

November 2024

Comet Chronicles



Upcoming Events

January 13: First Day of Instruction
January 13 - 16: Welcome Week
January 21: Community Resource and Safety Fair
January 22: Campus Connection Fair
January 28: Fourth Street Resource Fair
TBD: Page Resource Fair

Continuing Education
January 22: Death and Dessert
January 27: Comet Talk: The Honeymoon Trail
February 1 or February 8: Stained Glass Workshops

College News

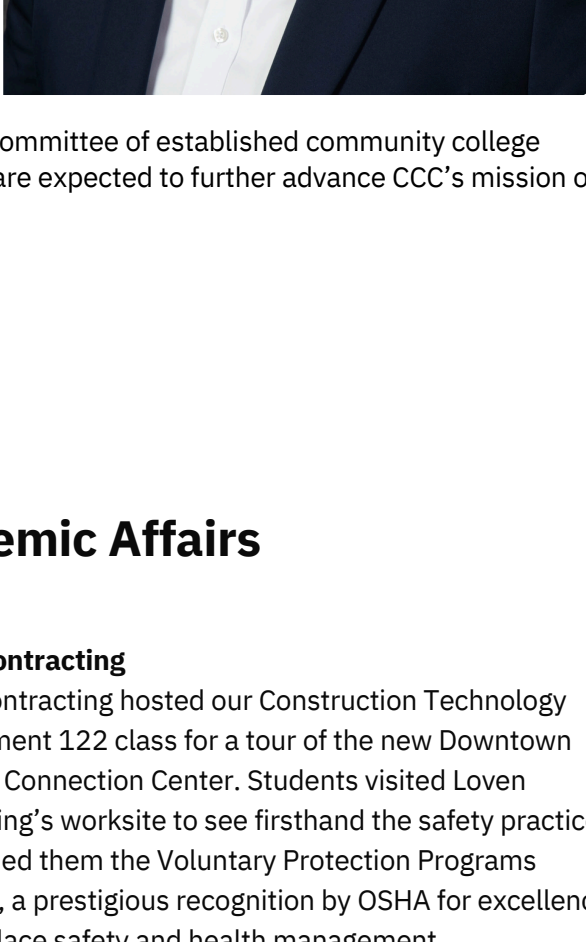
Tony Williams Selected for Executive Leadership Institute

We are proud to announce that Tony Williams, Vice President of Student Services, has been accepted into the highly competitive League for Innovation in the Community College's Executive Leadership Institute (ELI).

The ELI program is designed to prepare senior community college leaders for future presidencies, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills needed to lead their institutions with confidence and vision. Beginning in December with in-person sessions and concluding in January with virtual programming, the program provides an intensive, immersive experience in executive leadership development.

Admission to ELI is rigorous, with participants selected by a national committee of established community college presidents. The insights and strategies he gains through the program are expected to further advance CCC's mission of providing exceptional support to students.

Congratulations, Tony!

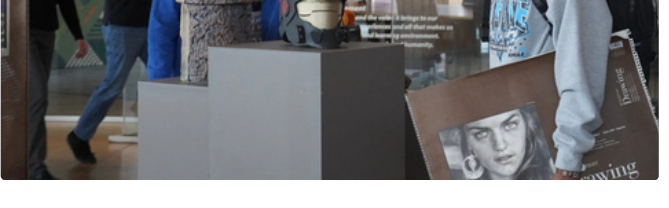


Department Updates

Student Services

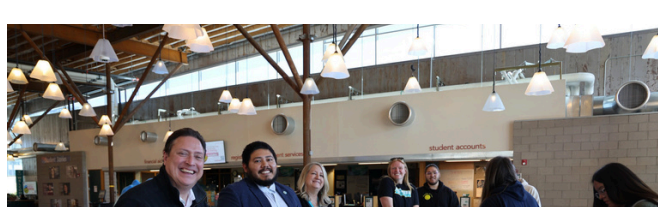
Page Lake Powell Balloon Regatta

CCC soared to new heights at the annual Page Lake Powell Balloon Regatta in early November. CCC captured a balloon and shared information about our programs at the Street Fair booth. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success!



Student Art Showcase

The Coconino Community College Student Art Exhibit showcased the talent and creativity of our students, featuring painting, sculpture, photography, and drawing. If you missed the exhibit, don't worry, some of the pieces will be featured in the upcoming edition of Curious Living Magazine, CCC's literary magazine. The magazine serves the all artists in northern Arizona. If you have something you'd like to submit, the deadline is February 14, 2025: www.curiousmagazine.org/submissions.

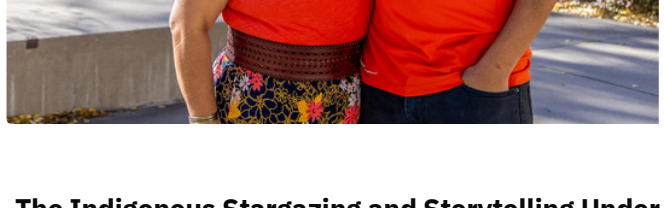


Veterans Day Lunch

On November 7, CCC celebrated Veteran students with a special lunch in honor of Veterans Day. Faculty and staff were invited to drop by the Veterans Center to share lunch and connect with our Veterans. Thank you to the Veterans Affairs Office and Student Life for hosting this meaningful event.

Coffee and Donuts with the Deans

Student Life brought students and leadership together for the second edition of Coffee (with Coco) and Donuts (with the Deans) on November 14th. Deans Dave, Jenni, and Nolan served donuts and discussed ways to improve the CCC student experience.



Cross Country Banquet

The Comets cross country teams wrapped up their season with an end-of-year banquet on November 13th. Nearly 100 family members, teammates, and supporters joined the celebration, reflecting on the season's challenges and successes. Thank you to everyone who supported our teams this year—Go Comets!

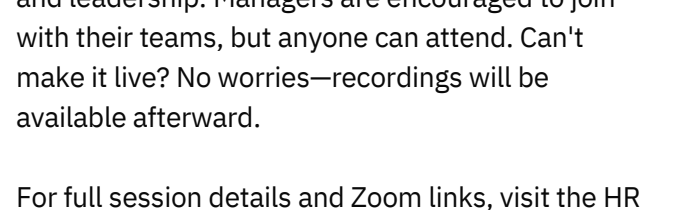
Native American Heritage Month

CCC students, staff, and the community came together throughout November to honor Native American Heritage Month with meaningful events celebrating Indigenous culture, resilience, and traditions.



The Indigenous Stargazing and Storytelling Under the Stars event was a student-led event promoting Indigenous culture and connection with the night sky during the winter. Everything from creation stories, winter stories, and Greek mythology was shared with around 40 guests, including students, faculty, and community members. Former Navajo Nation President, Jonathan Nez, and his family attended to share their knowledge of Diné culture and Mr. Nez's collaborative work with NASA engineer, Aaron Yazzie, to label sites in Navajo on Mars.

Along with cross-cultural storytelling, there were snacks, refreshments, and telescope viewing for everyone to enjoy. Six different telescopes were used to observe the Moon, planets, and galaxies with the help of Dr. Chad Davies and his astronomy students. Most importantly, Indigenous students were able to share their cultural stories of the stars with the guests. This was a collaborative event with students, faculty, and community members to share and appreciate Indigenous culture during Native American Heritage Month while enjoying the night sky through telescopes. *By McKayla Gilbert*



Indigenous Voices and Dinner

On November 18, from 4-6 PM, the SISS Peer Mentors collaborated with Student Life to host an event titled Indigenous Voices and Dinner. A SISS Peer Mentor began the evening by highlighting the importance of Native American Heritage Month and acknowledging the resilience and contributions of Indigenous communities.

Christopher Jocks, a professor of Applied Indigenous Studies at Northern Arizona University and the chair of the Applied Indigenous Studies Department, delivered a presentation titled 900 Years of Mohawk Activism, sharing insights about his heritage, the challenges faced by his people, and their perseverance through systematic discrimination. He emphasized the importance of preserving Indigenous knowledge and traditions while addressing contemporary challenges faced by Native communities. Attendees enjoyed a dinner featuring a variety of fry bread tacos, and the event drew a crowd of over 50 participants. *By Niki McCabe*.

Human Resources

The Professional Empowerment series continues! These dynamic 30-minute Zoom sessions will help you sharpen essential workplace skills and boost your success. Events 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. We look forward to your participation!

ITS

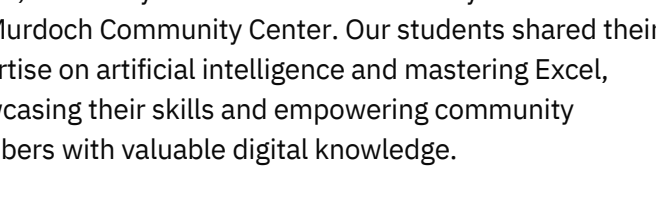
ITS has released the latest issue of **IT HAPPENS**. IT Happens is IT's monthly tech update designed to keep you informed with the latest technology tips, news, and guides. With the holidays around the corner, this month's issue is shorter but still packed with helpful information to keep you informed and secure!

- Ticket System Updates & News
 - Learn about our new Support Request webpage and how we are improving our new system.
 -
- Why You Shouldn't Use Your Work Email for Personal Needs
 - The risks of mixing work and personal communications.
 -
- Get to Know Your ITS Team – ITS Analysts
 - Meet Alycia, one of our fantastic Analysts!
 -
- Think Before You Post or Message: Online Content is Forever

Academic Affairs

Loven Contracting

Loven Contracting hosted our Construction Technology Management 122 class for a tour of the new Downtown Flagstaff Connection Center. Students visited Loven Contracting's worksite to see firsthand the safety practices that earned them the Voluntary Protection Programs approval, a prestigious recognition by OSHA for excellence in workplace safety and health management.

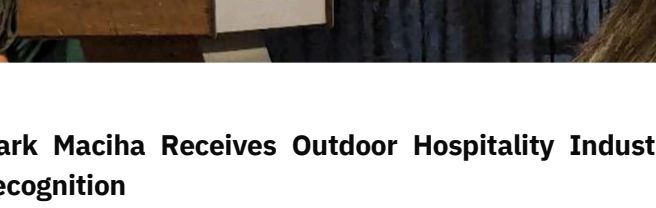


Construction Technology Students Earn OSHA 30 Certifications

Congratulations to the 28 students from CCC's Construction Technology Management program who recently earned their OSHA 30 certifications in Construction! These students completed the certification as part of the newly approved CTM 122 – Construction Materials and Equipment Safety course. The course emphasizes critical safety skills, including the proper use and maintenance of hand and power tools, applied construction mathematics, and hazard identification and avoidance. This achievement highlights CCC's commitment to equipping students with industry-standard training and ensuring workplace safety in the construction field.

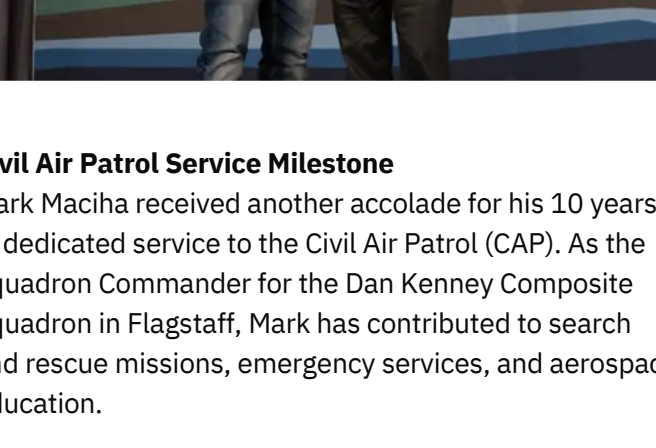
Digital Literacy Resilience Hub

Students from our Computer & Information Technology program participated in the Community Computer Literacy Forum, hosted by the Southside Community Association at the Murdoch Community Center. Our students shared their expertise on artificial intelligence and mastering Excel, showcasing their skills and empowering community members with valuable digital knowledge.



Kathryn Kozak and Madilyn Marshall attend AMATYC Annual Conference

Kathryn Kozak and Madilyn Marshall from the Mathematics and Accounting Department recently attended the 50th AMATYC Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA. Both faculty members participated in sessions designed to explore innovative ways to teach mathematics, and Kathryn Kozak, a past president of AMATYC, made significant contributions as a presenter. Her workshops included a session on the CURM grant, the creation of data science programs at two-year colleges, and reflections on past presidents' achievements as part of the organization's 50th-anniversary celebration. Kudos to Kathryn and Madilyn for representing CCC and bringing back valuable insights!



Mark Maciha Receives Outdoor Hospitality Industry Recognition

Mark Maciha, a dedicated member of CCC's community, was honored at the Outdoor Hospitality Expo and Conference in Oklahoma City with the Outdoor Hospitality Industry (OHI) Above and Beyond Award. This prestigious recognition celebrates Mark's more than 30 years of service to the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds, now known as OHI.

Mark has served the organization as a board member, instructor, and currently as the director of the George O'Leary National School of Outdoor Hospitality. He also co-authored the association's professional education and certification program, contributing to the growth and excellence of the industry. Congratulations, Mark, on this well-deserved honor!



Civil Air Patrol Service Milestone

Mark Maciha received another accolade for his 10 years of dedicated service to the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). As the Squadron Commander for the Dan Kenney Composite Squadron in Flagstaff, Mark has contributed to search and rescue missions, emergency services, and aerospace education.

CAP's Flagstaff station even includes a plane to support its critical missions. Thank you, Mark, for your continued leadership and service to our community and beyond!

Helena Babiski Appointed VP for Professional Development at PACRAO
Helena Babiski was recently selected as the nominee for Vice President for Professional Development for PACRAO (Pacific Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers). She was voted in by the board to assume the role early and will serve on the 2024-2025 board with a two-year term. Congratulations, Helena!

Marketing and PR

NCMPR Marketing Awards

The CCC Marketing Department attended the NCMPR District 6 regional conference, where they brought home two Medallion Awards! The team earned a Gold Medallion for Excellence in Invitations and a Silver Medallion for Curious magazine, produced in collaboration with English faculty member Sandra Dihlmann and the publications committee. Congratulations, everyone!



Coco Visits Sonoran Science Academy - East
Coco the Comet had the honor of visiting the Kindergarten through second-grade students at Sonoran Science Academy - East in Tucson during their College Day assembly. Coco shared their journey to finding a home at CCC, delighting the students and sparking excitement for future educational opportunities.



Coco at NAU

Coco the Comet proudly represented Coconino Community College at Mascot Day, hosted by Northern Arizona University. It was a fantastic opportunity for Coco to connect with fans, spread Comet pride, and showcase CCC's presence in the community.

Coco at Lowell Observatory

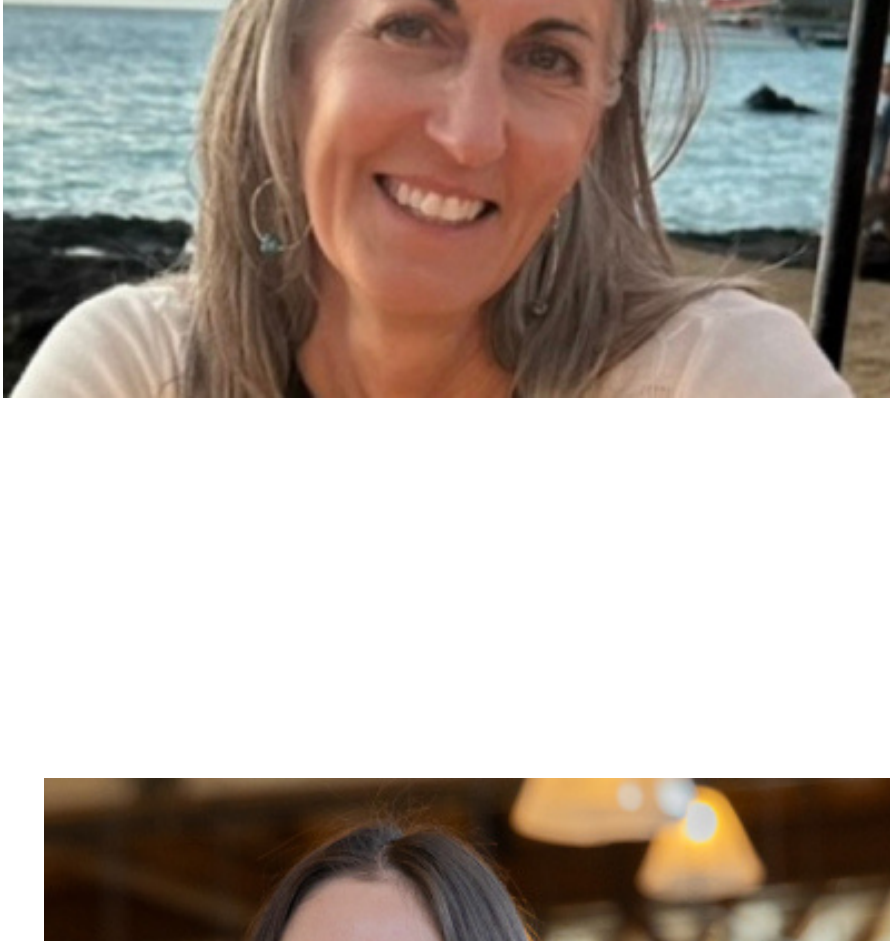
Coco the Comet had a stellar time celebrating the grand opening of Lowell Observatory's new Discovery Center! The state-of-the-art facility is an inspiring addition to our community, fostering curiosity, exploration, and discovery for visitors of all ages. CCC was proud to celebrate this milestone with Lowell.



Welcome to our November New Employees

Claudine Taillac - Student Development Administrative Specialist

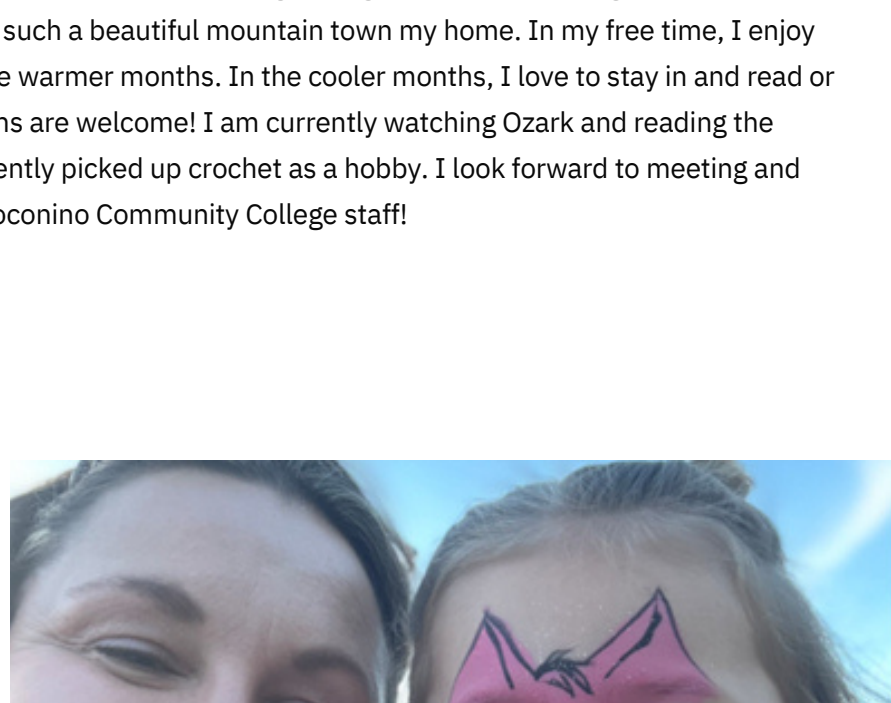
Claudine Taillac's background includes teaching experience at three community colleges, including CCC, and experience as a writer, editor, librarian, and library administrator. She has two degrees in English and a Master of Library and Information Science degree. When not at work, Claudine spends her time outside as much as possible, hiking, camping, biking, cross country skiing, and playing pickleball. She also enjoys yoga and Barre3, cooking, reading, and spending time with her partner, cat, and extended family.



Michayla Cabrera - Accounts Payable and Finance Specialist I

Hello, my name is Michayla Cabrera, and I am very excited to join the Business and Administrative Services team as the new Accounts Payable and Finance Specialist II!

I was born and raised here in Flagstaff, earning my bachelor's degree in accounting from Northern Arizona University and my master's degree in accounting from Grand Canyon University. My favorite part about living in Flagstaff is experiencing the beauty of all four seasons. I feel truly fortunate to get to call such a beautiful mountain town my home. In my free time, I enjoy hiking and exploring the beauty of Arizona in the warmer months. In the cooler months, I love to stay in and read or watch movies or TV shows (all recommendations are welcome! I am currently watching Ozark and reading the Secret History by Donna Tartt.); I have also recently picked up crochet as a hobby. I look forward to meeting and working with you all as a new member of the Coconino Community College staff!



Tanya Buckley - Executive Assistant to the Executive VP-CFO

Hello CCC! My name is Tanya Buckley, and I am so excited to meet everyone. Here is a little bit about me. Flagstaff has been home to me for over 23 years. I have a wonderful husband of almost 27 years, 2 adult children (son & daughter), a daughter-in-law, a granddaughter, and another granddaughter on the way in April 2025. Hurray! My current position with CCC will be working with Dr. Jami Van Ess in Business and Administrative Services as her Executive Assistant. I come to CCC with an extensive financial background with hopes of learning new skills at the college level. I look forward to serving the CCC community.

