

ED. PARTNERSHIP GAINS MOMENTUM

CCC Instructional Site in Page to house course offerings from partnering institutions.

Page, Ariz. — Leaders from four of northern Arizona's education institutions are gaining momentum on a bid to strengthen higher education in northern Coconino County as the City of Page faces the 2019 closure of the Navajo Generating Station.

Leaders from Coconino Community College, Diné College, Navajo Technical University and Northern Arizona University, all of whom are members of the Higher Education Consortium Project (HECP) met on Sept. 18 and 27 to discuss economic ramifications

of the NGS closure and to begin working on creating course offerings at CCC's site in Page.

"The 'Design and Structure' phase of the Higher Education Consortium Project is the most exciting in my opinion," said Kay Leum, CCC's Director of Special Projects and Grants. "The institutions have the right people at the table to begin laying the groundwork for moving forward on how best to provide quality education opportunities to meet the economic development needs of northern Arizona."

The situation for Page is in serious need of attention, said NAU Economics Professor Dr. Wade Rousse during the Sept. 18

meeting. He shared with the group the results of a study that showed the economic ramifications of the NGS closure.

The conclusion: The City of Page would immediately lose about \$51 million a year with the loss of the NGS jobs and jobs supported by the presence of NGS — a very conservative estimate, Rousse added.

"I'm just here to try to say this is coming," Rousse told the consortium group, and somehow, the city has to fill that gap. He added that the answer will not be easy, but education will be key to helping the city fill that gap. "Whether we want to admit it or not, it's a real problem, and it's coming."

During the Sept. 18 meeting,

stakeholders broke into groups to answer questions relevant to the news of the NGS closing and the need to do something different for the city to make up the gap by the plant closure.

Educational offerings by the consortium need to address the needs of an industry enticed to the area, should that happen. There needs to be a refocusing on training and alternative careers. There needs to be a focus on more than one industry — like tourism — to help support the community. More housing is needed, and therefore, more construction skills are needed. The community also needs a more stable employee base.

In April, leaders from the four

institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the HECP to deliver collaborative, affordable and accessible higher education opportunities to northern Coconino County residents.

The development of the HECP will happen in four phases: initial discussion and planning; design and structure; implementation; and monitoring and measuring success of the project. All parties bear their own costs until implementation. The consortium is currently in the second phase of designing and structuring course offerings and is hopeful of offering courses and programs as early as January 2018.

Food Truck Friday makes stop at CCC



Hungry visitors flock to the CCC Fourth Street Innovation Center during Food Truck Friday in August.

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Spicy, rich, oily aromas of tasty vittles filled the air on the campus of the Coconino Community College Fourth Street Innovation Center on Friday, Aug. 11.

It was the College's first-ever Food Truck Friday, and more than 100 people turned out over the lunch break to get reacquainted with their "neighborhood college."

Lena Denman, a 2005 alum, was visiting her father in Flagstaff and decided to drop by for some lunch. After leaving CCC, she went on to get a master's degree in International Studies, and she now teaches government classes full-time at Blinn College in Bryan, Texas.

"I wish there were more like this," Denman said of the event. "It's really amazing y'all are working with the community to draw people in ... And I just love food trucks."

Among the food trucks and carts selling food at the event were

La Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Falafelicious, Good Times Rolling Kitchen and Catering, 66 DAWG and Maria's Tamale Cart. Musicians from the nearby Flagstaff School of Music provided entertainment, and Great Circle Media and Yavapai Broadcasting aired live radio remotes from campus during the event.

"Fourth Street was our original campus, and we are proud of it," said CCC President Colleen A. Smith. "Our colleagues at the College are collaborating to help re-energize our neighborhood campus."

CCC staff were on hand to offer tours of the campus, and a full team was standing by to help register students interested in classes at the College. Beginning in the Fall semester, CCC is offering a larger selection of classes at the Fourth Street Innovation Center.

"I met one woman who said she was interested in enrichment courses,"

said Cheryl Meilbeck, CCC faculty who volunteered at the event. She added that many of the people she spoke with came to chat, and some just came for the food.

Inside, a few people inquired about registering for classes, and a few more sought out information about GED education.

Sally Spencer, a current Adult Education student at CCC, said, "The food was good. The people were very friendly."

Spencer added that she loves the Fourth Street campus because in her experience the instructors are concerned about her education and they push her to do well.

"I think they're fabulous people to take the time and teach me," Spencer said.

After Food Truck Friday wore down, several members of the

See **FOOD TRUCK**, Page 4

CCC grant aims minority students to STEM fields

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Coconino Community College, in alliance with three other educational institutions, will work to steer minority students into Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers.

According to information from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, the National Science Foundation awarded the university a five-year, \$4.6 million Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) grant. The goal of the grant is to help increase the number of minority students going into STEM careers, a field which is disproportionately underrepresented with minorities.

With the grant, UNLV, in turn, will fund a project called the Southern Nevada Northern Arizona LSAMP, which is an alliance of UNLV, Northern Arizona University, College of Southern Nevada and CCC.

Dr. Gonzalo Perez, CCC's Associate Vice President of Innovative Learning Solutions, said that CCC's portion of the grant will be \$50,000 a year over the next five years, or \$250,000 for the life of the grant. The funding will help fulfill the objective of recruiting 80 underrepresented minority students per year into STEM fields. CCC will hold information sessions regarding the benefits of a STEM career as well as work in conjunction with Dual Enrollment to identify high school students for recruitment into the program upon graduation.

"Once the students are recruited, we will provide a menu of support resources and motivational STEM activities to ensure retention and completion of their STEM program," Dr. Perez said. "Furthermore, NAU students will support our students as peer mentors to help CCC students bridge the gap from the community college into a STEM baccalaureate program."

CCC President Dr. Colleen A. Smith, said, "Jeff Jones, Dean of Learning, was instrumental in helping CCC participate in the alliance and receive the grant. Dr. Perez is now taking the lead with his considerable experience with grants and encouraging minority students to consider STEM careers. We are proud to move full steam ahead with STEM."

CCC has hired a full-time coordinator, funded by the grant, to work on the program.

For more information about CCC, visit www.coconino.edu.

CCC president joins forces with United Way of Northern Arizona

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Coconino Community College has partnered with United Way of Northern Arizona, and CCC President Colleen A. Smith has stepped in to co-chair this year's community campaign.

United Way of Northern Arizona celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and is dedicated to a "50 for 50" drive. That drive aims to raise \$50,000 for KinderCamp, a summer program to help prepare preschool children for kindergarten, which is in addition to the main campaign that helps fund nonprofit organizations throughout northern Arizona.

With a campaign slogan of "United We Win," Dr. Smith and co-chair Jeanne Swathout, who is president of Northland Pioneer College, aim to do their best to raise funds for the campaign this year.

In a press release, Steve Peru, United Way of Northern Arizona President and CEO, stated, "It is very appropriate to have these wonderful educators as our co-chairs during

this important anniversary year. Over the past 50 years, we have grown from an organization that was originally founded to fund Flagstaff charities to a convener with programs and initiatives throughout Coconino, Navajo and Apache counties."

United Way of Northern Arizona has 27 nonprofit partner agencies in the fields of education, health and income in Coconino, Navajo and Apache counties. A large part of the organizations \$1.7 million campaign goal comes from business and individuals.

The formal kickoff for the campaign was Sept. 7 during a luncheon at the Little America Hotel in Flagstaff. For more information about United Way of Northern Arizona, visit nazunitedway.org.

Left, Jenne Swathout, President of Northland Pioneer College, and CCC President Colleen A. Smith, PhD, kick off the United Way of Northern Arizona 2017 campaign.



Register Today for Spring Classes



Full-Time & Part-Time Faculty of the Year 2017-2018



Full-Time Faculty of the Year, Ken Myers

Flagstaff, Ariz. — He's spent his life in the construction trades, and he's got a warehouse of knowledge to share.

Luckily, Ken Myers, does share that knowledge as faculty in CCC's Sustainable Building Trades. His students have gone on record to show they appreciate that knowledge by nominating him as the 2017 Full-Time Faculty of the Year.

"Because it's a student-based award, it's one of the coolest things ever," Myers said. "It just means everything. It means to me that I'm doing something right."

Myers teaches six classes in the fall and six classes in the spring, which include Building Methods I and II, Blueprint Reading, Building the Human Environment, Innovative Building Materials, Concrete, Surveying, Green Building I, Intro to Green Building, Introduction to Solar Applications and Intro to Woodworking. He also runs the internship program for Construction Management as well as co-teaches the non-credit Certified Apartment Maintenance Technician program. He also orders all the supplies for the classes taught at the Fourth Street campus, and he conducts the maintenance and preparation on all the equipment used in the various classes.

Myers can also be found volunteering time outside of the classroom. He is on the board of directors for the Willow Bend Environmental Educational Center, he does work on the Coconino County Citizens Advisory Board for Construction, and he donates time to Sharon Manor, a transitional housing nonprofit for battered women.

Myers began with CCC in 2008 as part of the YouthBuild program, which helped disadvantaged students, age 17-24, learn the building trades. At the time, he worked for Housing Solutions of Northern Arizona, a partner in the program. He became part-time faculty in 2010, and turned full-time in 2011.

"I love it," Myers said. "My favorite thing out of all of it is seeing 17-year-old students working side-by-side with students in their 50s. I love that interaction."

Additionally, he said he enjoys watching the "light turn on" as the students begin understand what they are studying.

"It's such a great feeling," Myers said.

His mother, a receptionist for the Arizona State Carpenters Union, introduced him into the construction trades.

"She talked me into going into construction," Myers said.

He started out building box culverts and bridges — the heavy highway stuff. But eventually, he moved onto commercial and residential building projects. At the age of 23, he was handed his first superintendent job. He still does side jobs on weekends and the summers, but his love now is teaching.

"I love passing on the knowledge to younger people, and that construction is a good career opportunity."

It's a profession where one can go from digging a ditch to owning a company. He raised a family in the trade, where people work with their hands and end up with something tangible that they can drive by and see many years later and say, "I



Part-Time Faculty of the Year, Kristine Ketel

Flagstaff, Ariz. — For some students, she teaches the "scary" subjects: Public Speaking and Accounting.

That may be, but it didn't stop students, fellow faculty members and staff from selecting Kristine Ketel as the 2017 Part-Time Faculty of the Year at Coconino Community College.

Ketel teaches Communication and Business courses at CCC.

Among her classes are Introduction to Public Speaking, Advanced Public Speaking, Business Communications and Introduction to Accounting and Quickbooks.

"The thing I love most about teaching is the 'light bulb' moment, when they go from thinking, 'I can't do this' to realizing 'I am doing this,'" Ketel said. "I am deeply excited when I can help somebody do what they didn't think they could ... That lights me up inside."

Ketel added that she enjoys the classes that scare people — like accounting and public speaking — and taking the students to being comfortable and being able to master the subjects. Her intent is to make a nerve-wracking

subject fun for the students.

"I want to break down the fear," Ketel said. "I want to show it's a skill that can be learned and mastered. Public speaking is often so critical in life — even if the student doesn't think they're going to stand on stage."

Ketel calls her teaching process "interactive," and she considers herself more a coach than a lecturer.

"I like to push people past their comfort level to the edge of what they are capable of," Ketel said.

The win, to Ketel, is poignant as a part-time faculty member. She said that part-time faculty, often, have a difficult time finding a feeling of connection with an educational institution. It's nice to be recognized for your work and to feel a part of the institution.

Ketel knows a bit about business and communications disciplines. She started out in the private sector and has more than 25 years of business management and corporate training experience. She has a master's degree in liberal arts and a bachelor degree in communication. Her true love is communication, and teaching has always been something she's wanted to do.

In the private sector (software development, data analysis), she began teaching software workshops in 1993. When she moved to Flagstaff, she began teaching at CCC in the Career and Corporate Learning program. She would teach non-credit workshops in a variety of communication and tech topics.

In the spring of 2015, she began teaching part-time for the College, and she's honored to be the recipient of the Part-Time Faculty of the Year award.

"It carried more weight with me because it was student-initiated," Ketel said. "It was incredibly rewarding and flattering. It's an amazing honor to have your students, your peers and your administration recognize what you do and the impact you have." ☺

CCC receives Barringer Crater meteorite donation

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Around 50,000 years ago, a massive fireball hit the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona. A crater was formed—one kilometer wide and 750 feet deep. It left all sorts of debris in its path, including fragments of both rock and meteoritic material.

In 1902, engineer-geologist Daniel Barringer was intrigued by the crater and perceived it to be a plentiful mining location for both iron and nickel. It was later discovered his predictions were correct.

The Barringer Meteor Crater is a historical landmark well-known throughout the city and all over the world—and it's right here in Coconino County. CCC is now a proud owner of a piece of history surrounding the creation of Barringer Crater.

Kevin Mullins, a former faculty member for 10 years at Coconino Community College, requested for a meteorite to be donated to the college for students to observe.

"Before I moved [to Denver,

Colorado], I decided to take one last stab at getting a donation," Mullins said.

According to Mullins, it was a bit of a challenge to obtain a piece of the meteorite for the school, but he didn't stop trying.

Carleton Moore, Founding Director of the Meteorite Center at Arizona State University and the people at the Barringer Crater site east of Flagstaff were happy to oblige.

"I got in touch with Moore and he was very excited. Eventually, he sent what he wanted to donate and it was far more than I expected. Moore was an amazing find and I can't say how much I appreciate what he sent to the college," Mullins said.

Mullins explained his thought process and his passion for obtaining a sample.

"I taught [at CCC] part-time for a number of geology classes for many years. My goal was to improve the rock and meteorite collections," Mullins said.

"If you go down to the globe

display, we had many samples, but never a Meteor Crater meteorite."

Why is this crater so important to the community?

"[It's important because] it's the most famous crater in the world and it's in your county," Moore said. "When they asked for a [meteorite] sample to display, I picked out one of my eight or 10 meteorites and gave it to them. I was glad to help."

In addition to the meteorite, a small metal piece formed inside the meteorite was given as a sample as well. The inside of a meteorite can contain traces of silicon, iron, and nickel.

The meteorite will be displayed in a glass case at CCC's Lone Tree campus to be admired by those who decide to take a look.

Additionally, "Meteor impacts are a potential disaster. It's important to teach the students about that," said Kurt Yuengling, a current geology professor at CCC.

While they occur on average



CCC Geology Instructor Kurt Yuengling shows off CCC's newest gift.

every 6,000 years, meteors can cause serious damage to anything in its path.

"The Indian trader there distributed them [meteorites] to museums all over the world. There are many out there. I can't tell you off the top of my

head how many thousands of meteorites are out there," Moore said.

Like the meteorite addition to CCC, the Barringer Crater itself is available for people to view at their leisure. ☺

—Brittany Viar

Alum hits workforce debt free — thanks to scholarships



CCC Alum Adam Bradley appreciates the scholarship opportunities at CCC.

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Adam Bradley got married in 2010. He had a high school diploma, but a high school education didn't serve the goal he had: To work with computers.

"I was running into issues finding a job," Bradley added.

So, he decided to enroll at Coconino Community College in 2011, and now, a graduate of Northern Arizona University, he has reached his goal. He did it without going into debt, which he is grateful for, thanks to the help of several scholarships he received on his educational journey.

Before enrolling at CCC, Bradley hadn't been a very good high school student, so he had to catch up on math and English skills — all the while working as a server, a sandbag filler and a researcher. He then took general studies courses. Through the course of his studies, he excelled, received top grades and ultimately became a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society while at CCC.

"I originally didn't have any kind of plan to transition to NAU," Bradley said, adding that he expected to get an associate degree and then head out into the workforce. But, while his time at CCC was winding down, his advisor, who worked in the CCC2NAU program designed to help transition CCC students to the university, counseled him that he should transfer to the business program at NAU.

"I was worried about the cost," Bradley said. "NAU was even more expensive a place to study."

Just like he had done at CCC, Bradley began searching out and applying for scholarships that would help him study at NAU. He was successful, and his academic achievements were noticed as a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honors Society at NAU.

Now, he is a Business Analyst Associate at NAU's Office of Sponsored Projects. He works closely with management to help integrate data into the business model to help determine how software can support the

business process. The work fits his goals.

His desire to seek scholarships was based in fear.

"I got a lot of motivation to stay out of debt," he said. "But I wanted to learn."

He looked and asked for help.

"I realized, after receiving some scholarships, there are people at CCC and at NAU who help to find those opportunities and there are a lot of those opportunities out there," Bradley said. "But I had to put in the work."

He also said that he is grateful for the scholarships he received.

"I don't think I'd be where I am now," Bradley said. "The thought of taking out loans probably would have stopped me from going to school."

He and his wife had a son, who turned 1 on July 4. He can focus on supporting his family, instead of paying a lender.

Bradley encourages people considering higher education to explore scholarship opportunities. ☺

Agencies help CCC Veterans Center with remodel project

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Computers stand ready at desks. Large, soft sofas face a television screen. The kitchen waits to be of service, and staff members are at the ready to lend a helping hand.

It's a comfortable, safe place for veterans going back to college.

The Coconino Community College Veterans Center at the Lone Tree Campus began receiving a facelift in the spring semester, and work was completed before the beginning of the fall semester. CCC and local dignitaries participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly remodeled Veterans Center immediately following the CCC Foundation's Annual Meeting, Alumni and Awards Breakfast on Friday, Sept. 8.

Kevin Scholler is a U.S. Navy veteran and a CCC graduate on his way to Northern Arizona University. He works part-time at the Welcome Desk and uses the Veterans Center on occasion.

"The CCC Veterans Center has a welcoming atmosphere," Scholler said.

There is a bond, a brotherhood, in having been in the Armed Forces and serving the country, Scholler added.

"At the Veterans Center, it's a place you can open up," Scholler said. CCC serves between 100 and

110 veterans in the fall semester, said Bob Voytek, Director of Financial Aid and Veterans Services at CCC. The College serves about 160 veterans an academic year, and they would all, including dependents, be able to use the newly remodeled Veterans Center.

The decision to dedicate a space specifically for veterans was the idea of CCC President Colleen A. Smith, Voytek said.

President Smith said that members of Support Education and Employment for Vets (S.E.E.4Vets) approached her and said that if there were anything they could do to help veterans at CCC, they had grants to help.

"I thought this was exciting because veteran issues, particularly the return to school or to career, are such a priority to the College and the District Governing Board," Dr. Smith said. "Sometimes different groups of students have different needs, and we are aware of that."

"Veterans come to college with very different experiences," Voytek said.

Student veterans are more mature, have seen the world more than their traditional student counterparts. The veterans have a different perspective on life, and the Veterans Center is a place where they can communicate with others

who "get it," Voytek said. To "get it" is to understand being deployed and putting life at risk halfway around the world.

Initially, CCC's previous president, Dr. Leah Bornstein, dedicated the space for veterans, but the kitchen was also shared with staff and made the space difficult for veterans to have a secure and confidential environment, Voytek said. So, President Smith suggested devoting the entire space to veterans, and with the help of the grant from S.E.E.4Vets, CCC staff members were able to make a safe, comfortable and inviting place for veterans to congregate while on campus. The Home Depot Foundation, SoundDecision, Herron Interior Design, Inc., Classic Leather, Inc., and the CCC Facilities Staff all assisted in making the remodel of the Veterans Center possible.

"We were extremely fortunate to have S.E.E.4Vets offer to fund the vast majority of the remodel," Voytek said. "It allowed us to give the veterans something they needed."

There's a full kitchen, desks with computers to do school work, recliners, a television, free printing, and in the future, tutoring services and group study sessions will be



Graduate Kevin Scholler shares his appreciation for the new Veterans Center.

brought in as well.

Charli Hausam, Financial Aid and Veteran Advisor, said the veterans at CCC have been all smiles with the remodel.

"They're very happy and appreciative and feel like they're being recognized for the first time in a long time," Hausam said, adding that many colleges do not have Veterans Centers.

The Veterans Center helps CCC student veterans access community resources they need to be successful in their lives and in their college experiences, Hausam said. There's even a little food pantry to help

veterans who need a good meal to get them through the day.

Dr. Smith added that she appreciates the work of Voytek, Hausam and Rachel Edelstein, Alumni and Donor Relations Coordinator at CCC's Office of Institutional Advancement, to get the project to become a reality with the help of the Facilities Department.

Scholler, for one, is appreciative of the Veterans Center at CCC.

"I was blown away when I walked in," Scholler said. "It's nice to see the school cares enough to do something like this for veterans."

High schools students get leg up at CCC



Bailey Womble received her degree from CCC before she graduated high school.

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Bailey Womble was still a student at Coconino High School when she received her associate degree in Pre-Health Careers in May 2014. She received her high school diploma a month later.

Now, after graduating in May with a bachelor's degree in nursing from Northern Arizona University, Womble works as a registered nurse at Flagstaff Medical Center.

"I think I've really set myself up to be successful," Womble said. "All the hard work really did pay off."

Womble was enrolled in the Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry and Technology (CAVIAT) program which partners with Coconino Community College. CAVIAT focuses on Career and Technical Education paths for students, including Pre-Health, Emergency Medical Services, Business, Alternative Energy and Certified Nursing Assistant. The CAVIAT students attend classes at CCC to gain real-world experience, and they end up with an industry certification or a two-year college degree. The courses are free to students in the program.

High school students can also choose the Dual Enrollment program. In the Dual Enrollment (DE) program, CCC partners with Coconino County school districts to offer college credit for academic and occupational classes. DE allows the students to earn college and high school credit at the same time while at their high schools. The

DE students save money on tuition and books and finish college quicker. The CCC DE program is accredited with the Higher Learning Commission. Arts and Sciences (A&S) DE courses cost \$10 per credit hour to the students, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses are free for the students.

"I tell them, 'This is a phenomenal opportunity for you in high school,'" said Alexandra Purchase, Dual Enrollment and CAVIAT Program Manager at CCC. "It's about easing the transition from high school to college for students, so the students know what to expect."

The numbers bear out a successful transition: According to CCC statistics, students in the A&S Dual Enrollment courses had a success rate of 96 percent (grade C or better) during the 2016-17 academic year. CTE DE students fared nearly as well with a 94 percent success rate.

According to numbers from CCC, high school students countywide, the majority of them in FUSD, were enrolled in 635 A&S DE sections and 478 CTE DE sections in the 2015-16 academic year. That number increased to 757 A&S DE sections and 484 CTE DE sections taken in the 2016-17 academic year, which equated to about a 9 percent increase in students enrolled.

"Even if you're not planning on going to college, it's also about being career ready," Purchase said, adding that college credit on a resume is helpful in giving applicants an edge in

the job search.

CCC President Colleen A. Smith, PhD, stressed the partnership among CCC, FUSD and CAVIAT.

"It's a great partnership, and because of these partnerships, we are able to offer more to our students," Dr. Smith said. She added that Dual Enrollment students show greater retention rates once they finish high school, and CAVIAT students excel at entering the workforce fully equipped to be successful.

To the students or their parents who are nervous about starting on getting college courses out of the way while still in high school, Purchase said there's very little reason to be nervous. The students have access to all resources and student-support services available to regular CCC students. Class sizes are small, often unlike a four-year university. If students have enough time in their schedule, they might want to consider taking a college course. But, Purchase added, they must have the time for it. Grades received go on official college transcripts.

"It's a commitment," Purchase said. "But it's worth it."

Womble said she entered the CAVIAT program at CHS in 2012 because she wanted to get a head start on her college education. She added that she couldn't pass up the fact that all of the college credits would be free through CAVIAT.

She went to classes at CHS about four hours a day, and then she would head to CCC for another four to six hours of classes. She appreciated the smaller class sizes and the caring faculty.

"I got used to CCC and its flow," Womble said. "It wasn't super intimidating. It's an opportunity to see what college is like when you're still in high school."

At 21, Womble said she is preparing to begin her studies for a master's degree in nursing. She eventually wants to teach nursing. She added that she is not sure yet if she will remain in Flagstaff after her studies are complete. She loves to travel, and the thought of being a "traveling nurse" intrigues her.

"But I'm leaving that up to God," she said and smiled.

Onward!



CCC President Colleen A. Smith

Dear Friends,
I was recently asked how it is possible for Coconino Community College to survive with such limited resources. I have to be honest with myself and admit that it is tough. If you know the colleagues I have the honor of working with at the college on a daily basis, and if you become familiar with the stories of our students, you will have the answer. Through grit, determination, respect for the value of life-long learning to our society, and compassion for individuals and their life experiences, CCC makes a difference in the lives of people throughout Coconino County. How do we do it? Through partnerships with business and industry, preK-12 schools and other higher-education institutions, hard work, college employees taking on additional duties, and a philosophy of service, we continue onward with a commitment to our mission. That is a commitment to each and every one of you throughout our county. How will we continue to serve as a strong force making a positive impact on our communities? Through your support and partnerships.

I want to share with you a great experience I had at the CCC information booth we hosted at the county fair this year. (Thank you to Brian Harris and all of our colleagues for giving up their spare time during the three-day holiday to support the college! Words I am proud that I never hear at CCC — "that's not my job.") A retired couple approached our booth and talked with me about the value of a community college and how important it is to our community. I did not know them at the time, but I reached out to them. I am grateful that they took the time to come to my office on the Lone Tree Campus and share many wonderful ideas with me in support of CCC. These are the stories and friendships that keep us moving onward!

Thank you for taking the time to take a deeper look at what we are accomplishing and the opportunities we are bringing forward in service to the requests from our communities. We invite you to drop in for a visit, share your ideas with us, and let us answer questions you may have. Please keep an eye out for more information to come on several exciting initiatives:

- CCC Fourth Street Innovation Center—Your Neighborhood College
- The Higher Education Consortium on the CCC campus in Page
- Construction Trades, including the Apartment Maintenance Technician program
- New grants and funding sources
- Growing Partnerships—County and city government, CAVIAT, preK-12 schools and higher-education institutions, elected officials, nonprofits, business and industry

Thank you for your support of Coconino Community College. And now—Onward!!

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www.coconino.edu

CCC Adult Education gets \$1.3 million grant



Maggie Gil, a graduate of the Adult Education program, now attends CCC as a student.

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Maggie Gil came to Flagstaff from Colombia with her mother Margarita Uribe. Neither spoke English very well.

"I just knew 'hello,' like the very basics," Gil said, adding that she and her mother enrolled in the Adult Education program at Coconino Community College in the summer of 2015.

Now, with the help of the CCC Adult Education program, which recently received a three-year, \$1.3 million grant, Gil is enrolled in regular classes at CCC. She's preparing to embark on a journey that will end up, in a few years, Gil holding a bachelor's degree in her hand.

"I want to study general education because I want to be a teacher, so I think it

will help me to improve my English," she said. "That's the important part, to improve myself."

The Adult Education grant, funding for which comes from the state and the federal government, allocates CCC \$443,046 a year each of the three years. The funding is projected to serve approximately 275 students across the county. It represents an 18 percent increase in funding overall from the previous year and a 52 percent increase over annual base funding for adult education.

"It means we get to keep doing what we're doing and more," said Greg Cross, CCC Adult Education Program Director. "We are well positioned to make a difference in peoples' lives in Coconino County. We can do that by increasing basic literacy levels and connecting people with jobs and higher education through exemplary adult education services."

CCC has Adult Education sites in Flagstaff, Page and Tuba City, and all sites offer Adult Basic and Secondary Education. The Flagstaff site at Fourth Street also offers an English Language Acquisition for Adults program. The funding will also support two Integrated Education and Training programs in Flagstaff, which offer skills training to qualified students enrolled in the ABE and ELAA programs.

The fall sessions offer certification in Computer Information Systems. The spring sessions offer certification in Apartment Maintenance Technicians.

This semester, Gil is taking two classes — English 100 at the Fourth Street Innovation Center and Fundamentals of Speech Communication at the Lone Tree campus. Her focus is to start off slow and to improve her English by taking classes in general education.

Her ultimate goal is to teach science at the elementary school level. Gil added that she will spend some time at CCC, perhaps a year, possibly two. After that, she will transfer to NAU to complete her studies.

"I want to take everything slow, in my time, because I don't want to get stressed," she said.

She's nervous about attending her first college classes.

"It's my first time at college," she said. "I'm nervous, you know, because English is not my first language, but I think it will be good because my English is good enough to go to college."

For more information about the CCC Adult Education program and how to apply, visit <https://www.coconino.edu/adult-education>.

TRiO students take road trip to visit universities

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Their journey took them through three states over five days in May.

The purpose: Open up their horizons to the possibilities of education.

Eight Coconino Community College students took a tour of three universities and got a glimpse of the wider world during a field trip to Nevada, Utah and Colorado. They visited Fort Lewis College, Dixie State University and the University of Nevada Las Vegas. The trip was organized by CCC's TRiO Student Support Services.

"The trip was unbelievable, like a dream," said TRiO student Michael Wolbridge. "It felt like, 'What did I do to deserve this beautiful trip?'"

Wolbridge added: "It was a beautiful experience to be able to travel with a group of friends. When I got back, I was actually a little sad because I got used to this tight group."

Jessica Laessig, CCC's TRiO Project Director, said, "One of the main goals is to expose students to other colleges they may not have considered a possibility. It helps students from underprivileged backgrounds get this access."

She also said that the trip provided cultural opportunities as well. The field trip gave the students that chance to look beyond just Flagstaff and see what's out there.

"It let them dream big," Laessig said.

Becky Piñeda, TRiO Retention Specialist Sr., said that the students also visited Zion National Park, Monument Valley, two museums and even a Broadway show.

"Watching these students connect throughout this trip, it was amazing how quickly they connected," Piñeda said.

She added that it was also inspiring to watch the students expand their educational horizons and realize the possibilities to attain their goals.

Student Paul Bearchell, who is President of the CCC TRiO Club and a mentor in the TRiO Mentoring Program, said that his favorite part of the trip was building camaraderie with his fellow students.

"It really tightened that friendship bond that we had, and I think it was really enjoyable," Bearchell said. "We had fun the entire time. The team really bonded well."

For Wolbridge, who is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, of the colleges visited, UNLV appealed to him the most. He visited the psychology building (which he plans to major in) and he enjoyed the architecture, sports program and the gym facilities. Also, there's a great Marine Corps Ball in Vegas, he said with a smile.

"But they all had their major pluses," Wolbridge added.

He plans to apply.

"I'm going to try," he said. "But I have to

get my associate first."

His ultimate dream is to get a bachelor degree and, with hope, head onto graduate school to continue studying psychology.

Laessig said that more trips are planned for the future. Additionally, TRiO Student Support Services is planning Student Leadership Retreats and Summer Bridge activities for incoming freshmen.

The TRiO program is designed to help with student retention, transfer to a four-year

college and graduation by fostering a climate supportive of the success of low-income and first-generation college students and people with disabilities with academic need.

The trip, which covered all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses, was made possible with funds from a five-year, \$1 million grant to CCC from the U.S. Department of Education to support TRiO programs throughout the country.

Alec Bodemer contributed to this report.



Members of the CCC TRiO program take a field trip to several area universities to explore their education options after graduation.

Supporters pack house for GED ceremony

Flagstaff, Ariz. — All of them, for one reason or another, did not complete high school. Their challenges were as unique as they are, but they managed to overcome them, and now, they can all say that they successfully completed the requirements for a high-school education. They received their GEDs.

Ten people were recognized on June 1 during a GED Recognition Ceremony at Coconino Community College's Fourth Street Campus. The event marked the 25th consecutive GED ceremony at CCC. More than 100 family and friends packed the auditorium where the ceremony was being held to show their support.

Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans gave the keynote address. She told the new graduates that she also received her GED. She lived in Flagstaff's public housing with her twin brother and her single mother.

"It was not easy for us," Evans said, facing the graduates.

After she received her GED, Evans started teaching others to get their GEDs. She and her brother both continued their education. Her brother's now a physician, and she's the first female African American mayor of Flagstaff.

She challenged the graduates not to be finished with their education.

"Get in the habit of graduating," Evans said. "Make this your first step ... Where do you go from here? Anywhere you want to. It's up to you."

She also said, "This education, you've earned. That's yours. Nobody can take it from you."

CCC President Colleen A. Smith, PhD, encouraged the new graduates to be mentors to others, to help them succeed in life.

"You've reached a great and wonderful landmark, and you should be extremely proud,"

President Smith said.

Debra Goldenstein, CCC Adult Education Instructor, said that, this year, 125 students took at least one of the four tests required to receive a GED. Of those students, 60 students passed all sections, which was nearly twice as many as the year before, despite new, more stringent requirements instituted in 2014.

"You are now more prepared than ever to face your future," Goldenstein told the graduates.

Prior to the conferring certificates to the graduates, eight students in the CCC Adult

Education program were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society.

Two of the graduates took the opportunity to thank their families when they were given a chance to speak to the audience. Greg Cross, CCC's Adult Education Director, handed each of the graduates a rose and a certificate. At the end of the ceremony, the new graduates moved their cap tassels to the left to signify their accomplishment.

The event was rounded off with a reception, complete with cake congratulating the new graduates.



Ten happy students celebrate receiving their General Education Development certification completion during a ceremony at the Fourth Street Innovation Center in June.

FOOD TRUCK From Page 1

CCC staff took door hangers into the nearby neighborhoods in order to share information about CCC and how the College is still here to provide for the workforce and educational needs of CCC's neighbors.

Also at the Fourth Street Innovation Center, a new lineup of courses will fill the campus roster to help students working on associate degrees meet many of the General Education criteria, including Composition, Math, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Biological Sciences and so much more.

Veronica Hipolito, Dean of Student Development and Community Engagement, rode lead on getting Food Truck Friday together. She expressed her appreciation and thanks to all CCC employees and volunteers involved:

"I thought the event was a great success! It gave us an opportunity to build community with our neighbors and remind folks that we are here to serve," Hipolito stated. "I appreciate your assistance with planning, marketing, recruiting food trucks, hosting tables, answering financial aid and registration questions, meeting guests, setting up and tearing down, getting permits AND waving signs on the sidewalk. We could not have done it without you!"

More events are planned in the future!



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