

Mobile Vet Center comes to CCC



Christopher Muse, Mobile Outreach Coordinator, brings the Mobile Vet Center to the CCC Lone Tree campus several times a year.

Flagstaff, Ariz. — What do you do when veterans live in rural parts of the state and have a tough time getting to the services they need?

You bring the services to them. The Mobile Vet Center visited the Coconino Community College Lone Tree Campus on Thursday, Dec. 8 as part of a cooperative effort between the College and the U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs.

"We let veterans know of various benefits that they are entitled to," said Christopher Muse, a Vet Center Outreach Coordinator.

The Vet Center helps veterans at CCC and across northern Arizona connect with health care, disability services and compensation, educational benefits, vocational rehabilitation, home loans and

more. Services include: individual counseling, group counseling, sexual trauma counseling, bereavement counseling, marital and family counseling, alcohol counseling, benefits assistance and referral, employment counseling and referral, community education, referral to community agencies, and information regarding local and national veteran organizations and projects.

According to information from the Vet Center, the community-based program was established by Congress in 1979 as part of the VA to help veterans who were experiencing problems readjusting to civilian life. The purpose of the Vet Center is to help veterans navigate the complex VA system

to get the services they need to readjust. Muse said there are now 300 Vet Centers across the United States, Guam, the Philippines, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Arizona has seven Vet Centers, with two outstations on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. There are 83 Mobile Vet Centers across the country.

The Mobile Vet Center that serves Flagstaff is based out of Prescott, Muse said. The recreational vehicle that houses the Mobile Vet Center also travels to Ash Fork, Seligman, Tuba City, Sedona, Page, Cottonwood and Clarkdale — anywhere in northern Arizona where veterans don't have

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CCC student stresses importance of scholarships to her success



CCC student Stacy Camp applied for and received scholarships through the CCC Foundation to help support her return to college for a Nursing degree.

Flagstaff, Ariz. —

Coconino Community College Nursing student Stacy Camp was past 40 when she decided to return to school part time in 2011.

She had been a stay-at-home mom who home schooled her five children and took care of a very ill son. When she returned to college, eventually switching to full-time, she applied for and received scholarships through the CCC Foundation.

"They have been a major blessing," Camp said. "Going back to school without the funding would have been difficult."

The scholarship season for the 2017-18 academic has begun and runs through late March.

In her career at CCC, Camp has received several scholarships, including the CCC Foundation President's Award, Jason Kurtz Nursing scholarship, a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Nursing scholarship and a Dougherty Foundation scholarship. The scholarships support her tuition and books. Few students realize how difficult it is to return to school after being away from it for so long, while raising children and including the other costs involved with an education.

Camp listed another benefit: The scholarships have raised the standards of what's acceptable for her children. If she can go to school and have an exciting time, be a mom, be a wife and work part-time as a Certified

Nursing Assistant at the Peaks Senior Assisted Living Center, her children can get straight A's. Her children have been gifted with the drive to excel in college because they've watched their mom do it.

"That example of how to persevere has been good for them," Camp said.

Now, she needs to balance three more semesters of school and children and she will be done with her studies. Her plan is to work in Flagstaff at a local doctor's office, where she has already spent time. She hopes to go into surgery, or work in school nursing. Eventually, she would like to go on medical missions internationally with her church.

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CCC brings Adult Education to Havasupai

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Coconino Community College will begin offering Adult Education (AE) courses to the Havasupai Tribe in the Grand Canyon so tribal members can receive GEDs.

The CCC District Governing Board unanimously approved an agreement with the tribe Wednesday, Sept. 28, during their regular meeting. The agreement specifies that CCC will offer the Havasupai Tribe adult education instruction services via computer at the Head Start facility in the remote Supai Village deep in the Grand Canyon.

"This was a process five years in the making," said Greg Cross, CCC Adult Education Program Director. "We're ready to go forward with it."

"This was a process five years in the making. We're ready to go forward with it."

Greg Cross
Adult Education
Program Director

Cross added that the director of the Head Start program for the tribe noticed that many of the parents of the children being brought to the Head Start site didn't have a high school education and needed it.

According to the agreement, the tribe will be responsible for recruiting and referring eligible students to the program and will cover the cost of student fees. The tribe will also pay the expenses of one distance learning instructor to make two annual visits to the Head Start site, which hosts CCC distance learning computer equipment. CCC will be responsible for providing AE distance learning services year-round, including assessments and testing, and it will conduct annual GED graduation and reception ceremonies in Flagstaff.

The agreement lasts for one year and may be extended for additional one-year terms if both parties agree to do so.

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

Community partnership trains detention officers

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Paul Baze and Tony Innerbichler stand in a hallway of the Coconino County Detention Facility.

Doors clang shut. Keys and chains rattle. Inmates move with detention officers to other parts of the jail.

Baze and Innerbichler are detention officers, and both went through a Basic Detention Academy, made possible through a partnership with the Coconino County Sheriff's Office and Coconino Community College. The program is designed to meet Arizona Detention Association standards, and it provides entry-level training to detention officer staff.

Baze, a sergeant, said the sheriff's office and CCC have been in partnership to offer the academy for more than 10 years. Students admitted to the academy must be hired or recommended by an approved law enforcement agency. Baze, himself, graduated from the Basic Detention Academy through CCC more than eight years ago.

"I really enjoyed the detention academy," Baze said, adding that although the academy was academics-based (theory and law), the students also learned defensive tactics and team building and received physical training.

About 90 percent of the detention officers working at the Coconino County Detention Facility went through the Basic Detention Academy, Baze said. The program is worth 13 credits, which helped Baze graduate a full semester early in completing his bachelor's degree at Northern Arizona University. Baze added that the course lasts six weeks, and all classes are taught by staff at the jail. Typically, 10 students go through the academy at a time, and the academy is offered once in the fall and once in the spring.

"We just can't hire enough people," Baze said.



Anthony Innerbichler and Paul Baze, graduates of the Basic Detention Academy offered in partnership with CCC, work at the county jail.

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Program eases transition to NAU



CCC2NAU Manager Robin Long (right) talks with a student about the program.

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Making a seamless transition from Coconino Community College to Northern Arizona University is the goal for the program.

The CCC2NAU program began in 2008 when the presidents of both CCC and NAU envisioned a scholastic pipeline between both institutions that would help students receive a bachelor's degree.

The program allows students to receive credit through courses at CCC that directly count toward their intended major at NAU. The program's background supports the theory that students who feel more integrated into the university while still attending college are more likely to transition to the university and complete a degree.

"Since starting here I have seen the program grow professionally and exponentially in size," said Robin Long, Manager of CCC2NAU.

Long has been a part of the program since the beginning. She worked in advising at NAU for 18 years and is now in her sixth year at CCC as the program's manager.

The program has experienced a steady increase in participants since being founded.

To date, the program has served more than 2,600 students. More than 1,800 students plan to transition from CCC to NAU in the next few years.

The program's backbone is comprised of seven staff members, which include five full-time advisors, one part-time advisor and a part-time administrative

assistant. Each member is cross-trained in advising for both institutions in order to ensure that students are meeting academic requirements.

"Having advisors that are trained by both schools really helps out a lot with all of the questions you have," said Kim Dalton, CCC2NAU student. "Scheduling is smooth and the advisors are able to answer every question no matter what school it's about."

The program offers 70 different pathways that align with the most requested NAU majors. Pathways are degree plans created by staff that assist students in completing 100 and 200 level courses at CCC.

Each student has a required advising appointment, where their individualized degree plan is created based upon classes that meet prerequisites for the student's intended major at NAU.

Students with majors that do not fall under the different pathways receive a pathway specifically designed for them using the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science in General Studies.

The advising team works to make the best experience possible for the students who begin to transition. Before students can apply to the program, they are required to attend an information session that outlines the program and what it has to offer.

The program is a way in which students can feel a part of a university as they attend a community college. Attending athletic events, joining student

clubs, purchasing recreation services and even enrolling part-time are just a few of the many ways students can connect to NAU while they are enrolled at CCC.

"My advisors helped me a lot in joining NAU's ROTC program and recreational sports teams," said Eli Perlberg, CCC2NAU student and Biomedical Engineering major. "Being able to join the clubs helped advance my college career not just as a student, but in participating in other programs as well." At the end of their journey at CCC, students are required to attend a Transition to NAU Workshop. Students meet the NAU advisor for their major, learn about transitioning to NAU from a peer and receive an early junior-level advising appointment.

"The workshop was beyond helpful and made the transferring process a lot easier," said Trianna Rosales, CCC2NAU student. "Having a step-by-step process eased my mind."

CCC2NAU earned a "Program of the Year" award in 2012 from the National Academic Advising Association. The partnership has also sparked the creation of twenty other 2NAU programs throughout the state.

"Seeing people grow and reach milestones is very rewarding," Long said. CCC2NAU program participation is expected to increase in the coming years.

— Ben Molchon

CCC2NAU serves largest cohort ever

The award-winning Coconino Community College university transition program, CCC2NAU, has had its largest cohort since the program began in 2008.

According to information from Northern Arizona University, 427 CCC students joined the CCC2NAU program for the Fall 2016 term. That is up from 390 in Fall 2015 and 401 in Fall 2014. As of Fall 2016, 322 students in the program have graduated from NAU with a baccalaureate.

"It's so rewarding to work in CCC2NAU and see how it has grown from just an idea to a strong, robust program," said Robin Long, CCC2NAU Manager. "The pipeline is solid. Whenever I tell people I meet what I do for a living, they say, 'Oh, yes. I have heard of CCC2NAU.'"

CCC2NAU has become a state and national model for seamlessly transitioning community college students to a four-year university. The program has served more than 2,600 students, compared to a starting cohort of 15 in 2008. The CCC2NAU program provides an innovative way to smooth a student's path toward a bachelor's degree with tailored advisement and institutional collaboration, including access to amenities at NAU. The CCC2NAU program is based on the theory that students who feel more integrated into the university while still attending community college are more likely to transition to the university and complete a four-year degree.

"Students tell us what they value the most is meeting with cross-trained advisors who know degree requirements at both institutions. It takes the guesswork out of selecting classes. And, of course, they always mention that the affordable tuition at the community college is a big draw," Long said.

Students interested in applying to CCC2NAU should apply to both CCC and NAU by going to nau.edu/ccc2nau. There is no application fee. All first-time students must attend a mandatory information session and meet with a CCC2NAU advisor to map out an academic plan. Call 928.226.4257.

There are now 21 2NAU programs around the state, but CCC2NAU was the first.

CCC alum finds calling, pursues career in education

Flagstaff, Ariz.—

Enriching children's lives became her calling. Coconino Community College alum Melissa Klemp began attending the College because she wanted to achieve her goal of getting a degree and pursuing a career in education.

"It was a personal goal, and I wanted to show myself and my loved ones that I could get a college degree," Klemp said. "I come from a single-parent household and am the first in my family to graduate college."

Klemp started her college journey in 2002 with a major in criminal justice at CCC. After much consideration, she decided that pursuing a degree in education would better suit her. After completing her general studies at CCC as a CCC2NAU student, Klemp attended NAU and graduated in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Learning Pedagogy, with an emphasis in Criminal Justice.

"While I was pursuing my Criminal Justice degree, my focus was on rehabilitation," Klemp said. "And that is what pushed me more toward education and enriching children's lives — so they do not end up in a correctional facility or in trouble

as a juvenile or as an adult."

Currently, she is the assistant coordinator for the Families & Communities Teaming for Students (FACTS) program. The FACTS program is a public service organization that serves all 10 elementary schools in Flagstaff, including Leupp. The program works to help parents who are in need of scholarships to fund childcare. Among the institutions and programs that Klemp works with are the Department of Economic Security, NAU and CCC's Passages program. She travels throughout the 10 schools of the Flagstaff Unified School District, where she conducts inspections and helps out as needed.

Klemp has worked with the FACTS program for the past 10 years. She loves her job because it gives her the feeling of making a difference and giving back to the community.

There were many aspects about taking classes at CCC that Klemp enjoyed. The main draw of attending college at CCC was how affordable classes were and continue to be. All of the classes that she enrolled in were interesting and engaging, and her anthropology courses were especially intriguing, Klemp said. Other aspects of the college that she enjoyed were the varying

had aspirations of being a deputy on patrol, and he saw being a detention officer as a good way to get his foot in the door at the Sheriff's Office so he could get experience.

"I wanted to learn how to talk to people not having a good day," Innerbichler said. "If you see me, you're probably having one of your worst days."

In the academy and as a detention officer, Innerbichler has learned to be calm and firm in the face of anger, and empathetic in the face of sadness. He's been working at the jail for nearly nine years.

"One thing I didn't expect was the variety of things you can do," Innerbichler said, adding that he has served as a classification officer who identifies risk of inmates, a floor



CCC alum Melissa Klemp sits in her office at Flagstaff Unified School District.

demographics at CCC, the age range of students and teachers, and the smaller class sizes.

"What really helped me were the smaller class sizes," Klemp said. "They gave students the opportunity to have more of a one-on-one experience with the teachers."

Klemp was able to achieve her goals in pursuing a career in higher education with the help from the CCC2NAU program. She said she is delighted to be a part of CCC

family and appreciates the quality of the education she received from CCC and the path that paved her way to success.

Klemp wholeheartedly recommends CCC to people considering college.

"I would say that starting at a community college is definitely worth it, and it's never too late to pursue a career," she said.

— Mark Hanson

DETENTION From Page 1

Baze currently serves as the Detention Support Services sergeant, who manages the laundry, inmate classifications, commissary and the medical office.

"When I started, I wanted to be a patrol officer," Baze said. "But I enjoyed working with the people here."

He heard about a job at the jail from his friend, Innerbichler, who is a Detention Officer 2 at the jail.

"I said, 'We're always looking for people at the jail. You should apply.'" Innerbichler said.

Innerbichler had already gone through the Basic Detention Academy. He, like Baze,

officer on day shifts and graveyard shifts, a housing and intake officer and a court officer who transports inmates to court dates.

Innerbichler enjoys the work for two reasons: First, he appreciates the bond among his fellow detention officers.

"It provides a sense of comradery with others who go through difficult situations together," Innerbichler said.

Second, some of the inmates who come into the jail surprise him.

"I enjoy it because there are some individuals who will thank you for your work," Innerbichler said, adding that even when people are at their lowest point, they can realize that their lives are not over and there is a coming back from mistakes.

Baze and Innerbichler recommend the job, but they caution that people who go into the field need to be prepared.

"There are tough things to see, and your mettle will be tested," Innerbichler said. "You will have to expect these things. And people will not be grateful to you for doing your job. People will vilify you for doing your job."

But, in the end, the satisfaction that he's making a difference in people's lives and to a community make the job well worth it, Innerbichler was quick to add.

For more information about the Basic Detention Academy, visit <http://www.coconino.az.gov/index.aspx?NID=329>

Palette to Palate 2017 set for April 28 after banner year

Flagstaff, Ariz. — The funds raised purchased a pugmill that makes clay smooth and consistent, and the funds helped buy a badly needed new kiln to fire pottery. New track lights and shades grace the art room, and scholarships support student success in the Fine Arts Department.

For the last 15 years, the Palette to Palate event has been dedicated to raising funds for the Coconino Community College Fine Arts Department. Each year, the event has successfully raised funds and has continued to grow in popularity, resulting in the best year to date last year — to the tune of \$15,000.

2017 Palette to Palate promises to be just as successful.

Palette to Palate is a mixture of great food and great art. More than a dozen local restaurants compete for the top spots by featuring some of their finest hors d'oeuvres, main dishes and desserts while the artwork of local artists and CCC students is auctioned off to the highest bidder. The guests at the event are

also treated to fine entertainment by local performers.

"This could be the best year ever," said CCC's Marketing and Events Coordinator Brian Harris. "I'm really looking forward to attending. CCC Dance Instructor Robert Corbin will introduce specially choreographed dance performances showcasing his FALA students, and Chase Coleman will perform with the FALA Jazz Band."

Alan Petersen, Fine Arts Instructor, said, "For a school our size, with our budget conditions, it allows us to offer a high-quality experience for our students."

The equipment purchases provide students with a stronger learning experience, Petersen added. Additionally, the funds support a variety of field trips to art venues throughout the state, and sometimes, even abroad.

Finally, the Fine Arts Department awards two students each academic year with \$1,500 scholarships each to help them afford their studies at CCC.

"People tell me it's one of

the nicest fundraising events," Petersen said of Palette to Palate. "It's created a tradition people look forward to and express enjoyment by supporting the department."

Last year, the following restaurants reserved tables: Main Street Catering, Artisan's Kitchen, Satchmo's, SoSoBa — The Nonstop Noodle Shop, Little America Restaurant, DoubleTree by Hilton Sakura Sushi & Teppanyaki, Simply Delicious/Café Daily Fare, Pita Jungle, Josephine's Modern American Bistro, Cottage Place, The Sweet Shoppe & Nut House, Southwest Foodservice Excellence, Zenith Steakhouse at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort and Plated Projects: Buster's, Fieldhouse Chicken & Waffles, The Mayor, Oakmont and Taverna.

Mother Road Brewing Company provided locally brewed craft beers, and The Commerce provided the wine. Campus Coffee Bean provided coffee and tea, and Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Flagstaff



Palette to Palate attendees get a good look at one of the paintings up for auction during the 2016 event at CCC's Lone Tree campus.

provided refreshments, and Sutcliffe Floral served as the floral sponsor.

Findlay Toyota of Flagstaff helped make Palette to Palate possible, in part, as the patron sponsor.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Friday, April 28, in the CCC Lone Tree Campus Commons, 2800 S. Lone Tree Road, in Flagstaff. Ticket prices are \$40

for individual admission, \$70 for couples, and \$30 for individual CCC students, alumni, faculty and staff. To purchase Palette to Palate tickets online, visit www.coconinofoundation.org.

For more details, please contact Marketing and Events Coordinator Brian Harris at brian.harris@coconino.edu, or call (928) 226-4312.

Students getting job skills and a GED at the same time

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Shawn Ross quit high school at 17.

"I became a dad," he said, smiling. "I had to pay for diapers."

So he went to work, and even without a high school diploma, he received certification in Bioquell bio-decontamination equipment and services and landed a good job at Flagstaff Medical Center. Yet, his failure to get a high school diploma haunted him.

"Having that little piece of paper opens a lot of doors," Ross said.

So, at the age of 42, he went to Coconino Community College to ask questions about the Adult Education program. While there, he learned of a program that would help him not only get his GED, but would also help him get certified in computer repair and maintenance at little or no cost.

Ross and seven other GED students are part of the CCC Integrated Basic Education

Training, or I-BEST, program, said Greg Cross, CCC's Adult Education Program Director.

"It's a national model," Cross said, adding that I-BEST allows students to simultaneously take college courses for skills training while satisfying the basic-education requirements for a GED. The program is modeled after those developed in Washington state.

According to information from the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, "in an I-BEST program, two instructors are paired in the classroom — one to teach professional/technical or academic content; the other to teach basic skills in reading, math, writing or English language — so students can move through school and into jobs faster."

The goal is to get people industry-ready in a particular field — in this case, computer maintenance and repair.

Bill Branch, CCC instructor in Computer Information Systems in charge of the professional/technical component, said that the delivery of the curriculum will be the easy part.

"I think, more than anything else, they learn confidence," Branch said, adding that helping the students realize their worth is immeasurable. "That's what makes my day."

While learning the basics of the requirements to successfully receive GEDs, the students will gain skills on fixing computers, mobile phones, tablets and printers, Branch said. They will learn to access wireless networks, learn critical thinking skills and develop strategies for deploying hardware throughout company departments. All the training is geared to preparing students to test for A-Plus certification and become computer technicians.

The I-BEST program is in its second iteration, Cross said. The first use of the program was within the health sciences to give Adult Education students access to certification in the healthcare field. The program cost is about \$1,000 per student, funded with the help of Arizona's Adult Education Services, which means that the program will be able to train 22 students this fiscal year.

Funding that supports the program is offered through the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act, said Donovan Wiedmann, CCC's Adult Education Transitions Specialist, who is in charge of the basic skills component of the program. Several organizations in the county partner to offer a system of workforce development, including CCC, the Coconino County Career Center and Goodwill Industries of Northern Arizona.

Adult Education students face "multiple

barriers" in completing an education, including family and employment commitments, Wiedmann said. Along the entire journey, the students will be assisted with college and career advising.

"The idea is for them to come into post-secondary education and get multiple entry and exit points," Wiedmann said, adding that, often, non-traditional students returning to school need to get out into the workforce immediately and must achieve their educational goals a piece at a time.

Student Brittany Perkins has three children at home and wanted to go back to school to broaden her horizon.

"I want to make a better future for all of us," she said.

She added that she'd always been tech-savvy, so when she heard of the I-BEST program, she jumped on the opportunity.

"It's a hard class, but I think it's a good field to be interested in," Perkins said. "Who would pass it up?"

Her hope is to get a well-paying job to support her children and herself. She said she also wants to continue her education and go to university. She's been talking with an advisor, and she's knowledgeable in writing, nutrition and exercise. She has a whole host of possibilities now open to her.

"Everything happens for a reason," Perkins said. "We'll see where this goes."

Ross said that the training has been inspiring, and the staff and faculty have been helpful.

"It was a really great experience," Ross said. "It's a great first step to being in college, too. Of course, when you're shown the light, you want more of it, you know?"

For more information on the CCC Adult Education program, visit <https://www.coconino.edu/adult-education>, or call (928) 526-7639.



From left to right: Donovan Wiedmann, Adult Education Transitions Specialist, Shawn Ross, Bill Branch, CCC instructor in Computer Information Systems, Brittany Perkins, and Greg Cross, Adult Education Program Director stand in a computer lab at CCC's Fourth Street Campus.

Who are the Community College's Partners?



AND MANY MORE...

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CCC grad proves to son it's never too late for degree

Flagstaff, Ariz. —

Coconino Community College graduate Annie Brewer wanted to prove to herself and to her son that it is never too late to go back to school and get a degree.

"I wanted to show my 3-year-old son that it doesn't matter where you're at in life, school is always important," Brewer said. "Always do your best, even if you have to take a year or two off like I did. Going back and finishing is important and having a degree and proving to yourself that you can do it."

It was a long and winding road for Brewer to open her own business in Flagstaff. Her store opened in April 2014, and she worked 60 to 70 hours a week. All the while, she attended classes at CCC and raised her son Ryder.

Brewer majored in General Studies at CCC and graduated in 2016. While attending CCC, Brewer's favorite courses were Personality Development and Philosophy. She enjoyed her Philosophy class the most because she was from a small community in Mississippi with people who all had similar views. For Brewer, it was refreshing and exciting to come to a community like CCC where everyone had different views and opinions about the world.

There were many benefits of taking classes at CCC that Brewer enjoyed. The class sizes made it so that everyone's questions could be answered, and there was always enough class time. The variety of ages of the students gave Brewer the opportunity to not only learn from her teachers but from her classmates as well. Being able to participate in classes with students of varying ages gave Brewer a fuller understanding of the Flagstaff community.

"My teachers wanted to get to know me and hear my stories and my views," Brewer said. "Teachers at CCC



Annie Brewer, CCC alum and store owner of 22 Leroux T-shirt gift shop, stands behind a display of the shirts she sells.

really seemed to listen to what I had to say and made me feel like they cared about my education and success."

After graduating from CCC, Brewer now works full-time as a store owner — the 22 Leroux, T-shirt gift shop, located in historical downtown Flagstaff. The store sells T-shirts from Flagstaff, The Grand Canyon and the famed Mother Road, Route 66. The store offers a variety of gifts, T-shirts and other clothing apparel.

Brewer's future goals are to take over her aunt's wholesale business. She added that she hopes to

take over the clothing distribution sales of shirts across the southwest regions of the United States.

CCC gave Brewer the opportunity to finish her education and to prove to herself and to her son that it is never too late to go to college. Finishing school is always an option, no matter where you are at in life and can pave a way to success, she said.

— Mark Hanson

Nine CCC students receive payroll certifications

Flagstaff, Ariz. — Jacob Gonzales smiled broadly as he made his way to the front of the banquet room to be recognized for his achievement.

He, along with eight other people, completed the certification requirements to be payroll professionals after completing a semester-long class at Coconino Community College. All nine people were honored during a banquet in late October at the DoubleTree Inn in Flagstaff.

"This is the most we've had take the exam at one time and pass at one sitting," said Michael Casey, an accountant and instructor at CCC. "So we want to recognize the achievements of the students."

Eight students took the exam for Fundamental Payroll Certification, which does not require professional experience in the field, Casey said. One student took the exam to be a Certified Payroll Professional, which does require professional experience in the field.

Casey added that by the students taking the exams, they earned the designations of FPC or CPP after their names. The designations help the students be more marketable for getting jobs, and the certification is worth college credits — eight credits for the FPC certification, and 10 credits for the CPP certification.

Gonzales is set to graduate from Coconino Community College in May with an associate's degree in Business. As a CCC2NAU student, he plans to transition to Northern Arizona University in the fall to work toward a bachelor's degree in Accountancy.

"I'm going to be an accountant," Gonzales said, "and payroll's a big part of it."



Nine CCC students were honored and received National Payroll Certification during a banquet on Oct. 20 at the DoubleTree Inn in Flagstaff.

All nine of the students were enrolled at CCC in ACC 298, the National Payroll Certification class during the summer semester, Casey said. The students learned about benefits, human resources systems, management, accounting and more. After the semester, the students continued to meet in a study group to continue practicing questions for the exam, which is a nationally recognized certification through the American Payroll Association.

Former CCC student Ben Underhill helped coordinate the study group with Casey. Underhill graduated from CCC last May with an associate's degree in Business, and he currently takes classes at NAU to pursue a bachelor's degree in Finance. He passed the FPC exam.

"I thought the certification could help me land a job, and it looks really good on

a résumé," Underhill said, adding that he's hopeful to land a job in the payroll department at NAU while he works on his studies.

NAU student MacKenzie Lozano, who is studying business economics, took the class at CCC for professional development.

"I work in an accounting office, and it pushes me farther into that line of work," she said. "The class prepared me well for the exam. Mike made sure every single person understood the content."

She took the class at CCC with her mother Shannon, who first took the test in 2008.

"I take the class for recertification hours," Shannon said. "I take it whenever it's offered."

Shannon and MacKenzie said they enjoyed taking the class and studying with

each other.

"It was nice to be able to ask her questions," MacKenzie said.

Shannon said, "And it was fun remembering how to do everything by hand."

Cheryl Brothers is the Payroll Manager at NAU, and she was the student who took the CPP exam. The certification is typically required for payroll management positions, and she eyed it to help enhance her professional career.

"I had been looking at it for some time," Brothers said, adding that she has been working in the payroll field for 20 years. "Normally, it is very expensive, but I got it for the cost of a three-credit class that NAU will reimburse me for ... It didn't make sense not to take it."

The class was critically helpful, Brothers added.

"I went through the class," she said to Casey during the banquet, "and you really eliminated most of my fears."

Gonzales echoed Brothers' sentiment.

"Mike was always available and made sure everybody was ready and able to execute on exam day," Gonzales said.

The other students who passed the exam were: Elizabeth Zancucchi, Uriah McCassalin, Andrea Barrantes and Matthew Garcia.

Dr. Dudley Gardner, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Ed Knecht, Economics Instructor, handed out the certificates. During the proceedings, Casey choked up a bit and told the nine new certificate holders: "I congratulate all of you for being payroll professionals."

For more information about CCC and the degrees and certificates offered, visit www.coconino.edu.

VETERANS From Page 1

access to complete services.

"We get to areas that don't have full Vet Centers," Muse said. "We can bring all the services to the veterans, rather than have them go to multiple locations."

While CCC serves about 200 veterans during a given school year, the Mobile Vet Center has "thousands" of contacts a year, Muse estimated.

"We focus anywhere there's going to be veterans," Muse added. In addition to stopping at CCC several times a year, the Mobile Vet Center also makes appearances at Northern Arizona University as well as events in northern Arizona, like parades and the annual Stand Down in Flagstaff. The Stand Down attracts hundreds of veterans each year that it is held.

To receive help, veterans need not have been deployed to a war zone. The Vet Center helps all veterans, Muse said.

"We want to let them know that no veteran is going to be left behind," Muse said.

For more information about the Vet Center, visit www.vetcenter.va.org.

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"We'll wait and see," she said, smiling.

Her motivation to be a nurse:

Her oldest son, who is 23, has been sick most of his life. He was put on dialysis when he was 9 days old. He's undergone kidney transplants, and he has had brain bleeds, cancer, and seizures.

What does she enjoy the most about the profession of nursing? She gets to watch people get better, to improve after being sick or injured.

"It's so cool to do what I can to make someone's life pleasant and more comfortable," Camp said. "That is so exciting — to be able to make people more comfortable so they can heal and get home."

And the help a nurse can offer doesn't always need to be complicated things. Little things, like listening, often helps, too. Listening to the patient is key, Camp said. It helps establish trust in how to approach them, how to hold them, how to move them and how to help them heal. There's

a dignity that should be afforded patients who are stripped down to nothing, unable to do what they want.

"It's been really rewarding," Camp said.

She is scheduled to graduate from the Nursing program in May 2018.

She already has a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education, which she received from NAU in 1990.

Camp stressed that she did not want to go into debt to attend college, and she doesn't want that for her children either. She currently has three children in college. One son, Matthew, who was a CAVIAT student in high school, is now at CCC studying business. He also received the Larry Goltz Memorial Accounting Scholarship to cover the costs of his education. In May, he transfers to Northern Arizona University.

Matthew said, "It was a fantastic surprise to hear that I had been chosen to be given this scholarship. It is also a great financial break because not only do I have less out-of-pocket to pay for, I can also register for

classes way ahead of time without paying for it all at the same time."

Matthew said his future plans are to work for a company to get experience before starting a business of his own.

Camp and her son said that they recommend students apply for scholarships.

Matthew said, "Why not? A scholarship is a scholarship. Why not apply for as many as you can? If the school that you attend can offer you the opportunity for some financial help, it makes studying much less stressful, especially for the students who pay their own way to attend school."

Camp said, "I think a lot of people are intimidated by the essay. But it's free money. You've just got to get over it and do it. Just do it."

She added that it is very motivational to know somebody is supporting you through your education.

"It's very encouraging," Camp said.

For more information about scholarships available through the CCC Foundation, visit <http://www.coconinofoundation.org>.