of the CCC2NAU program, Hollow Horn currently takes classes at both CCC and NAU. She also took advantage of another CCC2NAU perk - living on NAU campus in a residence hall.

Hollow Horn, who is part Navajo and part Oglala Lakota, is also an active member of the American Indian Movement of Northern Arizona. The activist organization represents Native Americans who have had their civil rights violated, provides information and supports Native American tribes, Hollow Horn said. "AIM keeps my awareness toward my tribes," she said.

Hollow Horn also works to encourage others to attend college. When she meets young people, she gives them this advice.

"Go see an advisor," she said. "You don't have to have your mind made up on what you want to study. The advisors will help you draw out a plan for you."



## CCC Alumni Finds Path to More Fulfilling Career Through Engineering



Jason Casteel

Jason Casteel moved to Flagstaff from Phoenix about five years ago for a job. He didn't realize that job would turn into a quest for a better career.

After a few years of working in manufacturing at W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc., Casteel realized that he wanted to advance within the company.

"The only way to move in the technical direction I wanted was to have a technical degree," Casteel said.

In Spring 2009, Casteel enrolled at Coconino Community College for an introduction to computer information systems class. He had tried college in the past, but it never held his interest. This time, he was

focused on attaining a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Being married with two children, working full-time and taking a full load of classes hasn't been easy. Shortly after starting at CCC, Casteel applied for the CCC2NAU program, which provides student with intense academic advising to allow for a seamless transition from CCC to Northern Arizona University. The transition program has won national recognition for helping students succeed at CCC and NAU.

"You've heard horror stories about classes that either don't transfer or transfer differently to the university," Casteel said. "CCC2NAU set me on a straight path to transfer to NAU."

Casteel, 34, transitioned to NAU in the fall 2012 semester.

"It has definitely been a learning experience," he said. He's finally taking the core classes he needs for his engineering degree, which he

knows will open him up for many different types of opportunities.

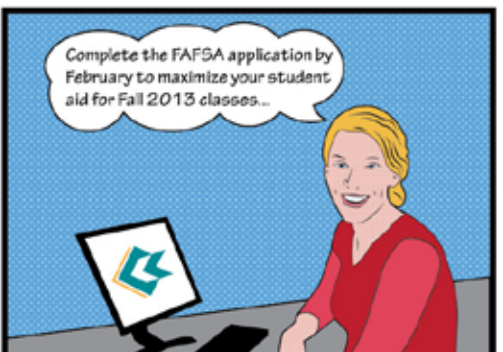
Still, he hopes to eventually move up in the ranks at Gore, the company that encouraged and supported his desire for higher education.

"I love it there," Casteel said of the medical device company which keeps its Arizona-base in Flagstaff. "It's inspiring to be part of a company whose products either save or help improve lives."

His goal is to have his engineering degree in fall 2015. Casteel gives this advice to anyone considering going back to school or thinking of changing careers.

"Go take the placement test at CCC and take a class," he said. "I'd been out of school for 10 years. Try one class. Get your feet wet a little bit and soon after, you'll be in the routine."

## Federal Student Aid / by Student Services



Visit: [www.fafsa.edu.gov](http://www.fafsa.edu.gov)

by the end of February to maximize your student aid!

## Coconino Community College **ALUMNI SEARCH**

we need your student success stories...

### Free Gift

for all story submissions

### Grand Prize Drawing

one grand prize winner drawn from all story submissions

Story must be 150 words minimum and no more than 500 words maximum. Submission deadline is March 31, 2013.

Send your stories to:

**Ofelia Gonzalez**

Public Relations and Publications Coordinator

[ofelia.gonzalez@coconino.edu](mailto:ofelia.gonzalez@coconino.edu)

Phone 928.226.4374 or Fax 928.226.4106

2800 S. Lone Tree Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

### VISION

Leading our communities in lifelong learning.

### MISSION

As a learning-centered college, we enrich lives by embracing diversity and transforming the future through quality education.

### CORE VALUES

• People • Learning & Growth • Quality  
• Ethics • Community • Respect • Sustainability