

JULY 2025

Comet Chronicles



Watch the video newsletter!



Upcoming Events

August 15: Convocation

August 16: Automotive Grand Opening

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

CCC Kaibab Campus

1131 W Kaibab Lane
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

August 25: Fall Courses Start

August 25–28: Welcome Week

Department Updates

Student Services

Leadership Retreat

Student Services program leaders stepped away from campus for a day in July for their first Student Services Leadership Retreat. This annual event will create an opportunity for these leaders to reflect on the past year, review what is currently happening, and set goals for where they hope to grow.

These leaders span many vital resources at CCC: Advising, Registration & Enrollment Services, Disability Resources, High School Programs, Tutoring, TRIO Student Support Services, Strengthening Indigenous Student Success, Financial Aid & Veteran Affairs, Athletics, and Student Life.



College News

\$100 Million Capital Construction Bond

Coconino Community College is placing a \$100 million capital construction bond on the November 4, 2025 ballot. This is the first capital bond request by the college in 25 years. The bond will support projects in Flagstaff, Page, and Williams, all aimed at expanding access, updating facilities, and meeting critical workforce needs.

To address questions from the community, Dr. Heizer is hosting several Bond Information Sessions to discuss the bond's purpose and impact. Please join us for an upcoming session!

Tuesday, September 16

9:00 a.m. | Lone Tree Campus

5:30 p.m. | Fourth Street Campus

Thursday, October 16

9:00 a.m. | Lone Tree Campus

5:30 p.m. | Lone Tree Campus



Arizona Good Jobs Network Grant – RV Maintenance Technician Training

Over the past two years, Kay Leum, Dean of Extended Learning, has collaborated with the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network (NAGJN) grant, funded by the Governor's Office and administered by Local First Arizona. This regional effort brings together four Northern Arizona community colleges, five counties, and workforce development partners to implement grant initiatives. Coconino Community College (CCC) is now entering the final phase of the grant, which runs through June 30, 2026.

CCC is using \$1.18 million in phase-three funding to expand its Automotive Technology program at the new Kaibab Campus and to launch a non-credit RV Maintenance Technician training program in partnership with the RV Technical Institute. Offered in both Flagstaff and Page, the program prepares students to service the "house" systems of RVs. In addition, CCC's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) staff will guide Auto and RV students in business fundamentals, including mobile business start-ups.

By aligning hands-on training with real industry demand, these programs not only equip students with valuable skills but also strengthen the regional economy and meet the growing need for qualified technicians across Northern Arizona.

KinderCamp Teal Tickets

This summer marks the second year Coconino Community College has partnered with United Way of Arizona to bring the Teal Ticket to KinderCamp students!

KinderCamp is a free, four-week program designed by United Way of AZ to help young learners, especially those with limited or no preschool experience, build confidence and prepare for kindergarten. As part of the program, students had a visit from Coco the Comet where they read Coco and the Teal Ticket, a story about dreaming big, imagining their future, and the teal ticket.

The Teal Ticket represents our shared commitment to removing barriers to education, paving a clear path to college that starts with CCC tuition-free after high school, and leads all the way to with NAU with the Gold Ticket. Together, we're planting seeds of possibility—one KinderCamper at a time.



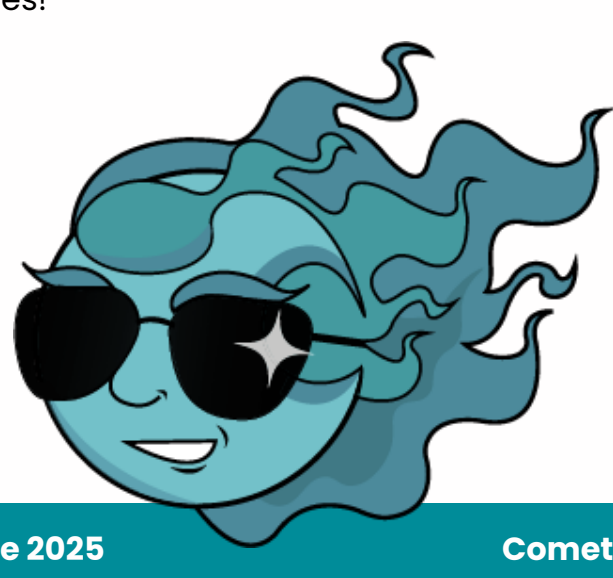
Fourth of July Parade

CCC celebrated the Fourth of July by floating through the annual Flagstaff Morning of Tossing Candy and Blowing Bubbles alongside Dr. Heizer and Coco. Even Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam joined in the patriotic festivities. Thank you to everyone who cheered us on. Being part of local traditions like this is what makes our community so special!



ITS

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Academic Affairs

Summer Nursing Assistant Graduates

Congratulations to our Summer Nursing Assistant Graduates!

Coconino Community College celebrates the incredible achievements of our students who completed the Summer Nursing Assistant program. These future healthcare professionals are on their way to careers in nursing, physician assistant studies, and more. We're so proud of their dedication, compassion, and commitment to learning and we can't wait to see the positive impact they'll have in our communities.



New Lead Faculty – Mathematics and Accounting

Join us in welcoming Maya Lanzetta as the new Lead Faculty for Mathematics and Accounting. While Maya has taught full-time at CCC for over

14 years, she is excited to be the new lead faculty for math and accounting. During her time at CCC, she has chaired several committees and served as the Faculty Senate President for two years. Congratulations to Maya!



New AIS Classes this Fall

This fall, Jonathan Nez, former President of the Navajo Nation, will be offering two engaging courses at CCC: AIS 101: Introduction to Applied Indigenous Studies and AIS 201: Roots of Federal Indian Policy. The courses will be offered at both the Lone Tree Campus in Flagstaff and the Page Center. We're thankful to former President Nez sharing his first-hand expertise and wisdom on these subjects.

New Kaibab Campus

We're excited to announce that our Automotive Technology Certification training is getting an upgrade this fall. Courses will take place at our new 10,500 square foot Kaibab Campus featuring four bays and state-of-the-art training equipment including challenger lifts, a hunter alignment rack, and coats tire machines.

We're gearing up for the Automotive Training Facility grand opening, and you're invited! Join us Saturday, August 16 at our new Kaibab Campus for a ribbon cutting, facility tours, live music, games, and food. We hope to see you there!



Paramedic Studies Graduation

Congratulations to the newest graduates of CCC's Paramedic Studies program! These students have demonstrated incredible dedication and resilience throughout their training. Many are already serving their communities, and now they've advanced their life-saving skills as certified paramedics. This achievement reflects a deep commitment to both professional growth and public service. Congratulations to all!



Celebrating Excellence

NIRSA Staff Recognition

NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation recently shared a formal note of recognition with Coconino Community College, honoring Sarah Heemstra, Student Life & Engagement Coordinator, for her volunteer service during the 2024–2025 term on the NIRSA Assembly.

Sarah's contributions reflected innovation, collaboration, and a deep commitment to student well-being and success. Her involvement not only enriched the field of collegiate recreation but also brought valuable insight and experience back to CCC.

We are proud of Sarah's leadership and grateful to NIRSA for recognizing her impact. Congratulations, Sarah, on this well-earned honor!

In case you missed it...

6th Annual Golf Tournament

CCC proudly participated in the 6th Annual Golf Tournament hosted by the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and the Rotary Club of Flagstaff on Monday, July 14. This was a fun and fantastic opportunity to support two incredible local organizations while escaping the summer heat.



Community Education Comet Walk

This July's Community Education Comet Walk brought back a popular experience from last summer with a fresh perspective. Led once again by historian Tom Martin, the walk began in Tusas at the Wesley of the Powell might have used during his trip through the Grand Canyon. From there, participants were guided to the National Park Service archives and boat storage facility at the South Rim, where they delved deeper into the region's exploration history and preservation efforts.

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Department Updates

Student Services

Pride in the Pines

We were honored to celebrate Pride in the Pines with the Flagstaff community and proud to have Coco the Comet at Flagstaff Pride's Starparty! It was a great day of coming together in joy, solidarity, and celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies. Here's to a community where everyone feels seen, supported, and celebrated just as they are.



Celebrating Excellence

Coconino Small Business Development Center

The Coconino SBDC continues to exceed Small Business Administration (SBA) goals and ranks as one of the top-performing centers among Arizona's 10 SBDC locations! In June, they far exceeded their goals and had a great turnout for their workshop on search engine optimization. They also launched their Summer DreamBuilder Cohort with 20 participants, providing virtual business training to rural and tribal entrepreneurs.



Academic Affairs

Adult Education Graduates

We were thrilled to celebrate our 2025 Adult Education graduates during a meaningful ceremony this month. The evening also honored students inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society, along with those completing our English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Congratulations to all of our students on their hard work, perseverance, and achievements—we're incredibly proud of you!



Summer Bridge Program

The first month of the 2025 Summer Bridge Program at the Page Campus was full of action-packed events designed to help students kick off their academic journey with confidence and support. Week 1 started strong with Team Building Day and New Student Orientation. These activities set the stage for collaboration and connection among the students. As the students continue into the program, the focus shifts to helping them finish strong. Together, we'll celebrate the students' successes and prepare them for the next chapter in their academic journey.



Paramedic Course Entrance Exam

The Fourth Street Campus hosted the Paramedic Course Entrance Exam earlier this month. Candidates gathered for a series of activities and tests to evaluate their medical and trauma patient assessment abilities. We're proud to support the next generation of emergency medical professionals as they take this important step toward serving the community. Thank you to the faculty, staff, and evaluators who made the event a success, and congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication!



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Events

Commencement Ceremony

On May 12, we proudly celebrated our 33rd Annual Commencement at the Ardrey Memorial Auditorium on the NAU campus.

Highlights included heartfelt addresses by student speakers Bryan George and Ibrahim Alshamsi, and remarks from CCC President Dr. Eric A. Heiser and NAU Vice Provost Dr. Yvonne M. Luna. Faculty of the Year honorees Sarah Benton and Ki Sung were recognized for their inspiring contributions. We are so proud of all of our 2025 graduates! This is only the beginning for you.



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Department Updates

Student Services

Page Campus Awards and New PTK Members

At the Page campus, we gathered for the annual Student Recognition Ceremony, honoring the perseverance of students in rural and remote communities. This year, five outstanding students received seven awards—a powerful testament to determination and drive.

We also welcomed new PTK Honor Society members: Richard Copley, Bryan George, and Ryan George. Special shoutout to Ryan George, named the 2025 Strengthening Indigenous Student Success Program Student of the Year! And what a way to close the evening—Bryan George, one of CCC's 2025 commencement speakers, delivered a heartfelt graduation speech.



TRIO Program

Our TRIO program wrapped up the semester with energy and purpose. From welcoming new team members and celebrating National TRIO Day, to volunteering at the Flagstaff Family Food Center and hiking Fatman's Loop, it's been a semester of growth. Students also explored transfer options at the University of New Mexico and Fort Lewis College and led workshops on paying for college and preparing for careers. And a special congratulations to all of our first-generation graduates—we are so proud of you!



Seeds of Success

At the Seeds of Success celebration at CCC's Native American Success Center, we honored our 2025 graduates, welcomed summer bridge students, and reflected on a year of achievement. Keynote speaker and former Navajo Nation President Jonathon Nez delivered a powerful message of encouragement and hope. It was a powerful way to recognize our Native students and their families.

Community Connections

Williams Partnership

In Williams, we gathered at the Rodeo Steakhouse for an Open House, connecting with residents and local leaders. We highlighted our partnership with Williams High School through the Friday College program, where students take CCC classes to kickstart their college journey. It was a great day of conversation and collaboration!



Habitat for Humanity

We're proud to continue our longstanding partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Northern Arizona for the 2025 Blitz Build. CCC Construction and Building Methods students are teaming up with community members to build 10 affordable homes in the Timber Sky development! It's a hands-on experience that also meets a vital community need.



Hotshot Hustle

Our Admissions and Marketing teams joined up with Kinsey Elementary School for their Hotshot Hustle. It was a fun morning of cheering the students on in their running challenges and offering loved swag as prizes. The kids also loved dancing and running with Coco the Comet!

Flagstaff Women's Leadership Network

Our very own Sandra Tarbell Hinski, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, spoke at this month's Flagstaff Women's Leadership Network gathering. Dr. Hinski shared insights from her 25+ years in the health professions and 16 years in higher education - highlighting CCC's commitment to academic excellence, workforce development, and collaborative leadership. We're proud to see CCC represented in such impactful spaces.

BCBS of AZ for STEAM

We're grateful for the support of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona in helping make CCC's STEAM Summer Camps possible for more than 400 middle schoolers across Coconino County - all at no cost to families! With hands-on learning in science, coding, theater, and more, these camps open doors for students to build skills and discover new interests.

Academic Affairs

Fire Recruitment Event

CCC was proud to host the Fire Recruitment Event in partnership with the Greater Flagstaff Region Fire Departments. Participants got to experience what a career in fire is like—from hands-on tasks to meeting local professionals. This event spotlighted how accessible and rewarding these careers really are—and how CCC supports both workforce development and community safety.



Nursing Graduates

Congratulations to our newest Nursing graduates! We celebrated their accomplishments during National Nurses Week at the annual pinning ceremony. A special shoutout to Fernando Vegara and Julio Cesar Quezada who received student recognition and awards! Many of our Nursing graduates will go on to serve our northern Arizona communities, and we couldn't be more proud.



Detention Officers Academy

On May 16, we honored the 33rd graduating class of the Detention Officers Academy, a partnership between CCC and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office that has provided local training for two decades. Sheriff Bret Axlund and Commander Matthew Figueroa presented CCC with a plaque marking our 20-year partnership. Here's to continued service and collaboration!



Celebrating Excellence

NISOD Award

Two members of the CCC Marketing Team, Janel States and Samantha Hipolito, were invited to attend the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) conference in Austin, Texas this month to receive an award on behalf of CCC as one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges. We are thrilled to receive this recognition!



Celebrating Staff Impact

We're proud to recognize our own Luke Owens, who was recently spotlighted in the *Gale Research Complete Newsletter*! The article highlights how Luke, the Senior Manager of Library and Instructional Support at CCC, utilizes digital materials to enhance student engagement across our three campuses, create more research opportunities, and cut budget costs. [Read the full feature here.](#)

Employee Awards

We turned up the volume for our annual Employee Awards Ceremony—rockstar edition! Games, laughter, and celebration filled the day as we honored employees for accomplishments as well as 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service. These dedicated individuals make CCC the amazing community it is!



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