

## Comet Chronicles

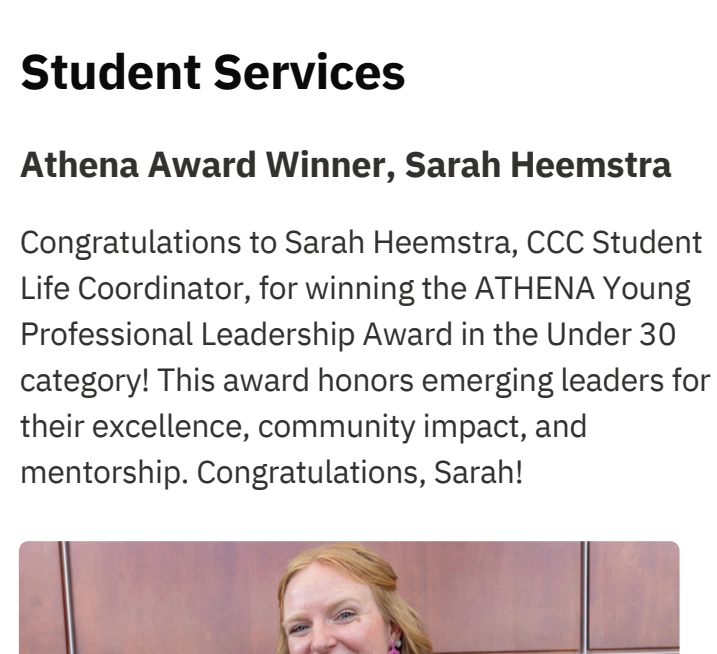


## College News

### Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs visits Fourth Street Campus

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs visited CCC's Fourth Street Campus to discuss higher education and workforce development. She met with students, faculty, and staff, highlighting CCC's role in preparing Arizona's workforce.

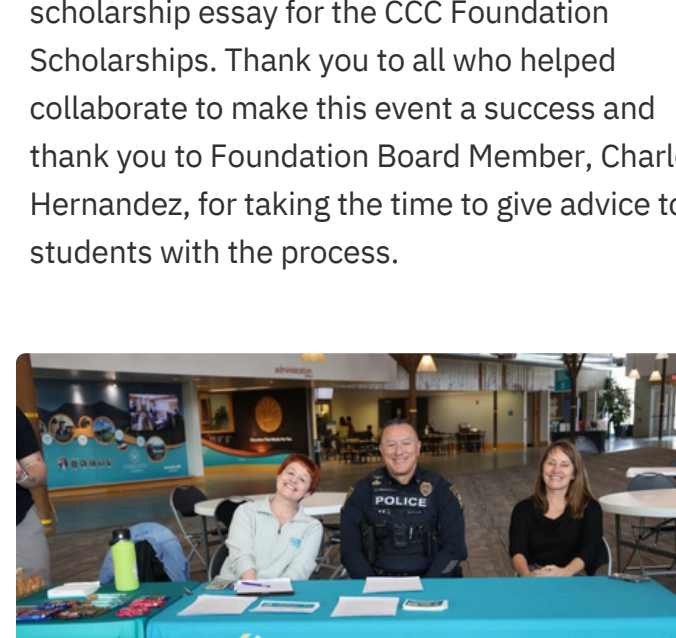
During her visit, Governor Hobbs toured campus facilities and learned about CCC's programs aimed at student success. CCC was honored to have hosted Governor Hobbs and looks forward to continued collaboration in advancing education in Arizona.



## Department Updates

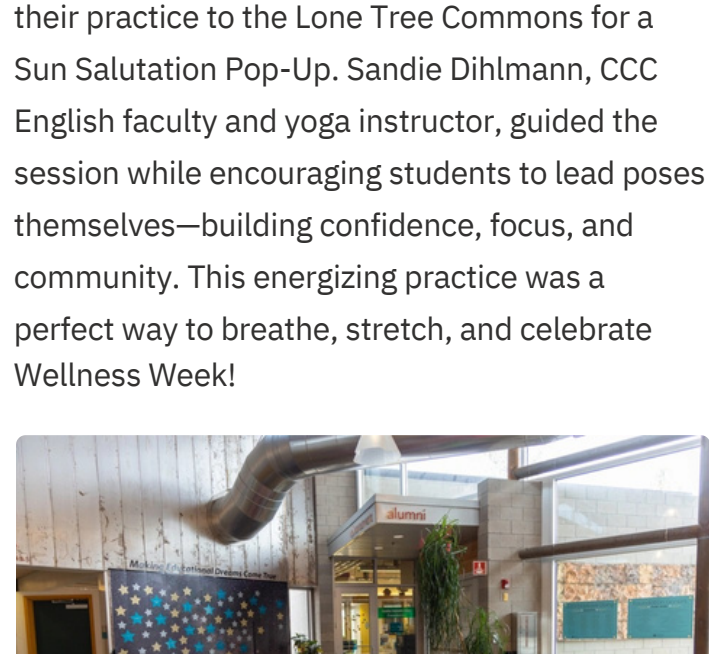
### Athena Award Winner, Sarah Heemstra

Congratulations to Sarah Heemstra, CCC Student Life Coordinator, for winning the ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award in the Under 30 category! This award honors emerging leaders for their excellence, community impact, and mentorship. Congratulations, Sarah!



### Affording College Workshop

CCC hosted an Affording College workshop in collaboration with Financial Aid and the Foundation to discuss with students the various ways they can afford college and share helpful tips about writing the scholarship essay for the CCC Foundation Scholarships. Thank you to all who helped collaborate to make this event a success and thank you to Foundation Board Member, Charles Hernandez, for taking the time to give advice to students with the process.

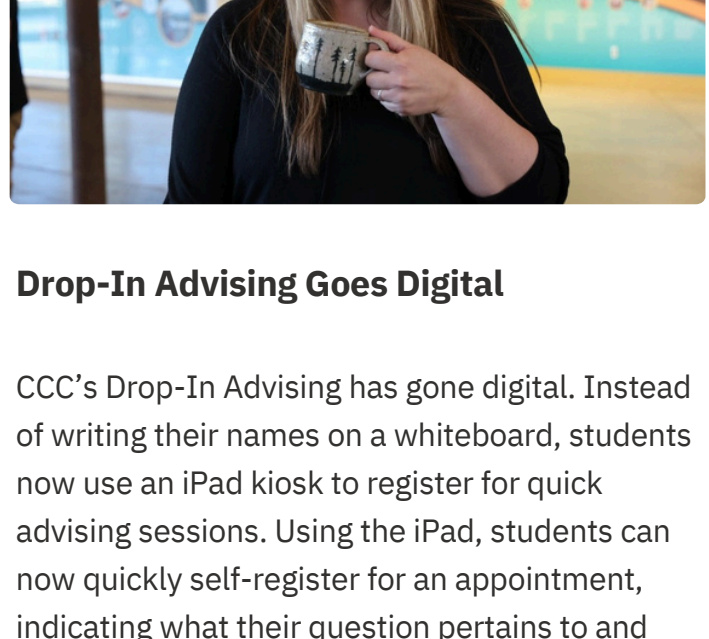


### Wellness Week and Student Appreciation Lunch

CCC also celebrated Wellness Week, highlighting different aspects of well-being for students, staff, and faculty. A big thank you to Tamales USA, Eat n' Run, and Subway for making the Student Appreciation Lunch a delicious success!

### Sun Salutation Pop-Up

Students in Fitness 111 - Beginner Yoga took their practice to the Lone Tree Commons for a Sun Salutation Pop-Up. Sandie Dihlmann, CCC English faculty and yoga instructor, guided the session while encouraging students to lead poses themselves—building confidence, focus, and community. This energizing practice was a perfect way to breathe, stretch, and celebrate Wellness Week!



### CCC Clay Club

The CCC Clay Club recently partnered with Student Life to raise funds for 15 of our students who wish to attend the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference, scheduled for March 26-29, 2025, in Salt Lake City, Utah. To help offset expenses, the Clay Club organized a soup bowl and coffee mug sale. Students attending the conference, Clay Club members, and faculty generously donated bowls and mugs, while Student Life contributed coupons for soup and coffee, partnering with Jitters Lunchbox for the event. The event raised \$2,100, which will be distributed equally among the 15 students attending the conference. The Clay Club thanks Sarah Heemstra and Jitters Lunchbox for their support, dedication, and "can-do" attitude. We also express our gratitude to the Marketing Department for their assistance and to the students, faculty, administration, and staff who continue to support our sales by purchasing handmade work.

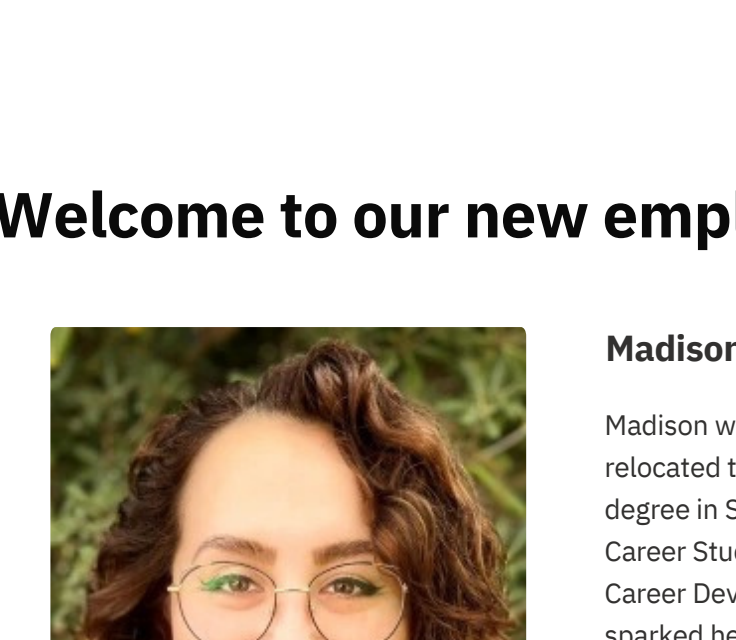


### Drop-In Advising Goes Digital

CCC's Drop-In Advising has gone digital. Instead of writing their names on a whiteboard, students now use an iPad kiosk to register for quick advising sessions. Using the iPad, students can now quickly self-register for an appointment, indicating what their question pertains to and whether they are a CCC or a 2NAU student. Depending on which type of student they are, an alert will appear in the Teams chat for the CCC or 2NAU advisors. The advisor who claims that student appointment digitally indicates that they have it covered, so everyone else can see that the appointment has been claimed. This new, streamlined process has created efficiencies and provides stats on these drop-in appointments.

### New Student Development Signage

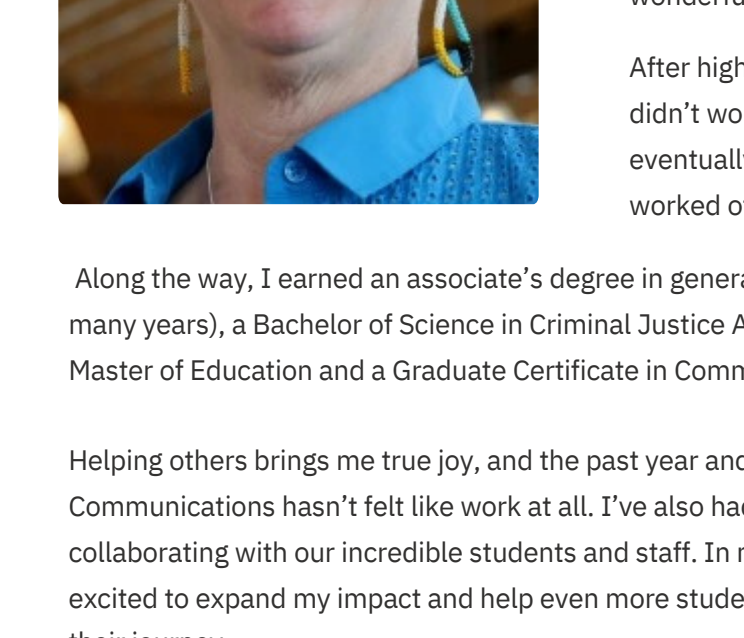
A new, overhead sign has been added to the Student Development Welcome Center entry area in an effort to direct students and other visitors to the Welcome Desk for assistance or to check-in for their advising appointment. A pedestal sign that lists all of the areas that Student Development encompasses is also front and center to aid visitors in understanding what services are available.



## Marketing

### Coco's Canyon Cooler Run

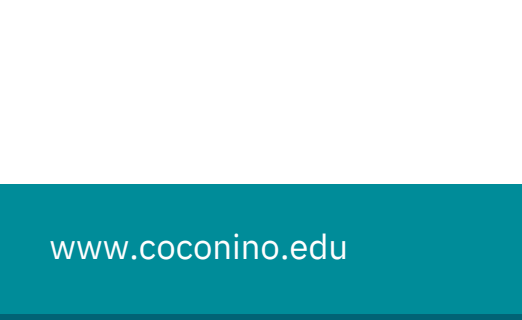
CCC participated in Cooler Runnings 2025, a charity bobsled race at Fort Tuthill Flagstaff Snow Park benefiting the Flagstaff Family Food Center. With the help of CCC's Facilities team, Coco the Comet raced in a custom bobsled built from a Canyon Cooler. Competing against 31 teams in a double-elimination bracket, Coco and the crew put in a strong performance, finishing fourth overall. Thank you to our Facilities team for their craftsmanship and to everyone who supported CCC at the event!



### ITS

Make sure to check out the latest issue of **IT HAPPENS**. IT Happens is IT's monthly tech update designed to keep you informed with the latest technology tips, news, and guides!

## Welcome to our new employees



### Madison Leonhardt - Academic Advising

Madison was born and raised in Southern California but recently relocated to Northern Arizona in January. She earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology from CSU Channel Islands, where she served as a Career Student Assistant and a Career Peer Mentor in the university's Career Development and Alumni Engagement Department. These roles sparked her passion for assisting students with both their professional and personal development. After graduation, Madison pursued a master's degree in counseling from California Lutheran University (CLU). While at CLU, she worked as a Career Counseling Graduate Assistant in the Career Services Office, where she supported students and alumni with their career development needs.

.In addition to this role, Madison also gained experience at El Camino College, serving as a Counseling Success Coach in the Counseling Department and as an Intern in the First Year Experience Department. Following the completion of her master's degree, Madison began her role at the University of Southern California (USC), where she worked as an Academic Advisor for two years. In this position, she assisted business students with their academic needs, providing guidance and support throughout their academic journey. Outside of work, Madison enjoys spending time with her animals, baking, painting, and reading. A dedicated animal lover, she is the proud mama of two dogs, Sir Roc and Maevis, a dumbo rat, and a 40-gallon freshwater fish tank filled with a variety of fish!

### Kelly Walker - NASC Advisor

My name is Kelly Walker, and some of you might already know me as a tutor here at CCC since 2023. For those who don't, let me share a little about myself. I was born and raised in Phoenix and moved to Flagstaff in 2011. I've been happily married to my husband Randy, a talented chef, for 35 years. Together, we have five children and six wonderful grandchildren.

After high school, I initially attempted college, but when that path didn't work out, I chose to serve in the U.S. Air Force. My journey eventually led me to a career in higher education, where I've worked off and on since 2001, primarily in financial aid.

Along the way, I earned an associate's degree in general studies (proving to myself that I could achieve it after so many years), a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Phoenix, and both a Master of Education and a Graduate Certificate in Community College Teaching and Learning from NAU.

Helping others brings me true joy, and the past year and a half of working with CCC students in English and Communications hasn't felt like work at all. I've also had the privilege of supporting the SISS program, collaborating with our incredible students and staff. In my new role as the SISS Career Development Advisor, I'm excited to expand my impact and help even more students on their journey.



For full session details and Zoom links, visit the HR intranet.

### Ashley Santana (pictured) and Sofya Rodgers

Please welcome two new members to the TRIO program: Ashley Santan and Sofya Rodgers.



## Upcoming Events

**March 29:** No Foolin' Around Golf Tournament

**April 5:** Deaf Expo

**April 5:** Page Attacks Trash

**April 7:** Fall Priority Registration

**April 8:** Page Recruitment Event

**April 9:** Advising and Transfer Fair

**April 14:** Fall General Registration

**April 14:** Curios Reading Event

**April 16:** Career Fair

**April 17:** Student Award Ceremony

**April 22:** Earth Day Festival

**April 25:** Palette to Palate

**April 29:** Student Life Destress Fest

**Continuing Education April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30:**

**Conscious Aging April 4:** Ukrainian Egg Decorating

**April 5:** Stained Glass Workshop

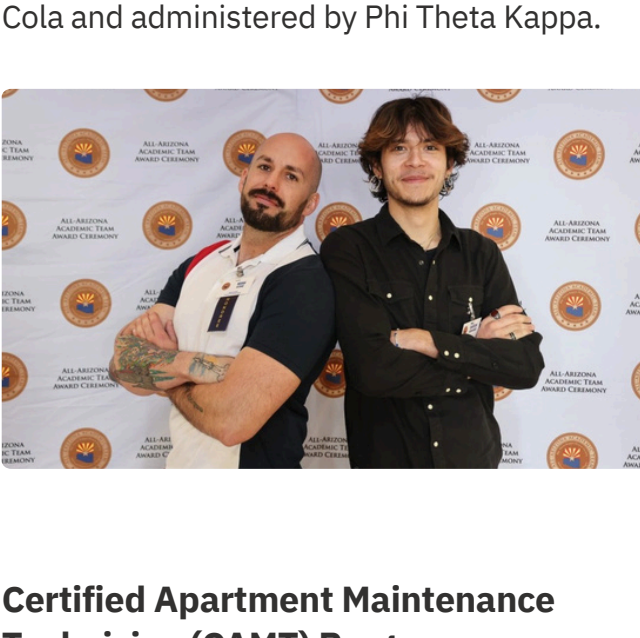
**April 5:** Wisdom Cards Workshop

**April 21:** Comet Talk: Hunting for a Healthy Food Source

**April 28:** Comet Talk: Fishing for a Healthy Food Source

## ATD Core Team in Philidelphia

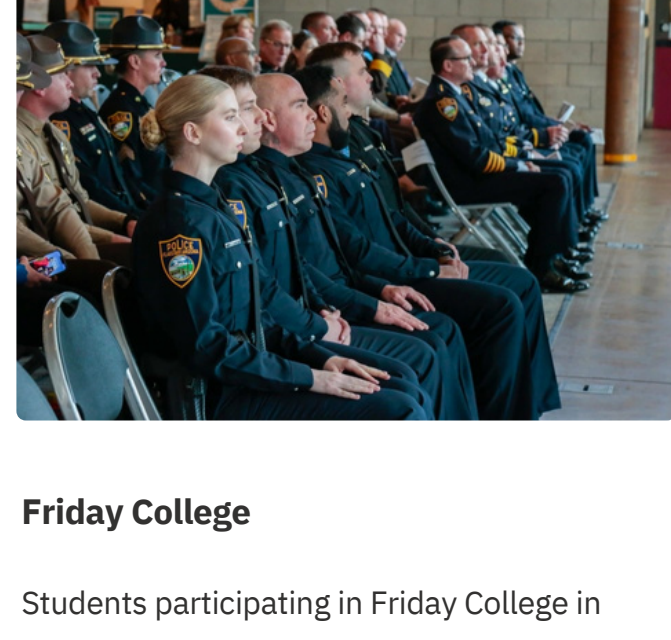
Members of CCC's Achieving the Dream (ATD) Core Team traveled to Philadelphia for the Dream 2025 Conference, a national gathering focused on advancing student success in community colleges. During the conference, the team engaged in workshops, networking, and strategy sessions, bringing back valuable insights to enhance CCC's commitment to student achievement.



## Academic Affairs

### AZ All Academic Team

Congratulations to Dawson Hernandez and Noah Stone, who were nominated for the All-Arizona Academic Team as part of the All-USA Scholarship competition! Noah is preparing to enter NAU's 2025 Compressed Nursing Program, aiming to become a flight nurse, and Dawson plans to transfer to NAU for psychology and philosophy on his path to law school. Dawson was also selected as a 2025 Coca-Cola Gold Scholar, a program sponsored by Coca-Cola and administered by Phi Theta Kappa.

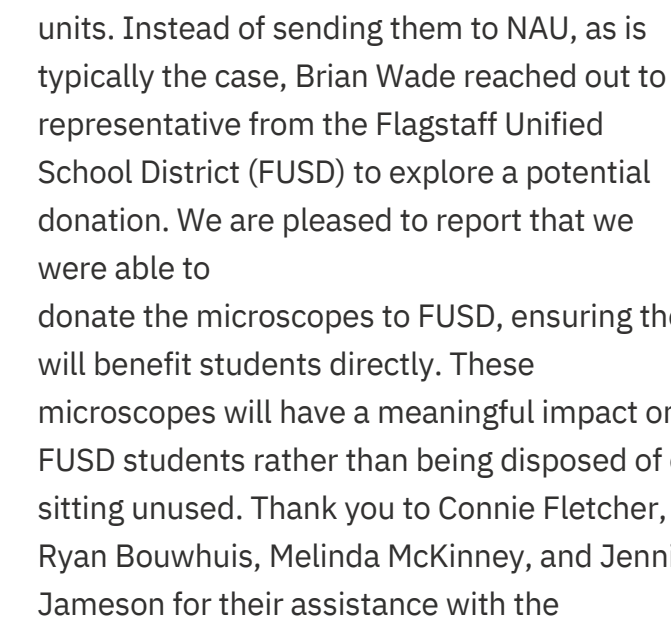


### Certified Apartment Maintenance Technician (CAMT) Program

Congratulations to the first hybrid cohort of CCC's Certified Apartment Maintenance Technician (CAMT) program on completing their course! These dedicated students balanced online evening classes with hands-on, in-person labs, mastering essential skills in electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and more. Their hard work and commitment set a new standard in apartment maintenance excellence.

### High Country Training Academy Graduates

After 22 weeks of rigorous training, graduates of the High Country Training Academy's fifth class are ready to serve and protect our communities. Thank you for your dedication to public safety —our communities are in good hands!



### Friday College

Students participating in Friday College in Williams recently visited CCC's Lone Tree Campus to connect with resources and support services. During their visit, they engaged with advisors, explored student services, and met campus staff, gaining valuable insights into the programs and opportunities available at CCC.

### CCC2NAU Day

CCC hosted CCC2NAU Day, introducing students to the CCC2NAU partnership program. During the event, students connected with advisors, explored transfer pathways, and learned how CCC2NAU supports their academic and career goals. And of course, our favorite mascots—Coco and Louie—had a heartfelt reunion!

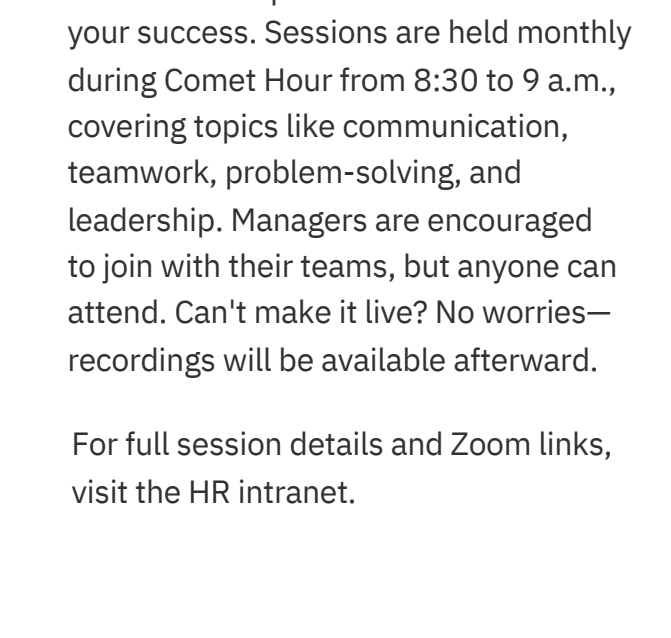


### CCC Donates Microscopes to FUSD

As part of the recent upgrades to our science microscopes, we needed to surplus 16 older units. Instead of sending them to NAU, as is typically the case, Brian Wade reached out to a representative from the Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) to explore a potential donation. We are pleased to report that we were able to donate the microscopes to FUSD, ensuring they will benefit students directly. These microscopes will have a meaningful impact on FUSD students rather than being disposed of or sitting unused. Thank you to Connie Fletcher, Ryan Bouwhuis, Melinda McKinney, and Jenni Jameson for their assistance with the paperwork and approval process.

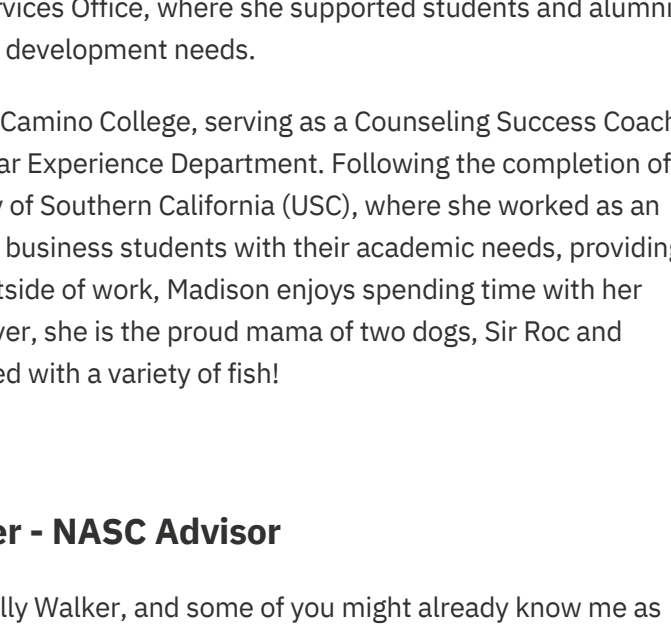
### Colorado Plateau Studies field trip

CCC students explored the history and geology of Montezuma Castle and Montezuma Well on February 20 as part of the Colorado Plateau Studies course. It was learning beyond the classroom at its best!



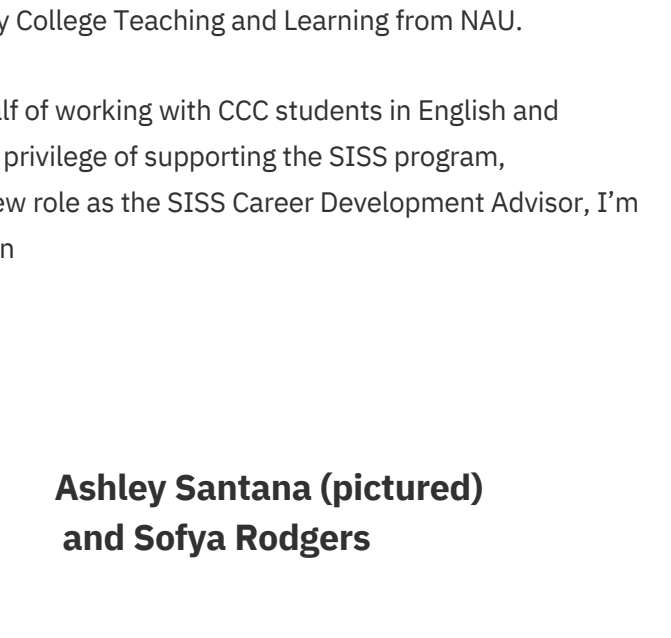
### 89Forward Business Conference

In partnership with the Page Chamber of Commerce and the City of Page, CCC's SBDC team co-hosted the 89Forward Business Conference on February 26-27, celebrating 50 years of Page as an incorporated city. Nearly 70 business leaders attended to discuss growth, leadership, and economic development. The CCC SBDC Team worked hard to make the conference a success — DeAnn Mendoza, Amanda Henry, Valerie Devoy, Melissa Glover, Kay Leum and Debra Mockler. DGB Chair Joey Smith presented to the largest pre-conference crowd, sharing his knowledge about Maintaining Order: Addressing Difficult Employees & Disruptive Behavior. Samantha Hipolito and Janel States from CCC Marketing and Communications presented a session at the conference on Positive Public Relations and Dianna Sanchez, Vice President of Advancement & Strategic Initiatives, facilitated the conference closing session, Planning for Page — A Bridge Forward.



### Midwinter Leadership Conference

Our Career and Technical Education faculty attended the Midwinter Leadership Conference, engaging in discussions about the future of CTE in Arizona. These conversations are vital for shaping skilled trades education!



## Human Resources

The **Professional Empowerment** series continues! These dynamic 30-minute Zoom sessions will help you sharpen essential workplace skills and boost your success. Sessions are held monthly during Comet Hour from 8:30 to 9 a.m., covering topics like communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership. Managers are encouraged to join with their teams, but anyone can attend. Can't make it live? No worries—recordings will be available afterward.

For full session details and Zoom links, visit the HR intranet.