

# CCC helps put veterans to work

**Flagstaff, Ariz.** — CCC Veterans Services has been an immense help in U.S. Marine Corps veteran Tom Stinde's return to school.

"CCC's Veterans Services not only helped me realize the benefits I can receive for serving my country, but they have also helped guide me and keep me on track in my schooling after 25 years," Stinde said.

The CCC Veterans Center helps more than 200 students like Stinde each year for the Fall, Spring and Summer sessions. Among these students are active and retired members of all military branches and the reserves. The services also assist family members of those killed in the line of duty.

Veterans Services works closely with the Department of Veterans 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.

CCC Financial Aid and Veterans Advisor Charli Hausam stated that the Veterans Center strives to help guide and monitor the veterans' progress as they go through courses here at CCC.

"All of the veterans come from different backgrounds and have unique stories," Hausam said. "Like other students, the veterans have various ways in which they learn and sometimes endure struggle as they enter back into life as everyday citizens."

Being the wife of a veteran, Hausam said she wants to make every veteran's transition back into college as easy as possible.

"I leave my door open in order for the veterans to come in and talk about whatever they'd like, whether it be about their class schedule or even a problem that is causing a rift in their transition through college,"

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U.S. Marine Corps veteran Tom Stinde helps other veterans at CCC's Veteran Services.

## CCC and Goodwill partner to train apartment maintenance techs



Alain Carrera landed a job at a Flagstaff apartment complex after completing the CAMT program at CCC.

**Flagstaff, Ariz.** —

**A**lain Carrera moved to Williams in March 2015 with his wife Josefina and their three sons so she could attend Coconino Community College's nursing program.

Carrera needed a job, and his landlord, a family friend, told him to go to Goodwill Industries of Northern Arizona.

"She said, 'I have a great opportunity for you,'" Carrera said.

That same month, he began the Certified Apartment Maintenance Technician program at CCC. Now, Carrera has a good job at an apartment complex in Flagstaff and has

even received a promotion just six months after he was hired.

"It definitely helped me a lot," Carrera said. "If I hadn't got that opportunity, I'd probably still be working in a warehouse."

The program, called CAMT for short, has completed its third year.

David Hirsch, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Northern Arizona, said the program was created in a partnership among CCC, Goodwill, the National Apartment Association and the Coconino County Career Center.

CAMT's purpose is to help people with workforce development and to create

career pathways in the maintenance field so that they are able support themselves and raise families. CAMT offers people an opportunity to catapult to mid-career jobs that pay better than entry-level jobs in the field.

CAMT is an intensive 90-hour program that takes place four days a week for eight hours a day over an eight-week period. The classes and workshops are taught at CCC's Fourth Street Campus.

The curriculum includes HVAC repairs and preventive maintenance, appliance repairs and preventive maintenance, plumbing

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## Board adopts new budget for CCC

**The budget sustains quality; however, it is not able to address critical job training needs in Coconino County.**

**Flagstaff, Ariz.** — Continuing to keep an eye on its constrained revenues, the Coconino Community College District Governing Board adopted the 2016-17 budget.

During its May 27, 2016 meeting, DGB members settled on a \$19.1 million operating budget, a 3 percent increase over the prior year.

District Governing Board Chair Patricia Garcia said, "While the College has demonstrated fiscal responsibility having made many budget cuts and revenue-generating efforts for several years, and after listening to business and community leaders, it is apparent that we are not fully able to meet many of the critical job training needs in Coconino County with this adopted budget. But, we can only spend the money we have."

Board Member Nathaniel White, said, "As an elected board, we have to be fiscally responsible to the citizens of Coconino County and the students, faculty and staff. This year's austere budget protects our educational quality and continues the status quo, but with higher costs for the students."

The largest area of expenditure is expenses related to students. More than \$10 million of the adopted general fund budget is for instruction, academic support, student services and scholarships.

On the revenue side, the Board increased tuition and fees, the

■ **INSIDE:** CCC continues financial reporting excellence, see pg. 4

only source of revenue completely controlled by the Board. The \$3 per credit hour increase in general tuition plus additional increases to out-of-district and out-of-state tuition increased these revenues to \$8.2 million from \$7.7 million last year. The need for the increase is due, in large part, to reductions in state aid over the years.

State funding dropped another 1 percent from \$1.77 million last year to about \$1.75 million for the 2016-17 budget. Total state funding makes up less than 10 percent of the overall budget, whereas prior to 2000, state funding made up about 40 percent of CCC's budget.

CCC's main challenge continues to be financial. In 1991, the College was established with a very low property tax rate for general operational and maintenance expenses. Of the 10 community college districts in the state, CCC's tax rate is the lowest by far.

In response to state aid cuts in 2008, CCC developed a Sustainable Financial Plan to ensure the long-term financial stability of the College, while trying to minimize impact on students. With the plan, CCC

See **BUDGET**, Page 4

## Helping the Page community – in more ways than one

**Page, Ariz.** —

**H**e's more than the Mayor of Page. Just ask the people he's helped as an Emergency Medical Technician on an ambulance or as an Emergency Department Technician at the hospital.

Bill Diak has had a number of callings while living near the shores of Lake Powell. He moved to the city in 1980, but his relationship with far northern Arizona began even before that when he was a young boy. His father would take Boy Scouts on trips to Page, and the family would come every year to watch the Big Dam Rodeo. Even as an adult, Diak would come back to the area to vacation. He moved to Arizona in 1970 with his new wife and moved to Page after landing a job with Salt River Project, where he worked at the plant for the next 24 years.

Diak enrolled in Coconino Community College's EMT program in 1997. He had to travel to Flagstaff for the classes because Page did not have a campus at the time. CCC offered the credits and Flagstaff Medical Center offered the classrooms and instruction. It was an 18-month program, and he went eight hours a day, three days a week.

"It was one of the hardest things I ever did," Diak said, smiling. "I appreciated the opportunity."

He received a certification as an EMT and began running calls as a volunteer firefighter and medic for the Page Fire Department after he received some additional firefighting training at SRP. He eventually became employed full-time

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Page Mayor Bill Diak became an EMT with help from CCC after his first retirement.



# CCC student graduates NAU; keeps promise to sister

Flagstaff, Ariz. —

Julie's sister made her promise back in 2008 to at least give college a try. "So, I promised her," said Julie Drinkard. "That was my last conversation with her. She died four days later."

Drinkard's sister died of complications associated with leukemia. Drinkard had been a bone-marrow donor to her sister, and she was cancer free for a time before she died in 2008.

"I'd never been to college," Drinkard said, adding that she started a family right out of high school and had a good career going for her. "I needed to fulfill the promise."

In 2011, she showed up at Coconino Community College and started off with the basics.

"I absolutely loved it and decided school wasn't so bad," Drinkard said.

Not only did she graduate from CCC in 2014 with an associate's degree in General Studies, she graduated from Northern Arizona University this May with a bachelor's degree in social work. Additionally, she's already found a job in Flagstaff working to help people find housing.

She works for Catholic Charities, a social service agency that offers assistance to people in need of housing.

"Here I am, giving back," Drinkard said. "All because of my sister."

Before college, Drinkard had a well-paying job for a local mom and pop business. She left that job to fulfill her promise to her sister. She was full of doubt. She raised three children and has five grandchildren.

"My daughter told me, 'Age is nothing but a number,'" Drinkard said, laughing.

When Drinkard showed up at CCC, she said the staff and faculty made her feel at home right away. She found great mentors in former Dean of Arts and Sciences Ingrid Lee and English faculty member Jeremy Martin.

"I left that day and I felt that this was where I was supposed to be," Drinkard added. "I really excelled here. It became my home."

Because she was a first-generation college student, she received tutoring assistance through the TRiO program. She then went into the CCC2NAU program. Her experience with helping her sister gave her the idea that being of service was the direction she wanted to take and focused on a degree in Social Work.

Because she was selected as an All-Arizona Academic Team member, she received a tuition waiver to attend NAU. Now she has a new job and it's in Flagstaff.

"I feel so blessed to be able to stay here," Drinkard said. "I've been here since 1968. My mom's still here. To uproot — I wouldn't have been able to."

"It's not about the money for me," Drinkard said of her new job with



Former CCC2NAU student Julie Drinkard now works as a social worker in Flagstaff following her graduation from NAU.

Catholic Charities. "It's about helping to make a difference in someone else's life. I want to go to bed at night knowing I've made that difference."

Drinkard added that things happen the way they do for a reason. She's not sure what her path would have been if she had tried to go to college straight out of high school, or if she had attended NAU first.

"CCC was just perfect for me," she said.

During the graduation ceremony at NAU, Drinkard's cap featured a photo of her and her sister. Also on the cap, she pasted the words, "As promised, sister."

"She completely changed my life even though she wasn't here anymore," Drinkard said. "I wish she would be here to see it, but I know she'll be with me."

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## CCC graduate unlocks the future with the key to success

Flagstaff, Ariz. —

He went from family man to businessman, and Coconino Community College unlocked and opened a new door for him to prosper.

Victor Varela is a CCC graduate with a success story that embodies the College's mission to enrich the lives of others by transforming their future through a quality education.

Varela's story began as a trailing spouse trying to find his path to success. His new journey began once he and his wife traded places staying at home with their four children. Knowing he was not ready for a large university, Varela started his education at the Fourth Street campus in 1994.

"I was lost and really didn't know where I should start," Varela said.

In 1996, he graduated with an Associate's Degree in General Studies.

He was the first president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the commencement speaker for his graduation.

Varela made a promise after he graduated from CCC that he would give



From left: CCC Alum Victor Varela with sons Joseph and Gabriel.

back to the community.

In 1998, Varela started Flagstaff Lock and Security and sold it after 12 years. When asked how his success was possible, he stated, "CCC gave me the courage to

start my own business." The institution was instrumental in giving him a path to find a profession he enjoyed.

While at CCC, Varela realized a special bond that an institution like CCC

has with a community. The availability of the instructors and the way in which they provide for the students creates an everlasting relationship with all who attend, he said.

"CCC taught me that no matter what level you start at, you can succeed," Varela said.

During his time at the institution, he was encouraged by several of his teachers who made an everlasting impact on his life.

In January 2016, Varela started another local locksmith business named Victor and Sons' Locksmith. His sons Joseph and Gabriel work beside him to carry out the promise to give back to his community that he once made years ago.

His years at CCC gave him the confidence that uplifted him to reach success as an employer that he did not think was possible.

"CCC opened up a whole new world for me," he stated. "It gave me a vision that I may have never known."

—Ben Molzhon

## CCC2NAU student overcomes her fears to serve community

Flagstaff, Ariz. —

She grew up on the Navajo Nation and graduated from Tuba City High School in 2010.

With high hopes, Danielle Butler went straight to Arizona State University the next fall.

"My first semester at ASU, I felt very lost on a big campus and didn't know what would be expected of me," she said.

She left after a semester and returned home.

"When I came home, my grandfather would ask me when I would be going back to school," Butler said. "I didn't have an answer."

She was afraid of failing and of not being able to afford tuition, but something in her kept her from losing sight of the importance of an education.

"I wasn't about to give up on myself," Butler said. "My grandfather always told my brother and me how important education is and that learning is a never-ending process."

She didn't want to ask her mother, a single parent, to pay for her education because her mother was already taking care of her 95-year-old grandfather. So, she got a job and enrolled at Coconino Community College because it was close to home and much less expensive.

"It was a little bit frightening," Butler said of her experience of returning to college. "I was a little out of my comfort

zone."

She would travel from Tuba City to Flagstaff twice a week to go to class, and she had to take a break with the birth of her daughter, Evelyn.

"I couldn't afford to live in Flagstaff, but with the help of my husband Joshua and family babysitting along with gas money, I couldn't be more blessed," Butler said.

By 2015, she had received her associate's degree in Administration of Justice. She's now seeking a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology at Northern Arizona University.

While at CCC, Butler said she noticed the small classes and the one-on-one conversations students could have with instructors. She saw Native American students in her classes, which made her more comfortable. And, most importantly, it seemed to her that her instructors were amazingly invested in the achievement of the students.

"It was helpful because I knew exactly what I needed to be doing," Butler said, adding that the resources available at Student Services helped immensely. She credited one faculty member in particular, Linda Barker, for sparking her interest in Sociology.

"She didn't give up on me, and for that, I am very grateful to have had a teacher like her," Butler said. "She is very inspirational to me, and I appreciate her always leaving her office door open for her students."

When Butler graduates from NAU, she

is intent on what she wants to do.

"I want to [work in] probation [services]," Butler said. "Most probably juvenile probation because that's where it all starts — with the youth."

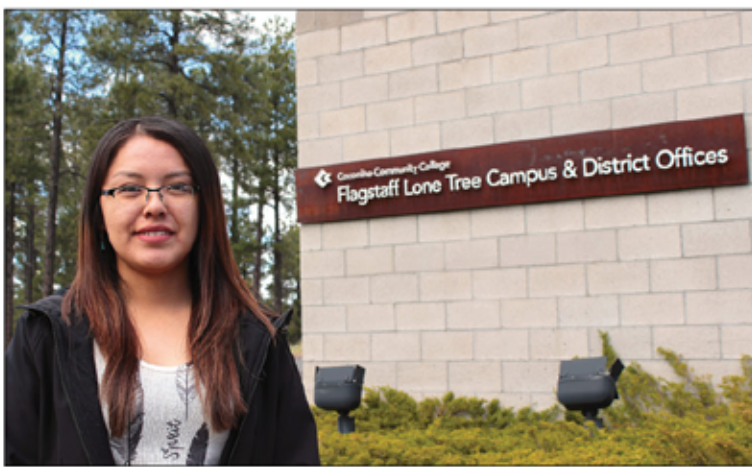
Her mother was a probation officer and now serves as a tribal legal advocate in Tuba City. Butler said she herself was a "troubled" teen. She said that by going into the field, like her mother did, she could share her experiences with teens, and the teens would be able to teach her about their experiences so she can be helpful to others

in the future.

There is currently no juvenile probation program in Tuba City, Butler said. There is a jail, but the city has no programs to help teens navigate the criminal justice process. She wants to return to her home to help.

"If we could help them and really understand them without locking them up, that's where I'd like to stand," Butler said.

At some point in the future, Butler said that she would like to be able to attend the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at ASU.



CCC graduate Danielle Butler attends NAU to pursue an Administration Justice degree.





# CCC Nursing students take Nightingale pledge

Flagstaff, Ariz. — They both want to work at Flagstaff Medical Center.

"I love Flagstaff," said Trisha Zumwalt. "And I would love to stay here and be able to contribute back to the community."

Ryan Wolfinger agreed and said, "Flagstaff is my home."

Zumwalt and Wolfinger were among 17 Coconino Community College Nursing students who took the Florence Nightingale Pledge in front of more than 200 family and friends Thursday, May 12 at the CCC Lone Tree Campus.

"Overall, it's been a great experience," Zumwalt said of going through the two-year Nursing program at CCC. She added that although the program switched directors in the middle of her studies, the experience helped prepare her for the real world.

Wolfinger said that the change in directors caused some scheduling challenges, but the process pulled the cohort together as a group.

"It makes this graduation that much sweeter for everybody," Wolfinger said.

Zumwalt said that her desire to be a nurse started with a few "genuine experiences" she had with nurses in her own life.

"It really brought my attention to how caring people can be," Zumwalt added. It's a hard job filled with people of compassion who are there for patients and their families on what is very often the worst day of a person's life.

Wolfinger graduated from Northern Arizona University with a degree in Forestry. He spent time as a wildland firefighter before deciding to apply to the CCC Nursing program. As a firefighter, he found that as the seasons passed, his enthusiasm waned. He had taken an EMT class and got a job



Eighteen CCC nursing students were recognized during a ceremony May 12, 2016.

with Guardian Medical Transport. "Being a paramedic interested me, but it lacked the substance of getting to know the patients and their families," Wolfinger said. "It's one of the coolest things — walking with patients through some of their most difficult moments in their lives."

Zumwalt added that it's an awesome experience to see people get better from those difficult moments.

"We went into the profession knowing it would be challenging," Zumwalt said. "But at the end of the day, when that patient's family says, 'Thank you,' it means more — to be able to be of service and help somebody else. It keeps me going."

During the ceremony Thursday, the keynote speaker was CCC President Colleen A. Smith. The presentation of the pins was conducted by Lori Edwards, Director of Nursing

and Allied Health and Nursing faculty members Sandra Marques, MSN, RN, and Tammy Woods, MSN, RN. All 17 of the students lit candles and took the Florence Nightingale Pledge.

The pledge states: "I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly: To pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully; I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug; I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling; with loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

# Students recognized during awards night

Flagstaff, Ariz. — One graduate wants to become a nurse. Another says he's going into law. A third loves psychology and anthropology.

All three students excelled at their studies at Coconino Community College and "student achievement" was the phrase of the day Wednesday, May 11, at the Lone Tree Campus in Flagstaff. More than 150 students and their families attended the annual Student Awards Ceremony. Over 60 CCC students were recognized for their academic achievement during the 2016 school year.

"I'm truly honored, and I don't feel I've done any more than anyone else," said Rachel Soumokil, who graduated with an associate's degree in Pre-Health Careers. She also featured prominently in CCC's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. "It's been an honor to serve, and I've enjoyed my time at CCC very much."

Next, she's off to Northern Arizona University. She's currently on the alternate list for the Nursing program there. In the meantime, she will be taking courses of interest and earning additional points to qualify for the Nursing program. Her goal is to get a bachelor's degree in Nursing.

Soumokil was honored at the ceremony for being selected as a member of the All-Arizona Academic Team and for being an outstanding member of CCC Clubs and Organizations.

Student veteran Joseph Keifer graduated with an associate's degree in General Studies.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, he was among nearly a dozen student veterans honored during the ceremony.

"I'm pretty stoked to finish up and move on," Kiefer said, adding that many of his friends in the Marines didn't take advantage of the GI Bill after their service. Kiefer, who served as Associated Student Body President last year, wants to be a positive influence on veterans coming back into civilian life to let them know that they, too, can be successful at college.

Of his experience, Kiefer said, "It's been good — definitely a great segue to NAU. It acclimated me to college life. I started 10 days after I left the Marine Corps."

He will be studying philosophy, politics and law at NAU.

"After that — law school, but I'm not sure where yet," Kiefer said. "I'm shooting for Chicago."

Aleina Myers, a Peer Advisor at CCC, graduated with an associate's in Business. She said she is both excited and scared to leave CCC.

"It's a new beginning, and I have all these emotions," Myers said. "It's a community that's inviting and wants to support you through the obstacles college has."

Her next stop is NAU in the fall. She wants to study psychology and minor in anthropology — subjects which she is passionate about. The transition to a larger institution will be different.

"I'll get used to it," she said with a smile.



CCC President Colleen A. Smith recognizes student veterans during the Student Awards Ceremony at the Lone Tree campus May 11.

# Students receive GED through CCC



Five students were recognized at a GED ceremony at the Fourth Street campus on May 26, 2016.

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Neysa Benton stood at the podium and faced the small crowd of about 40 people. She talked about her two children, her family and friends.

"It took a lot of self-discipline to get here," she said, adding that her mother passed away and couldn't see her achievement.

"It helped me to get here because I know that she would have wanted me to," Benton said.

Benton joined five others during the 2016 GED Recognition Ceremony at Coconino Community College's Fourth Street Campus on May 26.

The keynote speaker for the event was Alicia Vaughan, a faculty member at the Basis Flagstaff charter school. Vaughan herself took a circuitous route to realize she loved learning. That love of learning led to a bachelor's degree in geology, and then she went on to get a graduate degree. Her love of learning led her to study the geology of Mars for NASA before she ended up teaching science and robotics at Basis.

"Now, I love school so much, I

can't leave," Vaughan told the GED recipients. She added that she is a firm believer in the idea that "you make your own luck," and that "hard work creates good luck."

Vaughan suggested that the GED recipients consider the possibility of college, and she asked them to consider their next big step in life because they have already taken such a big step to complete their high school education.

"It's never too late to invent yourself," Vaughan said.

CCC President Colleen A. Smith told the GED recipients that they should find their passion. She mentioned a family saying: "Keep the feel-good with you." She asked them to keep that feeling of today, to acknowledge the accomplishment they have achieved and to keep learning and keep growing.

Dean of Arts and Sciences Colleen Carscadden told the recipients that they had a "Do Smart" attitude. They didn't give up. They figured out what they needed to do to keep going. Their "Do Smart" lives will be fulfilling lives. Carscadden also

notified the recipients that they have been given three free credits to attend Coconino Community College in the future.

In addition to Benton, GED recipients included Dalberta Francisco, Dylan Rodriguez, Kody Rodriguez, Tristen Stanley and Francisco Vega.

During the ceremony, faculty members recognized student achievement in the Adult Education and English as a Second Language programs. Several students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society. Those students were: Galina Lomanova, Marcos Castrejon, Xinhong Wu, Monica McGovern, Keshawn Means and Juan Perez.

Debra Goldenstein, CCC Adult Education Instructor, gave a nod to the instructors who helped the students achieve their goals — it is a selfless calling that is rewarding but not for the faint of heart. She recognized the Flagstaff GED instructors Stephany Brown, Leah Claw, Lisa Foley, Tuba City GED instructors Gwen Curley and Fonda Walters, Page GED instructor Regina Santelli, and support staff at the Fourth Street Campus, Donovan Wiedmann and Caitlin Peterson.

"You all really do help change lives," Goldenstein said to the instructors.

Like the 2015 ceremony, the 2016 ceremony was smaller than previous ceremonies. In 2014, a new GED test series was rolled out that has significantly harder content that takes people more time to prepare to take. The test is no longer paper and pencil and is internet-based. The price tag to take the test is more expensive as well and requires people who want to take the test to have a credit card.

# Students focus of Page Awards

Page, Ariz. — Laughter, tears, cake and ice cream were the order of the evening during the Student Awards Night at the CCC Page site on Tuesday, May 17.

More than 50 students, faculty and family gathered for the annual event meant to recognize achievement of the Page-based students.

Page instructional site director Jim Hunter started off the night's events with introductions followed by an impromptu conversation with student Kathryn Kelly, who received two scholarships to attend CCC in the fall. According to Hunter, she exemplifies tomorrow's leaders, despite her young age of 16.

Kelly's educational goals are simple — either act with the Royal Shakespeare Company or become a college English professor. She said she chose CCC because she was not ready to ship off to a four-year university just yet. During her time at CCC, she has been exposed to a variety of cultures and viewpoints, which she called an "amazing experience."

Next up was the keynote speaker, Lisa Harris, owner of the Kaibeto Market in Kaibeto on the Navajo Nation. She graduated from Page High School as valedictorian, chose Arizona State University and graduated *summa cum laude*. She encouraged the young people in high school to

take college courses through CCC. Like Kelly, Harris wasn't ready for a four-year university after high school, but she was ready to start. Her time at CCC helped her adjust to college life and be successful.

Faculty member Jane Ward then inducted student Lauren Rose Austin into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society. Hunter, with the help of Math Instructor Kristin Keisling and English Instructor Corey Albert, then presented student awards to the seven graduates from Page.

Six students received scholarship recognitions, and Student Services Coordinator Lena Judy, along with American Sign Language help from Angelica Eltsosie, sang the inspirational Native American musical number, "Go My Son."

Certificates of appreciation were presented to local businesses which included: Gary Yamamoto Custom Bait, HB Tool & Die, Antelope Point Marina, Navajo Generating Station and the Chamber of Commerce at Page Lake Powell.

"These students feed my optimism," Hunter said. "I know leadership qualities when I see them, and it clearly touches me when I see them ... I'm very proud of all of you, and I hope all of you seek the opportunity to lead."

## The CCC STAR is a publication of Coconino Community College

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FMC Institute for Nursing Education  
3000 N. Fourth St.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004  
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### INSTRUCTIONAL SITES:

#### Page

Navajo Generating Station  
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475 S. Lake Powell Blvd.  
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# CCC Students Celebrate 2016 Commencement

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Dressed in cap and gown, Marilyn Tsinajinnie stood at the podium and looked out at more than 120 of her fellow students.

"Life is a wonderful journey full of opportunity," she said. "Through perseverance and dedication, you can achieve a desired goal by the choices you make each day. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.'"

More than 600 family and friends helped celebrate Coconino Community College's 2016 Commencement on Friday, May 13 at the Lone Tree Campus.

CCC President Colleen A. Smith started off the proceedings with a heartfelt welcome to the new graduates. Then, Full-Time Faculty of the Year Sandra Dillmann Lunday and Part-Time Faculty of the Year Elaine Dillingham gave the graduates messages of inspiration on the next leg of their journey through life.

During Dillmann's speech, she told the graduates, "Education, in whatever form it takes, allows us to see not the single, narrow pathway, but the multitude of branching paths, the diverse opportunities, and the many, many people and backgrounds and points of view that make up our larger world. A good education challenges us not only to see this diversity, but to accept ourselves as part of it. As strongly as you feel about your ideas, others feel equally passionate. And, it is your job to do the research, find solutions and accept that progress comes at a price.

Don't believe in the notion that anything is free."

Dillingham told the students that two things are required to make art — technical skill and creativity. The graduates have the technical skill now.

"But the other half of art, the creativity, is yours uniquely," Dillingham said. "Your imagination, your inventiveness, your wit, your heritage, and your one-of-a-kind life experiences qualify you, uniquely, to use your technical skill to create."

And it is in the composition of the graduates' lives — the big picture — where the art will happen.

When it was Tsinajinnie's moment to shine as the first of two student speakers, she said to the graduates: "So, as you move forward in life with your mind prepared and your skills tuned, I urge you to set your direction with a positive attitude and strong spirit. We have now built a strong foundation for the future through our education. Now, we must individually design and build our lives through this success."

The other student speaker, Kiril Kirkov, said, "I don't want to change the world, but I do want to make a difference on a scale that is possible for me to achieve — something I encourage all of you to do. I would like to thank Coconino Community College for helping me find the path to begin my journey on making that difference."

He concluded his remarks by saying, "To all of you, I ask you to embrace your home, wherever you find it, and remember



From left: Kiril Kirkov, Marilyn Tsinajinnie and Dean of Student Services Veronica Hipolito wait for the start of the 2016 CCC Commencement at the Lone Tree Campus in Flagstaff.

that we find our humanity in the warm arms of diversity."

Joseph Donaldson, President of the CCC Foundation, made a presentation to the new alumni, and Dr. Pauline Entin, NAU's Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, offered

congratulations from NAU.

President Smith then presented the Class of 2016 and Patricia Garcia, Chair of the CCC District Governing Board, assisted with the conferring of degrees.

## CCC continues financial reporting excellence

Flagstaff, Ariz. — For 21 years in a row, Coconino Community College has received accolades for its ability to clearly communicate its financial story.

In May, CCC received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The award was bestowed by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

According to information from the GFOA, the Certificate of Achievement "is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by

a government and its management."

The judging is made by an impartial panel, and CCC's financial report had to "meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story."

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional organization of public officials united to enhance and promote the professional management of governmental financial resources by identifying, developing and advancing fiscal strategies, policies and practices for the public benefit. The GFOA is based in Chicago and Washington, D.C. and serves about 17,500 government finance professionals.

### CAMT From Page 1

repairs and preventive maintenance, electrical repairs and replacements, customer service and satisfaction, personal property and safety.

The cost of the program is just under \$1,000 per student, but all of the students received scholarships through Goodwill or training funds from the Coconino County Career Center to cover the costs.

The scholarships for the 2015 cohort were provided by Goodwill through a grant from the APS Foundation to support workforce development.

At the end of the 2015 cohort, 10 of the 12 graduates, including Carrera, were gainfully employed in the maintenance field locally, albeit not all were in apartment maintenance. The skills are mobile and transportable to other kinds of building maintenance — not just apartments.

At the end of the 2016 cohort, of which all twelve completed the program, eight found work in the maintenance field. Goodwill Employment Specialists continue to work with the ones who are still looking for work, according to Caldwell.

Program applicants must write

an essay outlining their interest to make sure the field is a good fit for them. Importantly, applicants must show a commitment to complete the program's rigorous schedule.

In addition to the instruction, the students receive help from job employment specialists, meet prospective employers and receive after-program support to find and keep jobs.

Carrera said that he was hired at the Rock Ridge Apartments in Flagstaff right after he took the certification testing. On a lark, he sent his résumé to the management of the 200-unit apartment complex. He received an interview the same day.

"I was surprised," Carrera said.

He went to the interview confident in the knowledge he gained from the CAMT program. They hired him on the spot as a seasonal worker, but he was hired on a permanent basis in August 2015, and he advanced to being the maintenance supervisor and certified pool operator.

"This has been a wonderful program for me and my family," Carrera added.

People interested in the CAMT program can contact Christina Caldwell at Goodwill: (928) 526-9188, or christina.caldwell@goodwillna.org.

### VETERANS From Page 1

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

The CCC Veterans Center also hires student veterans to help run Veterans Services and give back to the veteran community on a personal level.

Stinde, who currently works as a student veteran advisor said, "It's great that I get to give back to the veteran community and get a connection with those from similar back stories."

In May 2016, twelve veterans became college graduates along with eight more the year before.

Stinde is expected to graduate in the fall and wants to continue on to NAU and start his schooling for nursing. Being a veteran who

suffers from PTSD, he hopes to one day work at a VA as a mental health nurse to continue to give back to the veteran community.

Like Stinde, several veterans have gone on to NAU to take classes in their chosen fields. CCC2NAU has become a popular program with veterans and has acted as another guide to keep their education on track as they continue their journeys back into the workforce.

"It makes me proud watching them graduate," Hausam said with a smile on her face. "Just to see the veterans' smiles and how proud their families are is the reason why I love doing this job."

And, according to Hausam, CCC leadership hopes to expand the educational opportunities and the resources CCC offers in order to help guide veterans like Tom Stinde back into the workforce for years to come.

### BUDGET From Page 1

improved its financial position by generating new revenue, saving on expenses and cutting costs. The initiative, which resulted in \$3 million in savings, included removing the equivalent of 25 full-time employees.

To generate new revenue, CCC increased tuition, sought government grants and attracted private Foundation gifts and donations. To save on expenses, CCC initiated more than 100 cost-saving initiatives, reduced the number of classes offered, eliminated programs, reduced staff and closed the campus in Williams.

To help address long-term financial stability concerns, CCC went to the voters in November 2013 seeking a budget override. The measure did not pass, and the College instituted an additional austerity plan in 2014 that cut programs and staff, changed the Page campus into an instructional site and raised tuition.

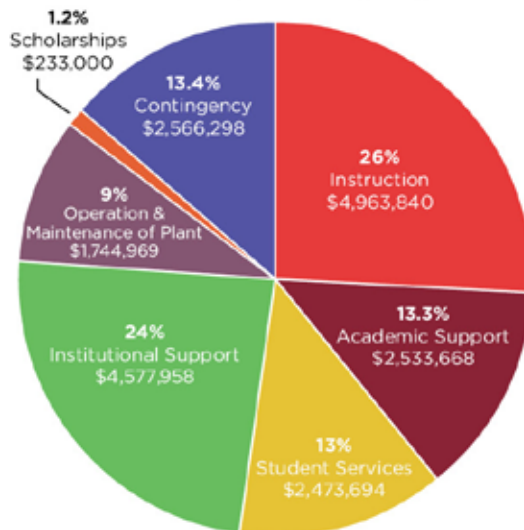
This spring, CCC President Colleen A.

Smith assembled a wide array of business and community leaders and residents to study the College's budget and finances to help her develop recommendations for the District Governing Board.

Among the recommendations from several advisory groups was a suggestion that President Smith develop plans to expand the College's training programs for occupations to meet the needs of employers countywide based on input from large and small businesses throughout the county. These programs would prepare CCC students for better, available jobs in the county and train more local high school graduates to find better jobs.

The advisory group also recognized the value and benefits of continuing the partnership with the successful CCC2NAU program, which helps CCC students make a smooth transition to higher education to achieve a bachelor's degree while saving money.

### FY17 CCC General Fund Expenditures by Program - \$19,093,427



Total Budget \$19,093,427

### MAYOR From Page 1

with the Page Fire Department after his retirement from SRP in 2004.

"I don't run on the ambulance anymore, but I still have an opportunity to work in the Page Hospital in the Emergency Department," Diak said. "I do that a couple days a week. It's something I've always loved to do and CCC helped me obtain that goal. I'm continuing to do that process, and it's been over 16 years. So, it's not something I take lightly. It's a commitment for me and I'm glad I had an opportunity to get my certification and do something I really love doing."

Being the Mayor of Page is a full-time job in itself, but Diak said he finds the service at the hospital important.

"I have a love for helping and working with people," Diak said.

He stressed the continued importance of the presence of CCC in Page.

"I believe we've got a great need for the community college in our area," Diak said. "For the future, I can see many,

many things coming for both the city of Page and CCC."

CCC currently has an instructional site in Page, which was made possible through a partnership with the city, and Diak said that the site makes going to college possible for many residents in the remote parts of far northern Arizona.

"I think as we continue to work our partnerships with one another, one of my goals would [be to] see an increase in visitation and the student count and classes here at CCC and utilize this beautiful campus to its fullest," Diak said. "I can see that we've got a lot of growth that we can commit to, and we just need to find a way that we can get it all accomplished, and serve the citizens and the community around us."

For the city of Page to thrive, it must have economic development and employment opportunities, Diak said. It would be CCC's job to follow suit and respond to the needs of the city's growth. He added that he believes the students are out there.

