



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.



Watch the video newsletter!



Department Updates

Student Services

Page Campus Awards and New PTK Members

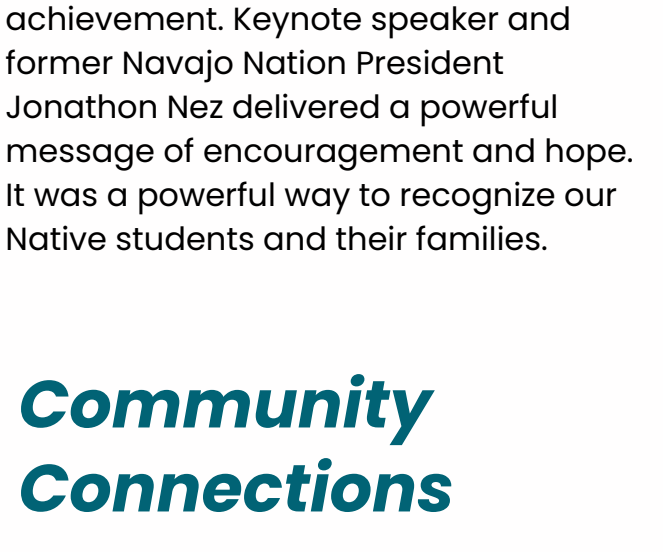
At the Page campus, we gathered for the annual Student Recognition Ceremony, honoring the perseverance of students in rural and remote communities. This year, five outstanding students received seven awards—a powerful testament to determination and drive.

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!



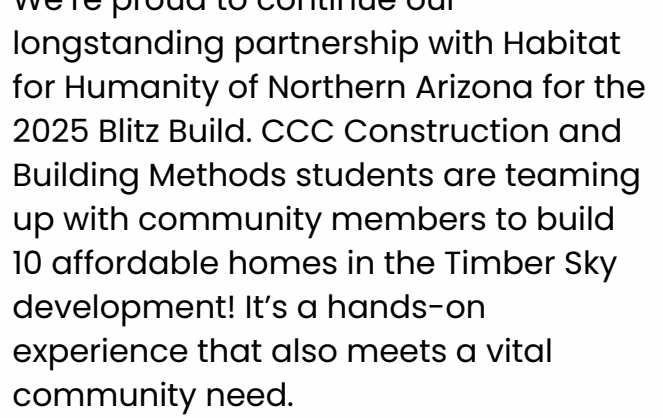
Seeds of Success

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 Jonathan Nez delivered a powerful message of encouragement and hope. It was a powerful way to recognize our Native students and their families.

Community Connections

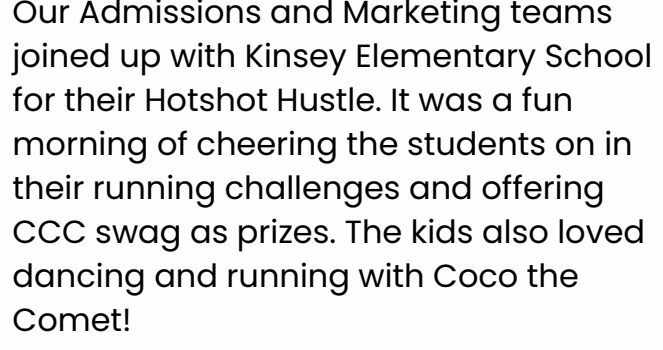
Williams Partnership

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 CCC 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.

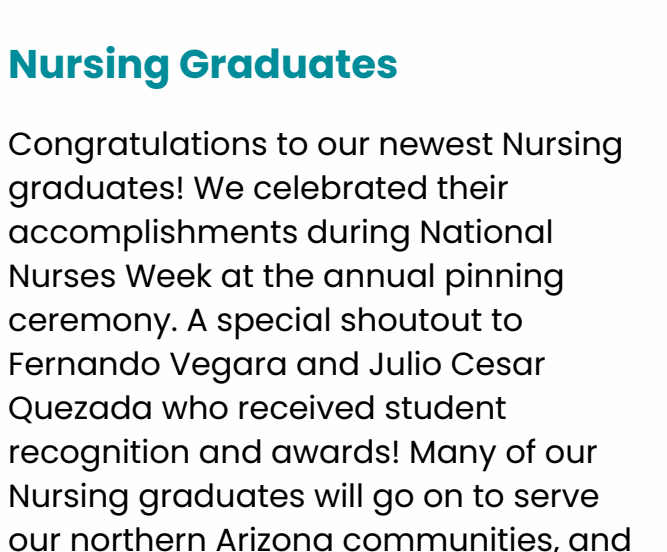
BCBS of AZ for STEAM

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

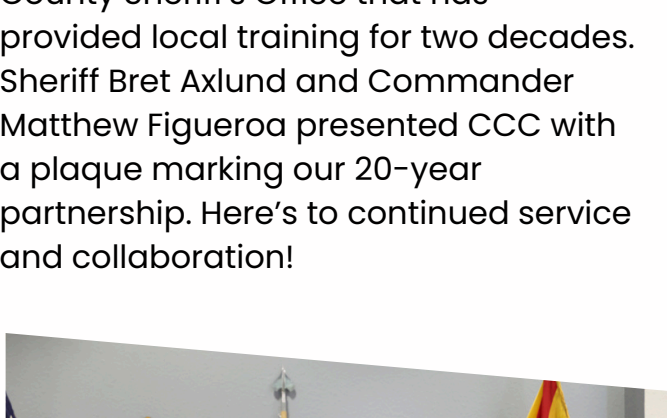
Fire Recruitment Event

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.



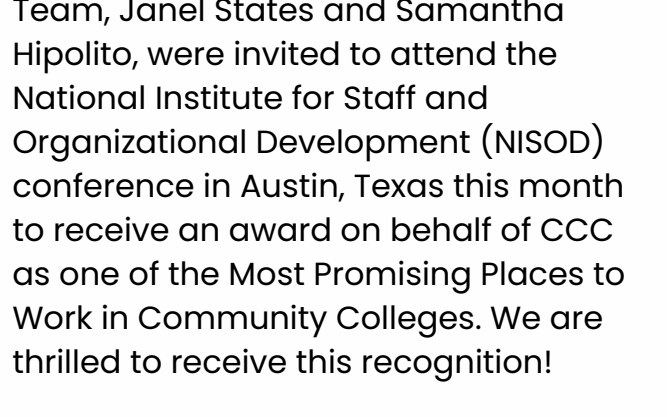
Nursing Graduates

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

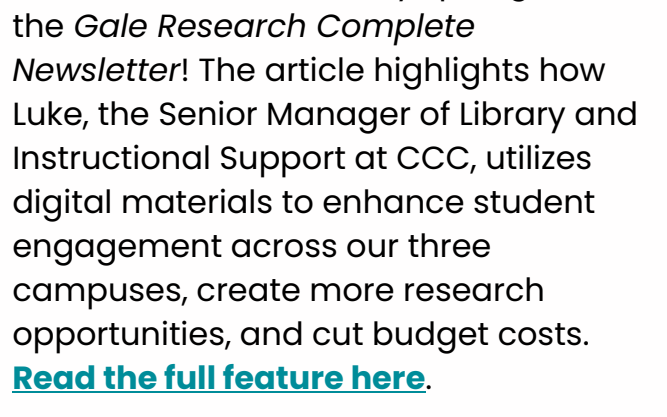
On May 16, we honored the 33rd graduating class of the Detention Officers Academy, a partnership between CCC and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office that has provided local training for two decades. Sheriff Bret Axlund and Commander Matthew Figueroa presented CCC with a plaque marking our 20-year partnership.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



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!

