

NOVEMBER 2025

Comet Chronicles



Watch the video newsletter!



College News

\$100 Million Capital Construction Bond

The votes are in and voters have approved Coconino Community College's \$100 million capital construction bond!

This means CCC can begin planning major capital construction projects in Flagstaff, Page, and Williams. These projects will expand access to education, modernize facilities, and help meet critical workforce needs across our region. The programs supported by the bond focus on High-wage, High-skill, High-demand careers. We can't thank the community enough for its incredible support and its investment in the future of Coconino County.

Department Updates

Student Services

Native American Heritage Month

Leadership Rooted in Culture

The Page Campus proudly hosted "Leadership Rooted in Culture," led by SISS Peer Mentor, Bryan George. After weeks of practice, students delivered with pride. Former Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Former First Lady Phefelia Nez shared insights on leadership, service, and resilience, offering students an inspiring example to follow. Several respected community leaders were also in attendance.

This event showcased the dedication and capability of our students, whose leadership and cultural commitment continue to embody the values of our college community.



STEM-ming from Our Roots

Another event, "Indigenous Sciences: STEM-ming from Our Roots", planned by NASC peer mentor McKayla Gilbert, was designed especially for Indigenous students pursuing STEM fields, giving them the chance to learn from an accomplished Indigenous STEM professional, Dr. Tommy Rock, Associate Professor at Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Rock presented his research on uranium contamination in water sources on the Navajo Nation. The event aimed to introduce students to potential STEM career pathways through the lens of their culture, identity, and community.



Art Display

The Indigenous Student Association of CCC and NASC Peer Mentors rallied Indigenous student artists and gathered a diverse collection of artwork to display in the Lone Tree Commons, titled *We Are Still Here!* The group also organized and led a series of Indigenous Heritage Month celebration days including Rock Your Mocs Monday and Turquoise Thursday.



Beading and Finals Event

NASC Peer Mentor Niki McCabe led the Beading and Be Prepared for Finals Workshop. Beading—an artform practiced across many Native nations—serves as a way to build community, connection, and support. The workshop provided a welcoming space for tutors, staff, and students to bead together while also preparing for final exams.



SISS Career Development

SISS hosted the Master Your Mind Career Development workshop in the Native American Success Center this month. The event was a major success, and the room stayed engaged from start to finish. Participants actively took part in activities, discussions, and reflections.

Día de Muertos

Early in the month, the ALAS club hosted a Community Ofrenda, celebration, and movie Night in recognition of Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Students and community members were invited to contribute to the ofrenda, honoring and welcoming the memories of their loved ones who have passed.

Veterans Event

CCC proudly hosted its first Veterans Appreciation Dinner this month to honor and celebrate our veteran students and staff. The event served as a heartfelt gesture of gratitude for their service and dedication.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of camaraderie, good food, and meaningful conversations. The dinner provided an opportunity for veterans to connect, share experiences, and feel recognized for their contributions.



Celebrating Excellence

Mark Maciha

Our own Mark Maciha was recently awarded the Herb Strauss Educational Impact Award at the Outdoor Hospitality Conference. We are proud to celebrate Mark's continued leadership in the outdoor hospitality and campground industry. With more than three decades of dedication to the campground industry, Mark's expertise continues to benefit our students and community. Congratulations, Mark, on this well-deserved recognition!

ITS

Make sure to check out the latest issue of [IT Happens](#), IT's monthly tech update designed to keep you informed with the latest technology tips, news, and guides!

Athletics

Cross Country Nationals and Banquet

CCC's men's and women's cross-country teams both delivered outstanding performances at the NJCAA Division II National Championships in snowy, windy, and muddy conditions in Fort Dodge, Iowa. The men finished 14th, seven spots higher than their ranking, led by sophomore Theodore Round Face, who earned NJCAA All-American honors with a 17th-place finish. The women followed with a 13th-place team finish, highlighted by sophomore Cian Davis earning All-American status after placing 26th.

After returning, the teams got to celebrate and reflect during their annual Cross Country Banquet, where students were celebrated and honored for their hard work, resilience, and the remarkable progress they made this year.



TRIO Trailblazers Event

Hosted by TRIO Student Support Services and Student Life, Trailblazers: A Celebration of First-Gen Journeys, was an event to honor the stories, resilience, and accomplishments of first-generation students, professionals, and community members who continue to open doors for future learners. We're grateful for a community that values storytelling, perseverance, and the power of education.



Flu Shot Clinic

Student Life worked with Coconino County Health Services to offer a Flu Shot Clinic this month as a part of our Fall Flu Season Wellness events. Many volunteers joined us in creating flu season care packages. Thank you to everyone who joined us in helping care for the wellness and health of our students!

Community Connections

Coco & Holiday Helpings

Coco the Comet joined volunteers at the Flagstaff Family Food Center and NAU's Holiday Helpings food distribution event, helping load up turkeys and holiday meal essentials. This collaborative effort provides families with fresh groceries and support during a time of year when community care matters most. We are grateful to stand alongside the FFFC and our community partners as we work together to strengthen food access for local families.



Program Highlight

Path2Purpose Update

Coconino Community College's Path2Purpose initiative continues to expand its impact in the Flagstaff Unified School District. After a successful first year, the program has grown to include students at Summit High School, helping even more learners explore college and career opportunities with individualized support from Success Coaches.

The program was also recently featured in the Arizona Daily Sun, highlighting its growing presence and positive outcomes in FUSD classrooms.

Looking ahead to Spring, Path2Purpose has two exciting college tour experiences planned for students: one visit to CCC's Fourth Street Campus and another combined tour to Arizona State University (ASU) and EVIT in Phoenix, giving students firsthand exposure to postsecondary pathways.

The Path2Purpose team also recently grew. Welcome to Sara and Casey!

Sara Bieshke

Hello, my name is Sara Bieschke. I am a Success Coach with Path2Purpose, and I will be working at Summit High School. I am from Phoenix, Arizona. I have a bachelor's degree in Art Education from ASU and a master's degree in Counseling – Student Affairs from NAU. I have a background in college academic advising as well as housing and residence life. I'm excited to be working with the Path2Purpose program!

In my free time, I enjoy geocaching, visual arts such as printmaking and watercolor painting, listening to podcasts, and spending time outdoors. I'm glad to be a part of the Flagstaff community again!

Casey Donahue

My name is Casey Donahue, and I have been the Theatre Artist at CCC for the past two years. *Drum roll* I'm elated to say that I am now ALSO a Success Coach with Path2Purpose! I will be working at Coconino High School.

A little bit about me: I have a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with an emphasis on Acting, specifically dialects, from the University of Nevada, Reno, as well as having earned a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis on Theatre and brain-based learning and Neuroplasticity from UNR. I am originally from Reno, Nevada, but I moved to Los Angeles and was a working actor for years. I am a transplant to Flagstaff, having moved from North Carolina, where I taught high school Theatre and was a dialect consultant.

I cannot wait to get to work, and I'm so stoked to have the opportunity to represent Coconino Community College through the Path2Purpose program!

