

CCC gets the word out on Prop 410

Flagstaff, Ariz. — After careful consideration, the Governing Board of Coconino Community College voted unanimously to ask voters whether or not they would support a property tax increase to fund the College. Before making their decision, the Board heard from hundreds of residents, business owners, students and parents.

The additional funds, if approved by voters, will be used for the following purposes:

- To create new programs that would train local students for jobs such as automotive repair, manufacturing and the construction trades;
- To assist veterans preparing for local jobs;
- To help high school graduates

transition to college successfully;

- To enhance current programs at the College, including additional hiring of full-time instructors.

"We have been listening to our communities," said Board Chair Patricia Garcia. "We've heard the needs and are developing solutions. That is why the Board voted unanimously to ask voters whether they support a modest increase for the College."

Board Member Dr. Nat White said, "The College faculty and staff have been working hard to research the costs of new programs. We're also working with community partners to learn how to creatively offer these programs as affordably as possible."

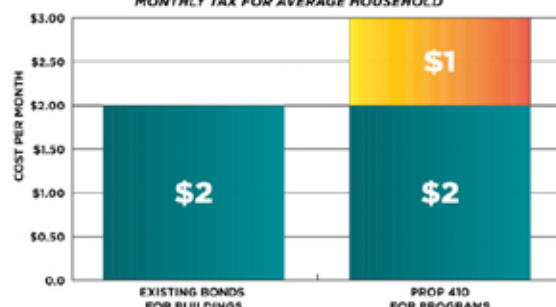
WHAT WOULD THE OVERRIDE COST?

In 1999, taxpayers approved a 20 year bond to build the Lone Tree and Williams Campuses. That bond will be paid in full in 2019. Currently, taxpayers are paying \$2.00 per month for the average (\$200,000) assessed property value for the building bond.

The District Governing Board is asking taxpayers for a \$3.00 per month tax that would begin when the bond expires in 2019 that would be used for new programs.

The net increase on what taxpayers are paying now on an average property in Coconino County would be \$1.00 per month, or \$12.00 per year for every \$200,000 of assessed value.

COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE \$1/MONTH INCREASE OVER CURRENT PROPERTY TAX BILL MONTHLY TAX FOR AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD



QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: Why does the College need additional funding through an override?

A: State law tightly controls the College's revenue sources. Its Governing Board has determined that the amounts

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Coins of honor: CCC carries on tradition for veterans



CCC student Tom Stinde shows the front and back of the CCC Challenge Coin given to veteran graduates.

Flagstaff, Ariz. —

The stories vary, but some people say the tradition began long ago in the Roman Empire. Soldiers were rewarded with coins to recognize their achievements.

To this day, men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces continue to receive Challenge Coins to recognize achievements, and veterans prize the coins once they leave the service.

Coconino Community College, in order to recognize the achievements of veterans among the student body, also hands out Challenge Coins when veterans graduate with a degree or

certificate from the College.

"They're very proud of them," said Charli Hausam, CCC Financial Aid and Veteran Advisor. "They're proud to be given the recognition of achieving their goal of a higher degree and serving their country."

During the May 2016 Commencement Ceremony, CCC President Colleen A. Smith handed out 12 Challenge Coins — likely the most ever given. CCC student Tom Stinde, a 13-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran, is looking forward to receiving his Challenge Coin when he graduates in the future.

"For me, it would be an

honor for the President to hand me one," Stinde said.

Stinde, who works for Veterans Services at CCC in the Veterans Center, added that he acquired more than a dozen Challenge Coins when he was in the Marines. His most prized Challenge Coin was the one he received from the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Stinde had been on the U.S.S. Essex, which had just assisted in escorting the U.S.S. Cole back to the United States. The U.S.S. Cole had suffered a terrorist bombing attack in October 2000 that killed 17 U.S. sailors.

Stinde has his coins

See **COINS OF HONOR**, Page 2

Community College explores partnerships for Page learning site

Coconino Community College, Diné College, Navajo Technical University and Northern Arizona University explore how they can bring more job training and college credit programs to Page area.

Page, Ariz. — The process started with a conversation, and now four educational institutions are working hard on a partnership to strengthen higher education for the benefit of residents in the northern-most parts of Coconino County.

Coconino Community College President Colleen A. Smith, as part of her continued outreach to various individuals throughout Coconino County, met with Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler to hear Supervisor Fowler's thoughts on how CCC can better serve the county. Dr. Smith also wanted to share ideas and information about priorities established by the District Governing Board.

During this discussion, she let Supervisor Fowler know that she was interested in meeting with officials on the Navajo Nation in order to learn more about the Nation and many students served by CCC.

Supervisor Fowler suggested a visit to the summer Navajo Nation Council meeting in Window Rock. The visit turned into much more.

Supervisor Fowler began setting up meetings, and she and Dr. Smith spent two days making

connections with Navajo Nation government and educational leaders.

"I have been working closely with Dr. Colleen Smith, president of Coconino Community College, on potential partnerships that will benefit our children in need of opportunity, and veterans seeking civilian jobs," Supervisor Fowler said. "These partnerships between Diné College, Northern Arizona University, Navajo Technical University and Coconino Community College would benefit our people here and in the areas surrounding tribal lands."

During the visit to Window Rock in mid-July, Dr. Smith met with Navajo Nation officials and listened to Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye give the State of the Nation address. She also met with members of Diné College, Navajo Technical University and the Navajo Nation Department of Education to talk about the state of education in the county and on the Navajo Nation. On the last day, Dr. Smith attended a meeting on the economic outlook for the Navajo Nation.

An idea regarding partnerships between CCC and the other

See **PARTNER**, Page 2

CCC Nursing graduate finds calling in critical care

Flagstaff, Ariz. —

Chelsea Brumbaugh's idea to become a nurse took form at 13 years old.

Chelsea's mother went into a diabetic coma, and she studied how the nurses cared for her mother, and comforted Chelsea and her sister Ciara.

"After that, I knew I wanted to be a nurse," Chelsea said.

Her dream came true in 2013, after she graduated from Coconino Community College with an associate's degree in nursing. She passed her state certification exams and was accepted to work for Northern Arizona Healthcare at Flagstaff Medical Center. She then went through the NAH Critical Care Training Program.

"I'm doing open hearts right now," Chelsea said, adding that she works in the

Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit, or CVICU for short. "It's cool how we actually know what the heart's going to do after open-heart surgery."

PATH BEGINS

By the time Chelsea was in high school, she had begun working toward her goal. She enrolled as a student in Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry and Technology and began taking college courses at CCC to receive a certificate as a Certified Nursing Assistant, which she did before she even graduated from high school.

She immediately went to work in a doctor's office in Flagstaff for practical experience, and began attending CCC for her associate's degree in nursing. At CCC,

See **NURSE**, Page 2



Registered Nurse Chelsea Brumbaugh works in the CVICU at Flagstaff Medical Center.

Williams resident takes her education to next level

Williams, Ariz. — Kristina Gushee-Henson decided to go back to school later in life and describes herself as a “nontraditional” student.

She has two sons — C.J., 14, and Tyler, 8. Her reasons for going back to school were clear.

“I wanted to be able to emphasize to my children the importance of an education, and I didn’t feel I could do that without getting one myself,” Gushee-Henson said, adding that she is the first person in her family to go to college.

She also wanted a “back-up plan” to be able to support her children in the event something happened to her business. She’s currently the owner of The Salon at 614, in Williams, a hair salon devoted to cutting, coloring and styling hair for women and men.



Kristina Gushee-Henson

So, she went back to school. She started attending Coconino Community College in 2011, and as a CCC2NAU student, she transitioned to the university after receiving her associate’s degree in Administration of Justice.

She’s set to graduate from NAU in December with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, with minors in Pre-Law and Sociology.

“Eventually, I would like to go to law school,” Gushee-Henson said.

At the moment, though, her passion remains rooted with her business, but she said she realizes she’s at a crossroads in her life and has to decide if she’s going to continue doing hair, or continue on with her schooling for a master’s degree or law school.

CCC helped make that choice in

her future possible.

“I had a great experience at CCC,” Gushee-Henson said. “I met good people. It was less expensive. There was flexibility. I had good instructors.”

She said she credits her family for helping to make her goals possible.

“I had a really supportive family,” she said.

Although she was nervous stepping onto the CCC campus that first day, Gushee-Henson also said that the college feel was more tight-knit, and she was able to make connections that she might not otherwise have made in a university setting.

“It’s an affordable way to get an education,” she said.

Being from a small town like Williams, Gushee-Henson said it was important for her to make her own opportunities and put herself out there. To other people who might be considering going back to school, she was emphatic.

“It’s never going to be the right time to go back to school,” Gushee-Henson said. “So, do it. It’s worth it.”

COINS OF HONOR From Page 1

put away in a lock box.

“I cherish them because all mine I’ve received from commanding officers or higher-ranking enlisted personnel,” Stinde said.

Challenge Coins in the Armed Forces are meant to boost morale in a unit, and challenges are issued to ensure that members carry the coin of the unit. Some coins are valued more than others.

Derik Yellowhair, CCC Student Life and Passages Program Coordinator, is also a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. The idea for the Challenge Coins came from Charli’s predecessor, Ruben Salazar. Salazar had been in the Navy and the Army prior to working at CCC.

Yellowhair said that he also has his own collection of Challenge Coins from his time in the Marines and has them on display.

“It’s honor,” Yellowhair said. “It’s pride.”

The CCC Challenge Coins reflect the fact that a veteran overcame obstacles and prevailed in working toward an educational goal.

“The coin represents a sense of achievement, and they can be proud that they served their country and completed their degree here at CCC,” Yellowhair said.

The CCC Veterans Center helps more than 200 students each year. Among these students are active

and retired members of all military branches and the reserves. The services also tend to family members of those killed in the line of duty.

CCC Veteran Services works closely with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to make sure that all of the veterans are accessing the help that they are allowed and to ensure that the veterans certify the classes they enroll in with the VA.

Hausam said that the Veterans Center strives to help guide and monitor the veterans’ progress as they go through courses here at CCC. Veterans come from different backgrounds and have unique stories, and like other students, the veterans have various ways in which they learn and sometimes endure struggle as they enter back into life as every day citizens.

“Our goal is to make sure that our veterans have support they need in their education and training as they get back into the workforce,” Hausam said.

Stinde said that when he graduates and receives his degree from CCC, his Challenge Coin from the CCC President will go into the lock box with all the others he received while in the Marines.

“Then, I’m actually going to make a display case,” Stinde said.

The CCC coin will be among them.

Funding for the coins is made possible through the Coconino Community College Foundation.

NURSE From Page 1

Chelsea received several scholarships to aid her in her studies. Among the scholarships she received were the Raymond Educational Foundation Scholarship, the Hartzell High School Scholarship and the Jason Kurtz Nursing Scholarship.

“I got a lot of my prerequisites done before nursing school even started,” Chelsea said, adding that she was able to get a variety of clinical experiences in the community while at CCC.

“It was there I knew I wanted to do ICU of some sort,” Chelsea said. “It was a great experience.”

Her goal was to become a nurse while she went back to school to get a bachelor’s of science in Nursing — a process she recommends to others for the cost savings and because it allowed her to get to work a lot earlier than students working on four-year degrees. She received her bachelor’s degree in 2016 while working as a nurse at FMC the past three years.

ALL IN A DAY

Chelsea said that she works 12-hour shifts, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The first couple of hours for an open-heart patient after the surgeon closes up the chest and the patient is brought to the CVICU are the most critical.

“A lot can go wrong,” Chelsea said. “There are just so many things going on. You’re watching a whole bunch of stuff at once.”

CVICU nurses, who work on a one-nurse-to-one-patient ratio, watch patient IV “drips,” keep a close eye on blood-pressure and heart-rate monitors and make sure that vital signs stay in a certain range. The nurses are constantly checking on patients for signs of difficulty or distress. The process is intimidating at first, and some patients thrive after surgery while others require deeper care.

“It’s very stressful, but I enjoy it,” Chelsea said. “It’s so much fun seeing these patients walking the halls the next day, thanking you.”

Chelsea’s mother, who made it through the diabetic coma episode, works at Flagstaff Medical Center as well. Chelsea added that her sister, Ciara, also works at FMC as a nurse, and she is currently still in the training program.

Ciara graduated from CCC three years after her sister. While at CCC, Ciara also received scholarships to help her reach her goal. Among the scholarships Ciara received were the Raymond Educational Foundation Scholarship and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Scholarship.

Chelsea said she and her sister have worked together before.

“We were waitresses before this,” she said and smiled.

PROP 410 From Page 1

currently allowed, with voter approval, provide insufficient revenues for the College.

Employers across Coconino County have asked the College to create and expand programs that train people for local jobs in the county, such as automotive repair, manufacturing and construction management.

The additional money will also fund programs and services to assist veterans wanting to apply the skills learned in the military as they transition to civilian employment.

Additionally, the College will hire more full-time instructors with a minimum master’s-level degree to meet the growing demand for high school transition

to college and from community college to universities.

Q: How much would it cost me?

A: An average homeowner (based on assessed value) in Coconino County would pay about an additional \$1 per month over the current property tax amount.

The additional money will come from an increase in property taxes paid by all property owners in Coconino County.

Q: Why doesn’t the College have enough money to meet its needs?

A: The state has cut support for the College by more than \$1.3 million per year.

The College’s Governing Board has raised tuition over the years to the point that it is now

the highest of any community college in Arizona.

The College’s primary property tax rate is 72 percent lower than the average rate for all other community colleges in the state (see chart below).

Q: How much additional money will the override raise, and how long will it last?

A: The override would collect \$3 million annually for seven years beginning in 2019.

Q: For what will the additional money be used?

A: The additional money will be used to train people for jobs; help veterans apply the skills learned in the military and learn new skills for local jobs; and to support continued quality instruction at the College. Some

of the specific programs and related costs being discussed include:

Expanded Construction and Nursing programs; Additional courses with an expanded faculty/staff at the Page Instructional Site; Contract training with local employers for rapid training, such as a short-term course in Coding, Customer Service, Computer Applications, etc.; New “short certificates” — rapid work retraining programs; and Other new programs based on community input, such as automotive repair, community education, manufacturing and maintenance to meet the needs of employers in new areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 75 percent of all of the College’s full-time students are from Coconino County.

Today, the College serves approximately 7,500 different students every year. This is far more than the 500 anticipated in 1991!

A student attending CCC for two years before transferring to a university can save the average family more than \$15,000.

PARTNER From Page 1

educational institutions began to emerge.

The three institutions and Northern Arizona University are discussing ideas to coordinate offerings to students in northern Coconino County in order to provide more educational opportunities while preventing overlap of services, Dr. Smith said. Ideas concerning educational programs that are needed in the area and which college would be able to provide courses at various levels of degrees are being considered. Navajo Technical University is exploring ways with which to help CCC bring workforce and job-training programs to students at the Page site as well.

“If we all work together, we can provide for the needs of the communities in northern Coconino County,” Dr. Smith said.

The project, which would use the CCC Page facility, is very tentatively being called the CCC Higher Ed Center.

“By working together we can do more with less for our communities,” Dr. Smith said. “And the hope is for the process to build and grow and ultimately become a reality.”

She added, “It’s worth trying if it’s going to provide more opportunities for students.”

On Sept. 2, Dr. Smith, Supervisor Fowler and members of the CCC District Governing Board took a trip to Page to meet with members of Diné College, Navajo Technical University, NAU and Page city officials to further discuss the possibility of this partnership.

Supervisor Fowler recited some grim statistics from the Arizona Board of Regents for the northern Arizona area. According to ABOR, in the 2013-14 school year, 174 students graduated from Page High School and only 45 went on to seek a higher education. Tuba City High School graduated 109 students that year and only 31 went on to further their education. Both

numbers are far below the state average of 50 percent.

“So we have a lot of work ahead of us,” Supervisor Fowler told the group. “This partnership, what we’re doing here, is so important.”

The members of the first meeting discussed needing hard data to accurately determine student needs in terms of job skills and what is available in the job market. The members also discussed the possibility of sharing faculty, making the Page site a “weekend college,” offering more intensive, shorter courses for certifications, partnering further with the business community and more.

Enthusiasm to move forward quickly prevailed, and the group made priorities for further meetings in order to get the partnership off the ground. The first priority was to create memorandums of understanding among the institutions to join the partnership and refine what they

can offer to the project to prevent overlap.

Other priorities included gathering data to accurately determine what types of classes and degrees would best serve residents in the area; to determine what services (like registration, student services, ID cards, etc.) could be shared; to settle financial aid questions; to determine tuition rates and facility costs; and to come up with staffing and training requirements.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for mid-October in Flagstaff.

Page Mayor Bill Diak, who has been involved with Fowler in the process to create meaningful educational partnerships that offer higher education to residents of Page and the surrounding area for more than two years, remarked at the progress of the group in a relatively short period of time.

“I can see light at the end of the tunnel,” Diak said.

Get The Facts About Proposition 410



If the property tax override passes, how would the money be used?

- ✓ **Adding Job Training Programs**
- ✓ **Enhancing High School to College Transition (earning College Credit While Still in High School) and Community College to University Transfer Programs.**
- ✓ **Increasing Programs that Support Coconino County Veterans Returning to Civilian Life**

Why is Coconino Community College Asking for a property tax override?

Primary Funding Sources:



The College has three primary funding sources:

Tuition

Tuition is the only option the District Governing has to raise revenue without taxpayer approval, but it is still not enough to compensate for cuts in state aid, and the College's low primary property tax levy. In other words, tuition cannot generate enough revenue for the new programs our community has identified to fill workforce needs.

State Aid:

State aid has declined drastically since 2000. The college has no control over state funding and in fact is prepared for the possibility of zero funding.

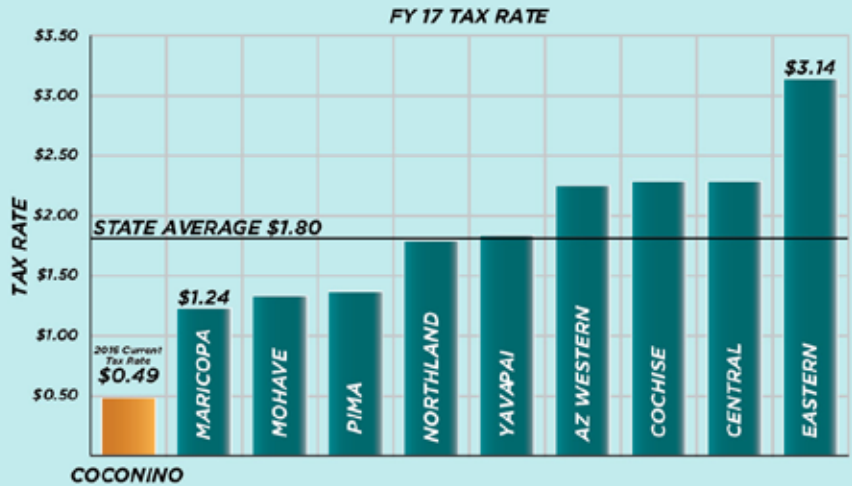
Property Tax:

CCC has the lowest property tax levy of any other community college in Arizona, less than half of the next lowest community college in the state.

What would Prop 410 cost?

- An average-valued home would have a net increase of \$1.00 per month in property taxes (or \$12.00 per year). According to the County tax rolls, the assessed value for an average home is \$200,000.
- The tax would begin in 2019 for seven years.
- Prop 410 would raise \$3 million per year.

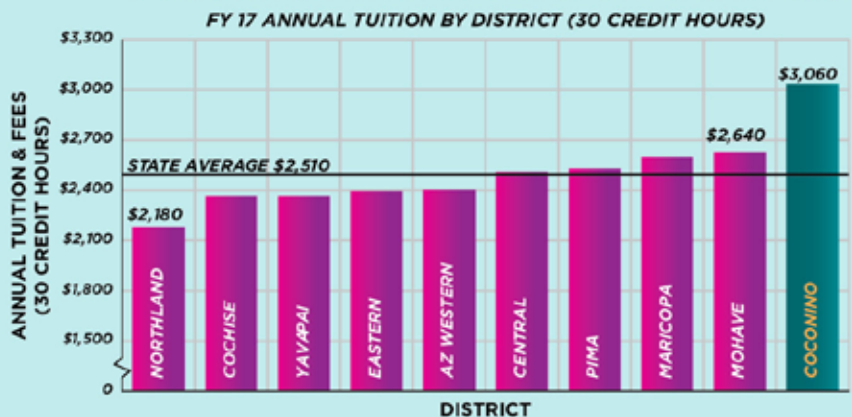
COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TAX RATE COMPARISON



An override is the only option for the College to fund the new programs the community (residents of Coconino County) have said they would like to fund.

Why does CCC have the highest tuition in the State?

COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION & FEES COMPARISON



A low property tax levy and continued state cuts have forced the College to go to the students for funding with tuition increases. Currently CCC is \$500.00 over the state average for yearly tuition costs.

Who are the Community College's Partners?



AND MANY MORE...

The CCC STAR is a publication of Coconino Community College

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INSTRUCTIONAL SITES:

Page
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475 S. Lake Powell Blvd.
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For class offerings at Grand Canyon and Fredonia, call the Page Instructional Site.

For more information, please visit:
www.coconino.edu/campus-hours-all-campuses

E-Learning

Visit: www.coconino.edu to learn more about available opportunities.

Scan Here to Learn More About CCC



www.coconino.edu

A continuing...education

Tuba City, Ariz. — Shawn Davis was born and raised in the small community of Chinle, Arizona, and he didn't really have an idea of what he wanted to do with his life after he graduated from high school in 1994 and began attending NAU.

"For me, it was too much at that time because I came from a small community," Davis said.

He began attending Coconino Community College in 1995 to try his hand at the trades, like welding or automotive repair.

"I thought I'd do that instead," Davis said. "I was just trying to see where I wanted to go. Time passed and I started to wake up."

He remembered how much he enjoyed business statistics, calculus and working with his mind.

"I remembered, 'Hey, I can do this stuff,'" Davis said and laughed.

He received an associate's degree from CCC in 1998 and returned to NAU to study computer information systems for a bachelor's degree in 2000. He would eventually go on to get a master's degree in Information Systems in 2008.

A little more than 20

years later, Davis is the Chief Information Officer of Information Technology for Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation. Even though he's reached a pinnacle of success in the industry, Davis added that he continues to attend CCC to keep current on his skills and to acquire new ones.

Davis joined the workforce in 2000 working for the Navajo Tribe in Window Rock, and it soon became apparent that he should return to CCC for CISCO networking classes. He drove from Window Rock on the weekends during the summer months to attend the classes at CCC's Fourth Street Campus. He completed all four semesters of course work that summer.

From there, he went to work for the hospital in Tuba City. In the last 13 years, he has moved up through the ranks from IT specialist, to IT operations manager, to IT director, until finally making it to CIO of IT for the hospital. Throughout that time, he has returned to CCC to stay current on his computer skills in program, server infrastructure and more. His last classes were in 2009.

Davis said he credits CCC



CCC alum Shawn Davis works as Chief Information Officer of IT at Tuba City Regional Health Care Corp.

for allowing him the freedom to explore his options.

"It was smaller, down-to-earth," Davis said. "It's a friendlier atmosphere. The teachers, everybody knew you. You got to know more people there. It was a good opportunity to transition to college life."

He said he went to CCC to explore the trades and found his calling in computers. He added that he appreciated the hands-on

approach to instruction, and the class offerings were relevant and up-to-date with what he wanted to achieve professionally.

Davis has a sister and two brothers who also have degrees and have gone on to successful careers. He added that his parents and grandparents stressed an education.

"It was driven into us when we were younger," Davis said.

When his cousins tell him they are considering pursuing higher

education, Davis said, "I tell them to start out at the community college. It's a great place to figure out what to do with your life."

Davis has a wife and three children now. He is in the process of building his own home for his family and plans on taking some electrical classes at CCC in the construction trades department.

"I don't want to burn the house down," he said and laughed.

Teens land 'First Jobs'



Selena Shorty received a certificate of completion of the First Jobs Summer Youth Employment Program, a partnership with CCC and Goodwill Industries of Northern Arizona.

Flagstaff, Ariz. — High school sophomore Selena Shorty, 16, didn't spend her summer taking a break. She worked as an administrative assistant in Flagstaff for Goodwill Industries of Northern Arizona.

It was her first job.

"I was already looking into getting a job, but I didn't know where to start," Shorty said.

Her initial thought was to try for a job as a food server. Then, she came across information about a program available to teens to help them land that first job and gain valuable on-the-job experience for the future. It's called the First Jobs Summer Youth Employment Program, a joint venture between Goodwill Industries, Coconino Community College and local businesses.

Shorty and 19 other students received diplomas of completion of the First Jobs program during a ceremony at the CCC Lone Tree Campus on Wednesday, July 27, in front of a crowd of about 80 family, friends and supporters.

"It was the largest class this year," said John Cardani, instructor in charge of the First Jobs classroom component at CCC's Fourth Street Campus. "They were from all different high schools and were a fantastic group."

Liz McGinlay, Vice President of Mission Advancement for Goodwill of Northern Arizona, said that the program is in its seventh year. The non-credit course is for local teens, ages 14-19, who are searching for that first job. The first year the program was offered, six teens signed up. This year, 22 signed up, and 20 completed the program.

First Jobs is funded with the help of Goodwill and the Arizona Community Foundation of Flagstaff, said David Hirsch, President and CEO of Goodwill of Northern Arizona. The students receive paychecks out of the funding for the duration of the program.

According to information from Goodwill, the students earn \$8.05 an hour for a 20-hour workweek.

Twelve of the available jobs this summer were at Goodwill's stores in Flagstaff, and the remaining jobs were with partnering businesses in the community, Hirsch said. The partnering businesses were: Warner's Nursery, Little America Hotel, Jitter's Lunchbox,

Second Chance Center for Animals, Satchmo's BBQ Soups & Cajun Restaurant and Kingdom Kids Preschool & Play Center. Several of the participating businesses, after the First Jobs program came to an end, hired their First Jobs teens to continue working for them.

The students in the program get a chance to learn about themselves, Hirsch added. They have an opportunity to get to know a bit more about possibilities for the future — including attending college.

Cardani said that during the classroom portion of the program, the students learn how to effectively communicate in the workplace, deal with conflict, dress properly, develop and review resumes, set goals, problem solve and balance work and college-level courses at the same time. The students also undergo "boot camps" with local employers to receive feedback on interviewing and resume-writing skills.

Hirsch and CCC President Colleen A. Smith, Ph.D., handed out the certificates to the teens and representatives from the participating businesses during the ceremony. Also during the ceremony, Hirsch and Dr. Smith presented four teens with crisp \$100 bills to recognize perfect attendance for the duration of the program.

Shorty said that her assignment in the program with Goodwill helped her to feel comfortable in customer service and to be able to articulate herself, and she plans on volunteering at Native Americans for Community Action to keep her skills honed until she finishes her high school studies through Primavera Online High School.

From there, Shorty said she's hopeful to go to college, but she will need financial assistance to do so. She is bilingual in English and Navajo and dreams of working internationally in the future. She's particularly fond of Okinawa, a small island off the coast of Japan. She loves the language.

When asked what she takes away from the program, Shorty said, "Where do I begin? I learned so many things. I've met a lot of great people."

For more information about the First Jobs program, visit <https://goodwillna.org/jobs/programs-and-services>

Funds support dependents of veterans disabled, killed serving country

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Coconino Community College student Brock Lindberg is in his first year of college. He borrowed money from his grandfather to help pay for his books.

But because his grandfather, who legally adopted Lindberg when he was young, was disabled as a result of his service in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, Lindberg received \$200 to help him pay for his books and reimburse his grandfather.

"It really helps and takes a lot of stress off my back right now with my money situation," Lindberg said.

Lindberg and four other CCC students received \$200 each to buy books with help from the John F. Long Foundation, said Rachel Edelstein, Donor & Alumni Relations Coordinator at CCC. The Phoenix-based foundation allocated \$2,000 to CCC to help five students in the fall semester and five students in the spring semester to buy the books they need to attend CCC.

Edelstein said the funds are earmarked specifically for students who qualify for "Chapter 35" Dependent's Education Assistance through Veterans Affairs who are dependents of veterans disabled or killed while in service to their country. While veterans receive a wide array of financial assistance to attend college, the dependents of veterans who were disabled or killed while serving their country do not.

"These are people falling through the cracks. Because their benefits for school are very limited, this is meant to help them with their textbooks," Edelstein said. "This will relieve some of the financial burden of attending school full time."

Charli Hausam, Financial Aid and Veteran Advisor at CCC, said that the five students selected also

met requirements of economic need.

In a thank you letter to the John F. Long Foundation, Lindberg wrote, "Just the simple fact of me attending college is a big deal for me and my entire family because I will be the first person in my entire family ... besides my grandpa to attend college. So, it is a big deal, and I appreciate all the help I can get."

Student Makayla Hamilton also said she was surprised when she received word that she qualified for the funding.

"I am totally grateful," Hamilton said. "I'm still processing that I got this."

In another thank you letter to the John F. Long Foundation, student Christopher-Roy Howard wrote, "You have eased a portion of my financial strain and allowed me to focus more on my actual studies and less on loans and debt ... I would like to thank you for the generosity of this (funding) and would like you to know that this has made me want to pay it forward and give back to my peers and the overall community of my college."

Student Dominick Moreira, whose father died as a result of his service when Moreira was young, said, "It's a blessing out of nowhere. It's really awesome — especially right now. I'm super grateful for it."

John F. Long was a World War II veteran who started in the Phoenix building industry with the help of the G.I. Bill. He eventually became one of the major developers in the Valley and set up the John F. Long Foundation in 1959, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting charities, schools, education events and general community needs. For more information about the John F. Long Foundation, visit <http://www.jflongproperties.com/foundation>.



Brock Lindberg, CCC freshman and a dependent of his disabled veteran grandfather, received \$200 for books with the help of the John F. Long Foundation.