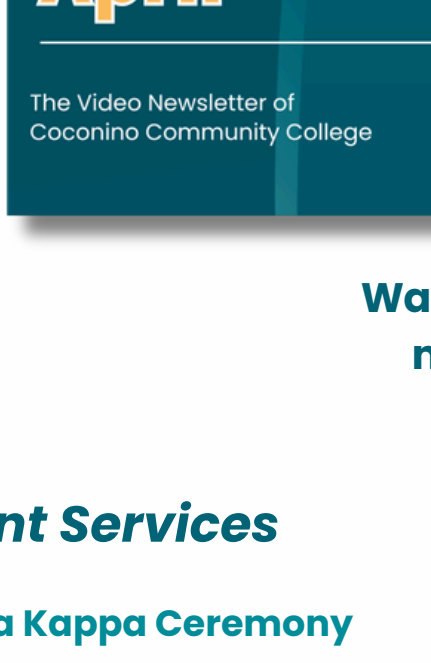




APRIL 2026

Comet Chronicles

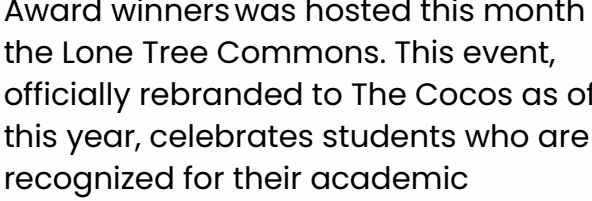


Watch the video newsletter!

Student Services

Phi Theta Kappa Ceremony

We were proud to honor this year's Phi Theta Kappa inductees at our annual ceremony. Being welcomed into the national honor society is a remarkable achievement, and we're grateful for the chance to celebrate our students' hard work and excellence each year.



The Cocos

Our annual celebration of our Student Award winners was hosted this month in the Lone Tree Commons. This event, officially rebranded to The Cocos as of this year, celebrates students who are recognized for their academic achievement as well as their program participation at CCC. This year we shared 30 awards, presented by faculty and staff at the college, and welcomed Coco in their new golden coat to commemorate the big day.



SISS Page

April was a month full of engagement, outreach, and student-centered programming for the Strengthening Indigenous Student Success Program at the Page Campus. Through campus events, high school partnerships, and student workshops, we continued to build connections, support academic success, and create spaces where students feel encouraged and empowered in their educational journeys.



Career Services

CCC hosted a series of April career-readiness workshops, including résumé, cover letter, and mock-interview sessions supported by local employers. The JCPenney Suit-Up Event provided students and staff with discounted professional attire. Our Spring 2026 Career Fair brought 106 attendees and 32 employers to the Lone Tree campus, representing a wide range of industries. We also launched our first Fourth Street Career Fair with 18 employers to better support CTE students, making April a strong month for career development across CCC.

TRIO Highlights

TRIO students and staff created friendship bracelets this spring to support children experiencing housing insecurity, offering a simple but meaningful act of kindness. The project strengthened the TRIO community's commitment to service and was met with heartfelt appreciation from the organization it supported. TRIO also recognized Braylee Giratas as the 2025-2026 Scholar of the Year for her leadership, positivity, and dedication to academic success.

Admissions Update

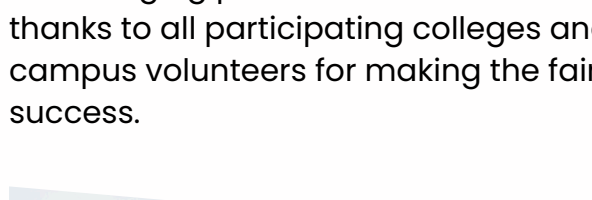
Megan Wildblood, Admissions Advisor, joined Flagstaff High School's College Signing Day on May 1 to celebrate seniors heading to college. Students signed a class banner, connected with colleges, and picked up swag, including CCC's foam rockets to mark the launch of their next chapter. Megan insists she did not start the cafeteria-wide rocket-launch chain reaction.

Page Open House

Peer Mentor Bryan George and Jessica Dodson presented at Comet Connections, organize dby shannon garison welcoming over 280 community members and Page High School students. 46 students attended sessions, where they learned information on the Summer Bridge program, campus resources, college life, and strategies for success.

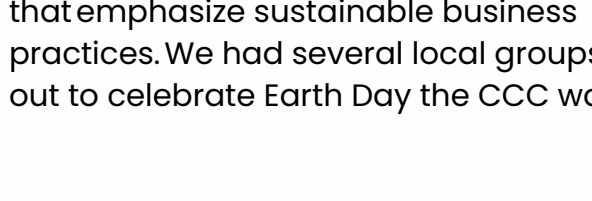
Comet Fashion Show and Coco Talk

Two of our spring graduates completed capstones that brought students together in creative, community-focused ways. Maddie Dobbela hosted COCOtalk: Student Stories Creating Change, a TED-style event where students shared personal journeys and reflections on how college shaped their paths. Jojo Miller led Comet Fashion Week, a student fashion show celebrating identity, culture, and what it means to be a Comet.



Transfer Fair

The Spring 2026 Transfer Fair brought CCC students together with representatives from multiple university partners to explore transfer pathways. Coco the Comet added energy to the event, mingling with students and encouraging photos. CCC extends its thanks to all participating colleges and campus volunteers for making the fair a success.



Earth Day

A windy day brought us inside, but we made the most of the annual Earth Day Festival this month. Each year Student Life and TRIO Student Support Services come together to celebrate our earth, provide students with free plants, and offer snack options from companies that emphasize sustainable business practices. We had several local groups out to celebrate Earth Day the CCC way!

Destress Fest

Each semester, Student Life wraps up with Destress Fest, offering snacks, therapy dogs, crafts, and a space to unwind before finals. We welcomed Dr. Olivia Stull who joined students to share focus tools and gather feedback on fidgets for classrooms. The event also kicked off Mental Health Month in partnership with Northern Arizona Healthcare.

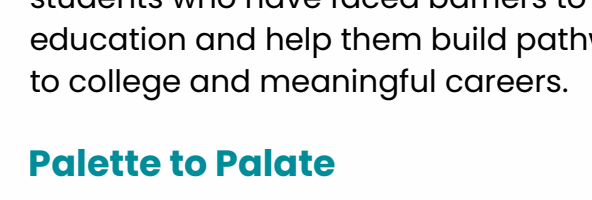
Coconino Curtain Call

The Audition, performed by Coconino Curtain Call, tells the story of a new theatre teacher staging A Chorus Line with a cast of characters ranging from shy to spotlight-hungry. The show highlighted the range and versatility of our CCC student performers. Their ability to shift between roles and deliver a full production without an on-stage rehearsal was an impressive display of talent.

Community Connections

Page Attacks Trash

Page Attacks Trash, coordinated by the City of Page, CCC, Republic Services, and community partners continued its long-running tradition of bringing volunteers together to care for shared public spaces this year. More than 425 participants collected 8,800 pounds of trash across Page, over 3,000 pounds more than last year!

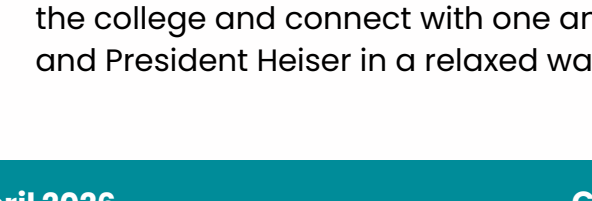


Path2Purpose

High school students in CCC's Path2Purpose program spent Earth Day learning about habitat restoration at Picture Canyon and helping remove invasive species. Afterward, local organizations led career-exploration activities focused on career and outdoor education. This program supports students who have faced barriers to higher education and help them build pathways to college and meaningful careers.

Palette to Palate

The CCC Foundation closed out April with another successful Palette to Palate event, raising funds for the Fine Arts program. This annual tradition brings the community together for local food, drinks, art, and auctions, all in support of CCC students. Thanks to the many staff and volunteers who helped make this year's event such a success.



Coco Bear

Coco Bear kept CCC's tie-dye tradition alive this month with a Relay for Life fundraiser. More than a dozen participants created colorful pieces and donated to our Relay team. Coco has long supported this cause, including a 2023 trip to Montana with faculty member Tom Lehman.

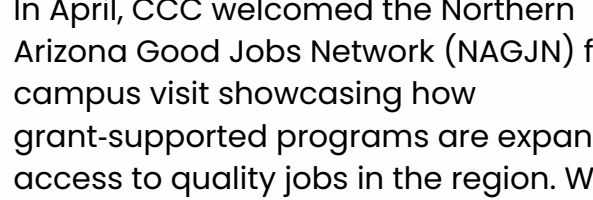
Pizza with the Prez

New CCC staff and faculty attended Pizza with the Prez this month to get familiar with the college and connect with one another and President Heiser in a relaxed way.

Academic Affairs

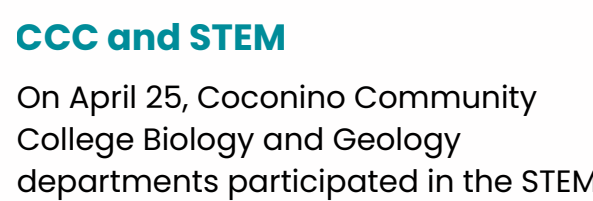
ASL Involvement

CCC's ASL programs had a busy and impactful month, from providing interpretation at Flagstaff Library Story Time to partnering with Nursing students for a pediatric simulation that strengthened interdisciplinary learning. ASL students also connected with the Deaf Community during a lively, all-ASL Game Night hosted by the ASL Club. Together, these events showcased the skill, collaboration, and community engagement at the heart of our ASL and Interpreting Studies programs.



NAGJN Field Trip

In April, CCC welcomed the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network (NAGJN) for a campus visit showcasing how grant-supported programs are expanding access to quality jobs in the region. We shared updates on our growing automotive program and the upcoming RV Maintenance Technician program—both designed to meet Northern Arizona's workforce needs through strong regional partnerships.



CCC and STEM

On April 25, Coconino Community College Biology and Geology departments participated in the STEM City Celebration at Fort Tuthill, engaging over 1,000 community members despite inclement weather. More than 15 biology students led hands-on activities, including a neuromuscular hand-speed challenge, microscopy demonstrations, and a rock identification activity.



Bridges to Baccalaureate

Bridges to Baccalaureate students conducted independent research on how elevation affects cross-country performance and presented their findings at both a regional sports medicine conference and NAU's Undergraduate Research Symposium. CCC Biology and Geology students also engaged more than 1,000 community members at the STEM City Celebration with hands-on science activities. Together, these events showcased strong student research, outreach, and STEM engagement this spring.



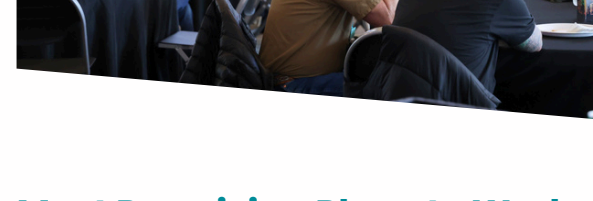
Accessibility Strategic Plan

Since launching the Accessibility Strategic Plan in Fall 2024, faculty and the Teaching and Learning Center have continued advancing equitable access to digital learning. The attached report highlights progress toward WCAG 2.1 AA compliance, including an increase in median UDOIT scores from 71% to 81%. The Department of Civil Justice has extended the ADA Title II compliance deadline to April 26, 2027, giving CCC an additional year to meet requirements. This extension is helpful, but the direction remains the same—accessibility is a shared institutional responsibility.

Celebrating Excellence

Bring Back America's Trades

CCC is proud to share that we are featured in Building Back America's Trades, a new three-part Magnolia Network docuseries now streaming on HBO Max and discovery+. The series highlights the national skilled-trades shortage by following trainees preparing for careers in fields like carpentry, supported by the Lowe's Foundation. Seeing CCC prominently represented on a national platform was a proud moment, and we celebrated the premiere with a campus watch-party this month.



Most Promising Place to Work

We are thrilled that CCC has been named one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges by The EDU Ledger and NISOD for the second year in a row. This honor reflects the people, culture, and care that make our campus community strong.



Native American Success Center Student of the Year

We are proud of Wilbert Begay, Native American Success Center Student of the Year. Wilbert, a business student involved in TRIO, CCC2NAU, and the Indigenous Student Association, has grown from planning to take one class to setting goals that reach all the way to graduate school. His dedication and leadership earned him this recognition this year.

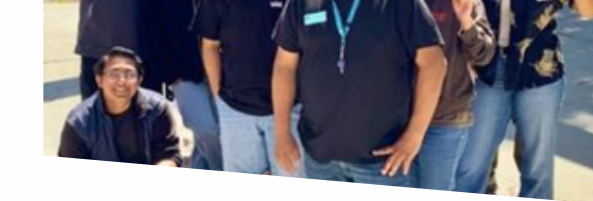


Dr. Adriana Flores-Church

In April, our own Dr. Adriana Flores-Church had the opportunity to share at the 5th Annual Nonprofit Leadership Conference, sponsored by the T Paul Thomas Center. Her talk on "The 10 Most Common Mistakes Managers Make - And How to Avoid Them," was well received. We are proud of Dr. Flores-Church, and her commitment to leadership and engagement at CCC.

Summer Bridge Update

We are now in the fifth year of the Summer Bridge Program at CCC, and it has been an incredible experience. This summer, we have 33 students already enrolled in the program and it is only April! I would like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Kelly Walker and Ms. Jessica Dodson for their dedication and hard work in helping students enroll in classes. I also want to recognize the Admissions, Financial Aid, Registration, and Accounts Payable teams for creating a smooth and efficient onboarding process this year. Your efforts are truly making a difference, as reflected in the increase in Native American enrollment compared to last summer. Ahe'hee!



Kathryn Kozak

Kathryn Kozak reviewed posters at the NAU Undergraduate Research Symposium in late April and continues to serve on the Arizona Department of Education committee updating the Algebra II standards, which has met monthly since September 2025. She is the PI for the TYCDSI initiative supporting two-year college faculty in teaching data science and a co-PI on the CURM grant supporting undergraduate mathematics research. Both grants focused on planning their June 2026 workshops throughout April.

Spelling Bee

The Mountain Spelling Bee Bash is an annual fundraiser for The Literacy Center. CCC has entered a team for at least the last 12 years. We've won the Bee twice. While we weren't the champs this year, we did come away with the coveted Spirit Award, which is usually given to the team with the loudest and most zealous cheering section. We definitely didn't have that this year, so there must've been something else about us that struck a chord with the judges. Perhaps our pirate costumes?



ITS Update

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!