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## CCC Fire Science students apply skills in live-fire drill



*CCC Fire Science student Hannah Duval (right) prepares for a live-fire drill at the Flagstaff Fire Department training facility on Dec. 2.*

Flagstaff, Ariz. -- Hannah Duval played sports as a girl. She enjoys being physical and doesn't like the thought of working in an office day-in and day-out.

So, she's enrolled in the Fire Science program at Coconino Community College in order to become a firefighter.

Duval is one of three women on the roster this year, and she said she enjoys training for a career not traditionally associated with females.

"It's a bit intimidating," Duval said. "But once you're in, if it feels right, it feels right."

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Duval and her classmates put their skills to the test on Dec. 2 during a live-fire "Hot Drill" put on by the college in cooperation with the Flagstaff Fire Department and several other local fire agencies.

Michael Duran, training officer for the Sedona Fire Department and instructor of Firefighter 1 and 2 classes at CCC, said the curriculum follows state and national standards. And before the drill, the students participated in a variety of activities that built upon one another to get them ready to enter a building on fire.

The drill is meant to give students an up-close exposure to the environment of live fires - particularly the smoke and super-heated air that results. The students observed how fire behaves and what a fire does when the doors of a building are opened and closed. The students also learned about how water reacts with fire, the steam that results, and, finally, how to attack a fire in order to bring it under control.

"We try to get them ready for the job," Duran said. "When we send them out after they're done, they're ready to start applying for jobs."

Marc Goldberg, CCC Fire Science Coordinator, said becoming a firefighter is physically and mentally challenging. Students face physical agility tests that local fire department use as part of their hiring processes. Students have to be able to move a 160-pound mannequin, carry ladders off of a fire truck and raise them against a building, extend hose off a truck and use those hoses filled with pressurized water in enclosed spaces, move inside buildings and conduct searches in the dark.

Goldberg added that the program is designed to help students understand initially whether or not firefighting is even a profession they'd like to pursue.

"Give it a chance," Goldberg said. "Is it challenging? Yes, but the comradery, the teamwork, the physical and mental challenge of walking into a difficult situation and trying to organize something that is disorganized when you show up - I tell people it's a lot of fun."

And the students don't have to know how to do it when they show up.

"We're there to teach you," Goldberg said. "We're there to show you what it takes to do a good job, and the staff's committed to that."

For a photo essay of the Hot Drill, visit our flickr page [here](#).

For a video of the Fire Science program, visit our YouTube page [here](#).

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## County residents sound off about CCC

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CCC President Colleen Smith speaks to residents during a "listening session" at Killip Elementary School in Flagstaff on Dec. 5.

Flagstaff, Ariz. -- The woman raised her hand and shared her story.

She's an employee with the Flagstaff Unified School District, and, over the years, she has taken more than 40 classes at Coconino Community College. They weren't for credit. They were for her personal development.

"I came here to thank CCC for the senior discount," she said, adding that CCC should think about attracting more seniors like her.

She smiled, "Just because we're old doesn't mean we're dead."

On Dec. 5 and Dec. 13, CCC President Dr. Colleen A. Smith held "listening sessions" in Flagstaff to hear about the College from county residents. She has held more than a dozen listening sessions in communities throughout the county.

During the Dec. 5 listening session at Killip Elementary School in the Sunnyside neighborhood, about 30 people, including CCC employees, attended and shared their experiences about the College.

Kerry Blume, who is working with CCC to enhance community engagement, led the listening sessions. Blume has worked in nonprofit leadership for more than 30 years, and she asked the audiences four questions about the College:

- What experience have you had with CCC (as a student or if a family member attended)? And what was that experience like?
- What do you value about CCC?
- In your experience, what do you think are the highest educational priorities for people in your community?
- If you had a magic wand and had three wishes for CCC, what would you wish for?

The first two questions drew several stories. Among them was a woman who has a master's degree in education, but she attended CCC because she missed school. She said in her whole educational experience, she has four teachers she remembers.

"And two of them came from CCC," she added.



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Someone else said he went to CCC for retraining, and he was older when he returned to school.

"Community college is not just for young people these days," he said, adding that he didn't feel intimidated or out of place. "CCC is good for everybody. I guess that's my point."

With regard to what the people who attended the listening session would wish for at CCC, topics included more tutors, more support for learners who speak English as a second language, increased cultural competency, more technical training, more workforce training, a culinary program, early childhood education, housing, internships, university preparation, increased access to the arts, more funding for scholarships and more.

The Dec. 13 listening session was held at Coconino Community College's Lone Tree campus. More than 60 people, primarily CCC employees and students, attended and touched on subjects as wide ranging as the Dec. 5 session, with topics focusing on housing solutions for students to ways to support the start of more workforce training programs at the College.

At the end of the Dec. 5 session, President Smith explained the financial realities of the college and the constraints in funding that have forced some difficult decisions in cuts to services and programs.

"We're working on being innovative and creative," President Smith said. "We would like to offer more of what our communities need. We just have to figure out how to do it."

The results of the listening sessions will be presented to the CCC District Governing Board in January, and then, college-wide during the welcome-back breakfast, also in January.

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## Governor appoints President Smith to Commission for Postsecondary Education

Flagstaff, Ariz. -- Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has appointed Coconino Community College President Colleen A. Smith to the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education.

The goals of the commission are to increase available student financial assistance; identify and put strategies into place to help students and families plan, enter and succeed in postsecondary education; and to provide a forum for all sectors of postsecondary education to work together on addressing and solving issues of mutual interest. The commission also coordinates studies of interest to postsecondary institutions and offers the public information on postsecondary education opportunities in the state.



*President Colleen Smith has been appointed to the state's Commission for Postsecondary Education.*

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"I'm honored to be appointed by the governor to the Commission for Postsecondary Education and look forward to working with the other commissioners, legislators and colleagues from all sectors of education," Dr. Smith said. "I'm excited about the mission of expanding access and increasing success in postsecondary education for Arizonans and look forward to serving our state in this capacity."

The commission, which formed in 1963 to comply with federal law, was later established as an independent state agency in 1994 and has a total of 16 members. Dr. Smith begins her appointment after legislative approval.

## Student Spotlight

### CCC student aims for change in criminal justice system



*CCC student Robin Hebert volunteers at the Street Fair during the Page Balloon Regatta in November.*

Flagstaff, Ariz. -- Robin Hebert had gone to college previously, but she fell into the world of addiction and got in trouble with the law.

Now, she has her life on track, has a career, and is back in school at Coconino Community College studying Sociology. Her ultimate goal is a degree in the field of criminal justice.

"Given my life experience, it feels like something I want to do," Hebert said.

She currently works in the criminal justice field as the assistant coordinator for the Coconino County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), and she wants to be helpful to others who have had similar experiences. The CJCC coordinates programs for the county and city that aim to keep offenders from reoffending and out of the criminal justice system.

Her own experiences in the criminal justice system showed her first-hand the overrepresentation of minorities and the poor in that system, a social injustice she wants to try to impact.

"There has got to be a solution," Hebert said. "I want to be a part of that solution."

She added that she wants a "real" education to be able to help. She believes that a way exists to tackle that social challenge in the criminal justice system, and she wants to fully understand the scope and nature of that problem before she goes deeper into the field.

"Everybody deserves an equal opportunity," Hebert said.

She currently works at her job with the CJCC full time and she attends CCC full time. Her employer also helps her cover the expenses of getting her education.

"I feel like I was graced, and I want the degree to stay (where I work)," Hebert said. "I have a lot of passion for what I do, and I want to do it better."

In addition to a full load of work and school, Hebert also is a peer mentor at Juniper House, a re-entry home for women coming out of the Exodus in-custody drug and alcohol treatment program at the county jail.

"Living at the Juniper House and being able to work with women who are new in sobriety and trying to restart their lives is a very rewarding experience," Hebert said.

She added that she is hopeful her journey of returning to school inspires them to consider going back to school themselves.

"It is a statistic that addicts who better their education also better their odds of long-term sobriety," Hebert said. "I am at school because I want to allow my personal experience to be a platform for helping others find new ways of living, and getting an education is a solid path to making this a reality for me."

Hebert also said that being a student has improved her prospects for what possibilities she envisions for her own future.

"And I hope that all women find this as well," she said.

As a CCC2NAU student, Hebert's journey will eventually take her away to NAU to complete her studies.

"I do plan to transfer to NAU, but I will miss the small class sizes and the personal attention I am receiving at CCC," Hebert said.

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## Around CCC

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Care packages from CCC go to  
troops overseas



*CCC instructors Sandie Dihlmann (left) and Jennifer Jameson mail off more than 100 pounds of needed items for troops stationed overseas.*

Flagstaff, Ariz. -- CCC Math Instructor Jennifer Jameson's husband Duane is a Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army and is currently on deployment in the Middle East.

During his deployment, he visited several remote locations with U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria. The living conditions are harsh, and the small necessities of life are often lacking.

Jameson, along with English Instructor Sandie Dihlmann and students from the CCC Beta Gamma Chi chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held a drive to collect some of those necessities of life. And last week, they sent off 14 care packages to the troops in those remote locations.

"We thought it would be really nice for them to get those supplies," Jameson said.

Items donated by CCC staff, faculty and students included shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, snacks and condiments. CCC employees also filled out "thank you" cards to send along.

In total, the effort brought in 107 pounds of donations to be mailed to the troops! The shipping cost was paid for by CCC employees and students who contributed to the PTK nacho sale. According to Jameson, the amount raised was "amazingly" the amount of money needed to ship the packages.

"Thank you so much to CCC employees," Jameson said. "The CCC community really came together for the drive."

The drive was part of the PTK "Honors in Action" project, Dihlmann said.

"Beta Gamma Chi is making CCC veterans a priority as the focus of our Honors in Action project this year," Dihlmann said. "Our goal is to educate the community on the challenges and obstacles veterans face once they have completed their tour of duty. In doing so, we hope to be better equipped to help the men and women who serve our country."

Dihlmann added, "Beta Gamma Chi appreciates all of the generous support, time and gifts we have received to help provide for our

community. We have the most philanthropic employees in town."

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## Have a CCC news story or idea?

News and stories abound on the campuses of Coconino Community College.

- Stories of student success
- Stories of faculty and staff who make a difference
- Stories of innovative programs that foster learning
- The latest news and events going on at CCC

The list goes on.

News and story ideas are always welcome. Please contact Larry Hendricks, Public Relations Coordinator, at [larry.hendricks@coconino.edu](mailto:larry.hendricks@coconino.edu), or 928.226.4374.