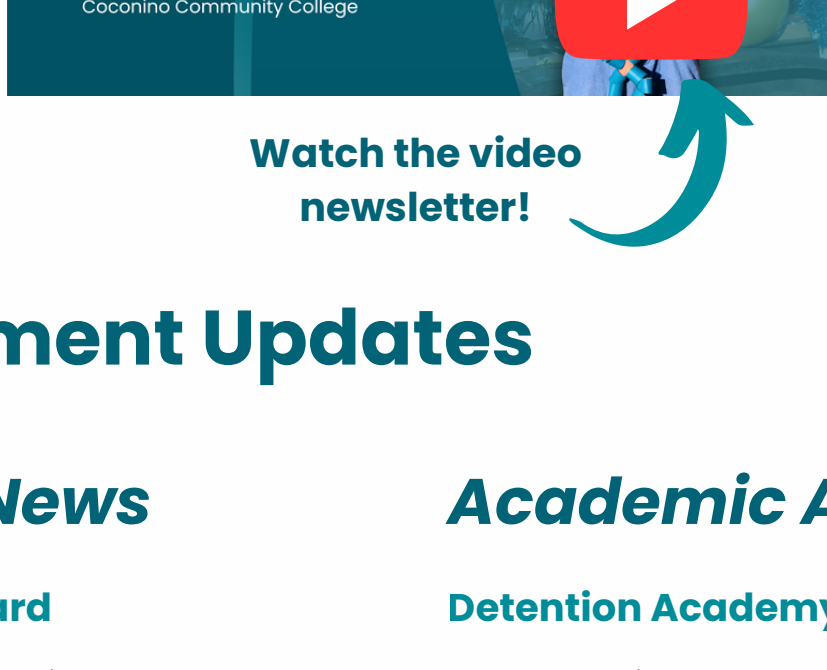




Watch the video newsletter!

Department Updates

College News

Aspen 200 Award

CCC has been recognized by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program as one of the top 200 community colleges in the nation, making us eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize—the nation's highest honor for two-year colleges.

In his announcement, Dr. Heiser noted that CCC's focus on holistic student support has led to higher retention and course success rates and fewer dropouts. He called the recognition "icing on the cake," celebrating the dedication of CCC's outstanding faculty and staff!

Student Services

Bondin' with the Prez

Students and Dr. Heiser gathered in the Commons this month for Bondin' and Bingo with the Prez. Everyone who attended had the chance to play Buzzword Bingo, learn about the CCC Capital Construction Bond, and enjoy some pizza. Events like this speak to CCC's campus culture and the relationship that Dr. Heiser builds with the community and students.

Homecoming Week

The Homecoming week theme this year was "There's No Place Like Homecoming," and it was a huge success at Lone Tree, Page, and Fourth Street Campuses. Every day was filled with activity, food and drinks, and connection.

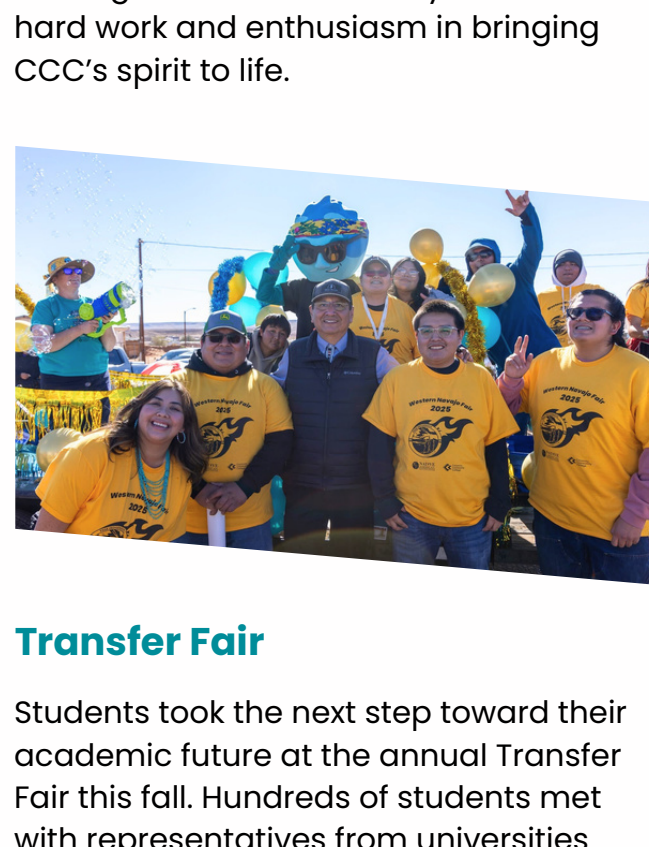
Sarah Heemstra, our Student Life Coordinator, and student ambassadors organized themes for each day of the week. From decorating felt signs to dressing up like witches, every day was a blast. The packed week ended with silent disco and pizza in the commons.

NASC Beading and Pumpkin Painting

Students enjoyed hands-on fall-themed events at the Native American Success Center this month. During the beading workshop, attendees created beautiful hoop and dangle earrings and shared cookies together. The Center also welcomed students for wooden pumpkin painting, offering a fun way to relax and meet their tutors. The events fostered community, connectedness, and creativity.

Coffee with Coco & Donuts with Deans

The Lone Tree Commons was buzzing with energy during Coffee with Coco and Donuts with the Deans this month. The goal of this event is to have a casual setting where students and Deans can connect, and everyone can enjoy some school spirit with a visit from Coco the Comet!



Western Navajo Fair Parade

The Strengthening Indigenous Student Success Team proudly joined the Western Navajo Fair in Tuba City, uniting students, staff, peer mentors, and the Native American Success Centers from our Flagstaff and Page campuses.

Events like the Western Navajo Fair embody CCC's mission of connection, inclusion, and community engagement. With approximately 21% of our student body identifying as Indigenous, CCC is deeply committed to supporting Indigenous students through programs and initiatives that honor their heritage and promote their success.

A huge thank you to the students leading this initiative each year for their hard work and enthusiasm in bringing CCC's spirit to life.



Transfer Fair

Students took the next step toward their academic future at the annual Transfer Fair this fall. Hundreds of students met with representatives from universities across Arizona who shared transfer pathways, admissions guidance, and scholarship opportunities, helping students plan their next move beyond CCC.



Halloween Spooktacular

Student Life wrapped up the month with the Halloween Spooktacular, where clubs recruited new members, campus resources shared available support, and faculty promoted their Spring 2026 courses. The event gave students a fun way to trick-or-treat for candy while learning how to get connected and succeed as Comets. Halloween was festive across all campuses, with staff and students showing off their creative costumes!

Page Trunk or Treat

The Page Indigenous Comet Club participated in the City of Page Trunk or Treat joining the community for a night of fun and celebration. This year, the club's trunk featured a creative mini haunted house theme. The event was a great success, allowing the Page Indigenous Comet Club to connect with local residents and promote cultural pride.

SISS Conference Attendance

The Strengthening Indigenous Student Success team had the opportunity to attend the 2025 Native American Student Conference at Phoenix College later in the month.

Peer mentors participated in a variety of breakout sessions focused on mental health awareness, Indigenous language learning, and financial empowerment. These sessions provided valuable tools and insights that will help us continue supporting and uplifting Indigenous students.



Career Fair

Students, staff, and community partners gathered at the Lone Tree campus this month for the Career Fair to connect and have conversations with local businesses and employers.

The event helped students build professional skills, make direct employer connections, and led to several immediate job offers—all while strengthening CCC's network of engaged community partners.

Career Services also hosted several events for students this month including Resume and Cover Letter workshops and the JCPenney suit-up event.

Celebrating Excellence

Executive Leadership Institute

Coconino Community College is proud to announce that Dianna Sanchez, Vice President of Advancement & Strategic Initiatives, has been selected to participate in the League for Innovation's 2025 Executive Leadership Institute (ELI). This prestigious program brings together emerging community college leaders from across North America for an intensive four-day experience focused on the future of higher education, innovation for student success, and leadership development.

Congratulations to Dianna for representing CCC and advancing leadership excellence in community colleges!

Excellence in Financial Reporting

CCC has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its FY2024 annual comprehensive financial report. This honor, the highest recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, reflects the College's commitment to transparency, high-quality financial communication, and excellence in financial management!

In case you missed it...

HR Discount

At the NAU Career and Graduate School Fair, Janelle Indian-Begay and Rosa Mendoza-Logan represented our college with professionalism and creativity. While there, Janelle connected with TRU by Hilton Flagstaff, leading to a follow-up tour in early November. We're pleased to share that TRU by Hilton is now offering a 15% discount to all CCC job applicants and new hires needing accommodations, as well as to all CCC employees and their visiting relatives. Janelle's initiative reflects our commitment to making CCC a great place to work. For more details, employees can contact Human Resources.

Getting to Know Your W-2 Form

Form W-2, also known as a "Wage and Tax Statement," is an important tax form to report the employee's previous year's wages, taxes withheld from paychecks, benefits provided, and other important financial details. In this informational session, we will walk through each box on the W-2 and explain the amounts reported in each box.

When: Friday, November 21 | 1:00-1:45 p.m.
Where: Lone Tree Campus | Room 201 and Zoom: [Zoom Link](#) | Password: 347959

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!

Academic Affairs

Detention Academy Graduation

Congratulations to the newest graduates of the High Country Training Academy's Basic Detention Academy, Class #34. This rigorous program provides entry-level training for detention and corrections officers, meeting Arizona Detention Association standards and preparing graduates to serve their communities with professionalism and integrity. Congratulations to all on this important achievement and the start of a meaningful career in public safety!



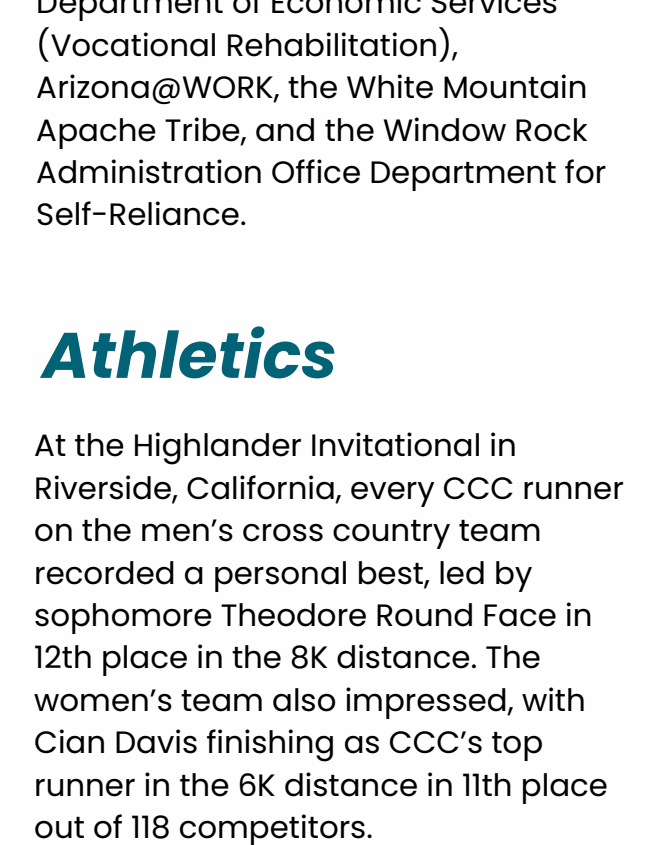
Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club spent three days at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado this month, exploring places like Monument Valley and the Canyons of the Ancients, attending cultural festivals, and learning about careers in anthropology. This semester, the club also produced the *Anthrolore* podcast, hosted guest speakers, and held discussions on topics from Indigenous Peoples' Day to altered states of consciousness.



ASL Club

The ASL Club sponsored a fun ASL social night at Starlight Lanes. Students, faculty, and members of the local Deaf community joined in the fun. It was a great opportunity for students to use ASL outside of the classroom with a variety of language models. And have good laughs at their instructor's lack of bowling skills as well!



OSHA Training

To support students in their career development, Ken Myers taught OSHA 10 Certification classes this month. He visited Ponderosa High School in Flagstaff and Tse'Yaato' High School in Page. In addition to the OSHA training, Tse'Yaato' students also completed First Aid, CPR, and AED certification at the CCC Page Center, gaining valuable, hands-on skills to prepare them for future workplace success.

CMAT Cohort

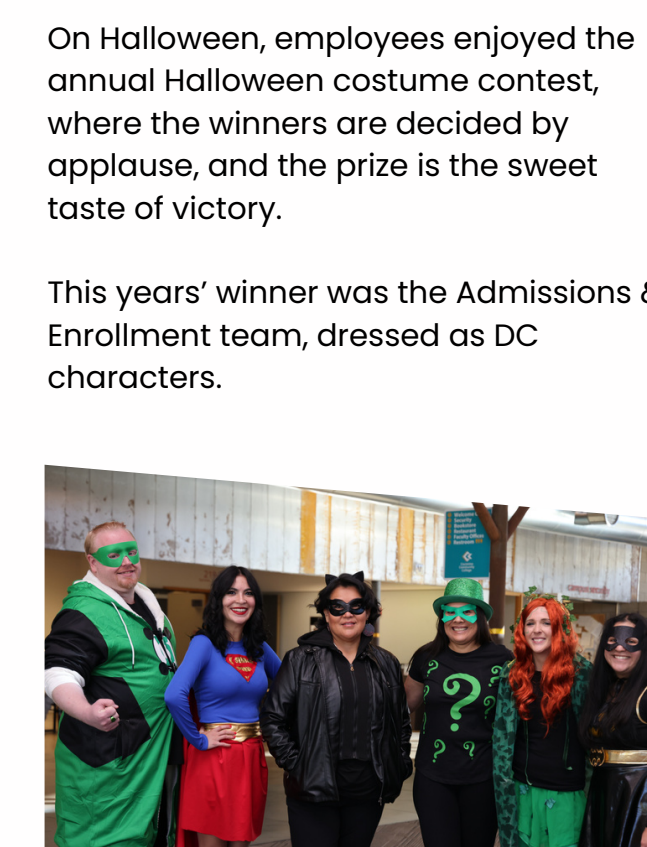
Our newest cohort of Maintenance Technician (CMAT) students began classes on October 13. The program follows a hybrid format, with instruction held via Zoom three to four evenings a week and in-person sessions in Flagstaff on weekends. This cohort of 15 students will complete their training before the winter break and is supported through a variety of funding sources, including self-pay, the Department of Economic Services (Vocational Rehabilitation), Arizona@WORK, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and the Window Rock Administration Office Department for Self-Reliance.

Athletics

At the Highlander Invitational in Riverside, California, every CCC runner on the men's cross country team recorded a personal best, led by sophomore Theodore Round Face in 12th place in the 8K distance. The women's team also impressed, with Cian Davis finishing as CCC's top runner in the 6K distance in 11th place out of 118 competitors.

The Comets carried this momentum into the ACCAC and NJCAA Region I Championships in Gilbert, where the men's team placed third overall. In total, 3 Comets earned All-Region honors, and 8 comets earned All-Conference awards.

Both teams qualified for the NJCAA Division II National Championships this year!



Community Connections

Williams High School Homecoming

Coco the Comet joined Williams High School for their exciting Homecoming football game, where the Vikings celebrated a victory over Joseph City. During the festivities, Coco helped introduce Williams High School's brand-new mascot, the Viking, adding extra energy and spirit to the night. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with students, families, and the Williams community during this special Homecoming celebration.



Recent Events

Flagstaff Marathon

Early in the month, over 450 participants gathered at the Arizona Nordic Center for the 18th annual Flagstaff Marathon. The event put on by the CCC Foundation and community members raises money for the CCC Cross Country Teams to travel to Nationals.

Known as the toughest (and coolest!) trail marathon in Arizona, the Flagstaff Marathon welcomes runners from across the country every year for a ton of fun and some friendly competition. Thank you to all runners, sponsors, and volunteers for making this year's event another great one!



Employee Halloween Contest

On Halloween, employees enjoyed the annual Halloween costume contest, where the winners are decided by applause, and the prize is the sweet taste of victory.

This year's winner was the Admissions & Enrollment team, dressed as DC characters.

ATD Capacity Cafe

This month, Achieve the Dream hosted a Capacity Cafe in the Lone Tree Commons for faculty and staff to gather, talk through strategic goals, and review the capacity quiz that all were welcome to participate in. The morning was one of discussion and collaboration as staff and faculty connected on ways their respective departments are working on goals.

Page Balloon Regatta

We were able to celebrate the 23rd annual Page Balloon Regatta this year. CCC's sponsored balloon, Moonshine, got to fly in the festival and even dip into Antelope canyon. The weekend is always a great time to highlight CCC, specifically the Page center. Staff set up a tent at the street fair during the weekend and connected with community members, sharing about the Page campus and CCC programs.

4DX Life of a Showcase

Staff and faculty gathered in the Lone Tree Commons for the 4DX Life of a Showcase! Everyone was able to share their WIG scoreboards, discuss goals, and see how departments across the college are contributing in big ways to student success at CCC.

CCC Staff Updates

Welcome, Dr. Mark Hartley

We want to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Mark Hartley who joins us as the new Dean of Student Development. With over 25 years in higher education, he brings deep experience in student engagement, leadership, and success. Formerly Dean of Student Life at Norco College, he led programs in student government, athletics, wellness, and career services. Holding a doctorate in Educational Leadership from CSU San Bernardino, Mark's research on grit, growth mindset, and vulnerability reflects his belief in empowering students to lead with confidence and compassion. He's excited to bring his student-centered approach and collaborative spirit to CCC.

Welcome, Hayden Schomer

Welcome Hayden Schomer as our new Financial Aid Specialist! "As the newest member of the CCC community, I am excited to bring my experience from NAU and my accounting background into this role. I look forward to working with you all!"