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May 2017

Schools partner to create learning center at CCC-Page



CCC President Colleen A. Smith, PhD. (far left), was among educational and government leaders to sign an agreement to create the Higher Education Consortium Project at the CCC Page Instructional Site.

Page, Ariz. - Four educational institutions formally created a partnership on April 27 to strengthen higher education for the benefit of residents in the northernmost parts of Coconino County.

Officials from Coconino Community College, Diné College, Navajo Technical University, and Northern Arizona University met to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to create the Higher Education Consortium Project (HECP). CCC has offered educational opportunities in northern Arizona at the College's instructional site in Page since 1997, and now, the site will also serve as the home for this collaborative initiative.



DID YOU KNOW?

CCC serves about 7,500 learners

annually.

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Economic Impact - \$167 million in annual economic growth.

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42% of registered nurses and paramedics

CCC tuition is less than one-third the cost of the average

Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler began meeting with leaders from each of the institutions to discuss ideas to coordinate offerings for students in northern Coconino County in order to provide more educational opportunities while preventing overlap of services.

CCC President Colleen A. Smith said, "I'm a strong believer in collaboration. That's how we serve our communities and how we provide great educational opportunities to our students. This is really all about the students."

When Dr. Smith approached Supervisor Fowler a year ago with the idea, Fowler noted that she had the idea for a similar project and had approached the colleges and the city of Page in the past.

"This has been a vision and a dream for several years," Fowler said. "And today is the day that we're actually going to begin establishing the Page Higher Education Center."

Fowler added that by establishing the Page Higher Education Center, northern Coconino County residents will be able to keep their students close and their families and communities together as the students train to gain the skills for jobs in their communities.

"NAU has had a rich tradition of reaching out across the state of Arizona to rural communities in providing access," said NAU President Dr. Rita Cheng. "We've had great conversations, all of us, around specific programs that we are collaborating on. We have programs that can complement one another, and through a collaboration, make something that's not doable alone, very doable to reach students."

"It's not enough for us just to think about what we're trying to do here, but how can we try to scale this to different parts of the Navajo Nation," said Diné College President Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel. "We need to address the aspirations of our students, the aspirations of our parents, the aspirations of our communities. We have to look forward."

"Since I've been with the university, our goal has always been to reach out to community members," said Navajo Technical University Chinle Instructional Site Director Arlena Benallie. "When classes are held locally, it gives the students the opportunity to be home with their families. We are happy to partner with all the other colleges."

Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez said, "It is very important that we begin to have a larger dialogue about higher educational institutions in this region."

He reminded the audience that the Navajo Generating Station's future is in question, and transitioning people into other, high-paying jobs will be important. Tourism is a big industry in the Page area and much of far northern Arizona, so encouraging the area's young people into that industry will require offering the tools they need to be successful in their career paths.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding, the participating institutions will work to deliver "collaborative, affordable and accessible higher education opportunities to the residents of northern Coconino County."

"More specifically, HECP will enable the parties to develop pathways to

four-year state university.



promote access to higher education, allow for economies of scale not possible as autonomously functioning institutions, and increase the number of Coconino County residents who complete higher education programs and degrees," states the MOU.

The development of the HCEP will happen in four phases spelled out in the MOU - initial discussion and planning; design and structure; implementation; and monitoring and measuring the success of the project. All parties will bear their own costs until implementation, when a more detailed cooperative arrangement will be made.

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CORE VALUES:

- People
- Quality
- Ethics
- Community
- Respect
- Sustainability
- Learning and Growth

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CCC dedicated to helping Page economic future



CCC President Colleen A. Smith, PhD., (center) was part of a panel discussion on how to improve education and training for the northern Coconino County region during an economic summit on May 18 in Page.

Page, Ariz. - Residents of Page and northern Coconino County met to discuss the future of the region's economy, and Coconino Community College plays an important role in that future.

The Regional Economic Outlook Conference, hosted by the Page-Lake Powell Chamber of Commerce, took place May 18 in Page. More than 100 service agency, governmental and business leaders met for a sobering assessment of the region's economy. The goals of the conference were to share information, generate ideas and strategies for future economic development of the region, and gather people interested in forming a "united vision in light of the impending closure of the Navajo Generating Station."

Wade Rouse, PhD., of Northern Arizona University gave the audience a big-picture outlook of the U.S. economy, which is not robust and has been the weakest recovery out of a recession ever. In Arizona, the story is much the same. Arizona job growth is happening in Leisure and Hospitality, Construction, and Educational and Health Services.

John Stigmon, President and CEO of the Economic Collaborative of Northern Arizona, outlined a strategic economic development plan for the

growth.

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Page and northern Coconino County region.

Some known qualities when looking at the region: The closure of the NGS will have a dramatic economic impact on the region; the major industry in the region is tourism and employs a high percentage of residents; Navajo communities depend on Page for retail and other services; housing in Page region is very limited and old; the workforce is transient because of tourism's seasonal nature; multiple cultures create unique demands on the workforce where cultural understanding is necessary for a successful workplace; and the workforce is in need of training.

According to Stigmon, the area has a number of strengths and weaknesses, and one of the opportunities to help strengthen the region's economy is education.

CCC President Colleen A. Smith, PhD., joined a panel discussion with members of Northern Diné College, Navajo Technical University and Northern Arizona University to discuss the development of a new initiative to use the CCC Page Instructional Site as a Higher Education Consortium Project. The HECF is being developed to help address workforce and economic development by providing collaborative, affordable and accessible higher education opportunities for residents in northern Coconino County. To that end, CCC has hired a new Director of Special Projects and Grants, Kay Leum, who will be working at the Page site to make the HECF a reality.

To conclude the meeting, Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler discussed next steps in strengthening the economic future of the region. Among the next steps to take are to schedule future meetings, continue work on the HECF, start working on communication infrastructure, improve service in the tourism industry and come up with a "brand" for the region.

"Up to this point, we have done a lot of things, but we have a lot of work to do," Fowler said.

Supervisor Fowler receives CCC Distinguished Service Award



Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler has been selected as the

quality education.

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recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award from CCC.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the prestigious Distinguished Service Award at Coconino Community College.

Supervisor Fowler was selected for her outstanding contribution to the mission of CCC.

"It is a great honor to work with Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler and share in her vision," said CCC President Colleen A. Smith. "She doesn't just talk about issues; she gets things done. Supervisor Fowler is dedicated to serving Coconino County and has shown her commitment in bringing forward higher education opportunities. We at CCC are grateful for all her support."

Supervisor Fowler is now in her third term as supervisor for District 5, which includes Tuba City and the city of Page. Being Navajo and raised traditionally, Fowler has lived in Tuba City for more than 25 years and has been a part of a wide array of community service projects. She worked in the Office of Continuing Education and Diné College; was a founding member of Tuba City Concerned Citizens, an organization devoted to the cleanup of uranium mine tailings; was a founding member and vice president of Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation Board of Directors; was president of the Association for Indian Self-Determination in Healthcare; was president of Navajo United Way, Inc.; and much more.

In recent years, she has been heavily involved in the development of a Higher Education Consortium Project located at the CCC Page Instructional Site. The project brings together CCC, Diné College, Navajo Technical University and Northern Arizona University to provide higher education and job training to residents of northern Coconino County.

"I am greatly humbled and honored to be receiving the Distinguished Service Award from Coconino Community College," Fowler said.

"Establishing the Page Higher Education Center has been a vision and a dream for quite some time. With dedication, collaboration and time, the dream has come true. Being recognized by CCC will add to our ability to implement this initiative."

Supervisor Fowler has also worked with the CCC Page Instructional Site Student Services Coordinator to promote success for potential and current students; helped secure funding for dual enrollment classes in Page; organized efforts across the Navajo Nation to keep the Page Instructional Site open; and has been a speaker at several CCC events in Page, including awards ceremonies.

"Supervisor Fowler has been a tireless advocate for higher education opportunities for students in Page and surrounding communities," said Lloyd Hammonds, CCC District Governing Board Member. "Her efforts will help many students earn a college education and prepare for employment that will promote the economic vitality of our region."

The CCC Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding service, leadership and support to the College and to the educational enrichment of Coconino County. Nominees must be a resident of Coconino County at the time of nomination, and they must have affected or substantially contributed a major accomplishment for the benefit of CCC and to the educational enrichment of district residents. The award is normally given to one recipient annually, and any resident of the county may nominate a

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person for the award. Current members of the CCC District Governing Board and individuals employed by the College are exempt from nomination.

The award will be presented during the CCC Foundation Annual Meeting, Alumni & Awards Breakfast, Friday, Sept. 8, 2017, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at the CCC Lone Tree Campus, 2800 S. Lone Tree Road in Flagstaff.

Around CCC

Student speakers stress achievement during 2017 Commencement



More than 120 students participated in the 2017 Commencement Ceremony at the Lone Tree Campus on May 12.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Work hard and prove the naysayers wrong.

Student speakers Kevin Scholler and Rita Schreiner challenged their fellow graduates at Coconino Community College to pursue their goals and achieve their dreams during the 2017 Commencement Ceremony on May 12 at the Lone Tree Campus. More than 120 graduates took to the stage in front of a packed house of proud families and friends to receive their diplomas or certificates.

In all, more than 250 students were awarded degrees and certificates from CCC.

CCC District Governing Board Chair offered the Pledge of Allegiance, and then Marion Sautter sang the National Anthem. President Colleen A. Smith, PhD., welcomed the new graduates, and Executive Vice President Jami Van Ess recognized student academic honors. Provost A. Dudley Gardner, PhD., recognized the CCC Faculty of the Year - Alan Petersen, Full-Time Faculty of the Year; and Andrew Allen, Part-Time Faculty of the Year. K. Laurie Dickson, PhD., Northern Arizona University Vice Provost for Teaching, Learning Design and Assessment, offered remarks on behalf of NAU.

Scholler strolled confidently to the podium and told his story to the

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graduates and their families. He barely graduated high school, joined the U.S. Navy, and never planned on seeing a classroom again. His expectations for his life were low, and recovering from an addiction to alcohol, he found fate bringing him back to education's doorstep.

"A lot of my friends said I wouldn't last a month, and even a little voice in my head kept saying, 'You'll never make it,'" Scholler said. "All that doubt helped fuel a fire within me to prove them wrong. The doubt built a chip on my shoulder, and it made me want to show them that this was something I could do."

He enrolled at CCC, and, to his surprise, he did well. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, he graduated with a 3.9 grade point average.

"I leave you with this," Scholler said. "When they tell you you're not smart enough, prove them wrong. When they tell you you'll never be a successful student, prove them wrong. And when they tell you that you don't have what it takes to make an impact, and leave your mark on this world, prove them wrong."

Schreiner talked about her role model -- the runner Wilma Rudolf, who hailed from her hometown. In 1956, Rudolf received a bronze medal in the Olympics, and she vowed to earn the right to run in the 1960 Olympics, which she did. Not only that, Rudolf won the gold medal.

"Miss Wilma taught me three very valuable lessons in her determination to be the best," Schreiner said. "First, community is necessary for success when striving for your goals ... Second, set a goal and work toward that goal until you achieve it ... Third, no excuses. You have no choice to do anything less than your absolute best."

Schreiner returned to school after a successful career, when her husband and children reminded her that attending college had been one of her life goals. Graduating with a degree from CCC is her version of the bronze medal, and she has earned the right to attend NAU for her shot at the gold.

"I am evidence that you are never too old or inexperienced for higher education," Schreiner said. "Once I graduate from NAU, I plan to write in earnest and tell my story. We all have a story to tell, and mine continues from CCC."

To view photos of the event, visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHskVHxT1J>

Award ceremony recognizes student success in Flagstaff

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CCC Anthropology Instructor Lisa Doskocil speaks highly of student Sydney Dancer at the May 10 Student Awards Ceremony in Flagstaff.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Students, staff, faculty, family and friends gathered to recognize the achievements of students during a Student Awards Ceremony at Coconino Community College.

More than 200 people gathered on May 10 at the Lone Tree Campus to offer encouragement and support as the students received recognition. Mitch Driebe, Learning Support Program Coordinator, and Derik Yellowhair, Student Life and Passages Coordinator, bandied about their signature humor as masters of ceremonies for the event. President Colleen A. Smith, PhD., offered opening remarks, and Veronica Hipolito, Dean of Student Development and Community Engagement offered closing remarks.

More than 40 students received recognition during the event.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

The following students received academic awards: Andrew Ohumukini, Administration of Justice; Ariel Markos, Allied Health Sciences; Sydney Dancer, Anthropology; Mauricio Garcia, Business; Mark Moetwil, Computer Networking Technology; Hailey Reeves, Construction Technology; Benjamin Kramer, Emergency Medical Services; Teresa Konkell, English; Jaykumar Patel, English Enrichment; Hannah Valdovino, Fine Arts; Kellyn Taylor, Fire Science; Sarah Franckum, American Sign Language; Jadyn Breland, Mathematics; Luis Diaz Navarro, Applied Mathematics; Nicholas Escoto, Nursing; Kevin Scholler, Psychology; Christopher Slack, Science; and Azurrae Martinez, Sociology.

The following students received All-Arizona Academic Team Awards: Katherine Radics and Tara Bubbico.

The following students received Student of the Year awards: Evan Burris, CCC Student Employee of the Year; Jacqueline Smith, CCC CAVIAT Student of the Year; Jillian Hostetler, CCC2NAU Student of the Year; and Kevin Scholler, CCC Veteran Student of the Year.

The following student veterans were honored: Aaron Basti, Elliott Cooley, Brandon Faucett, George Morgan, Cynthia Navasie, Areon Redshirt, Elliott Riggs, Kevin Scholler and Jasmine Torres.

The following were recognized for honors in TRiO Student Support

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Services: Michael Walbridge, Jasmine Torres, Marcel Young, Elliot Cooley, Zachary Williams, Stephanie Rosano and Eva Welch.

The following students were recognized as CCC Peer Advisors: Bailee Brown, Tai Spears, Ty Begay, Kevin Scholler and Liliana Arenas Cruz.

The following students were recognized for the CCC Circle of Excellence: Elliott Cooley, Katherine Radics, Kevin Scholler and Brandon Smith.

The following student was recognized as Clubs & Organizations Outstanding Member: Elliott Cooley.

To view photos of the event, visit <https://flic.kr/p/TPe1o3>

Nurse Pinning Ceremony draws 200



CCC Nursing student Nicholas Escoto receives the Outstanding Student Award during the Nurse Pinning Ceremony on May 11.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - Fourteen of them held the flame of commitment and took the solemn pledge.

"... With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

And now the 14 Coconino Community College students will walk out into the world to be nurses. Each received a pin of achievement in front of an intimate crowd of about 200 family and friends during a Nurse Pinning Ceremony on May 11 at the CCC Lone Tree Campus.

President Colleen A. Smith, PhD., and Provost A. Dudley Gardner, PhD., welcomed the new graduates and their families. Lori Edwards, CCC's Director of Nursing and Allied Health offered introductions, and Richard Henn, Director of Education at Flagstaff Medical Center, reminded the graduates and guests about how badly nurses are needed in the health care industry.

Student Nicholas Escoto received the Outstanding Student Award before the graduates recited the Nightingale Pledge, which was led by students Chelsi Leffler and Jessi Holt.

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This year's graduates were: Alicia Hawks, Alyssa A. Peace, Amber Diane Spencer, Amy Shuman, Benjamin Garcia Moreno Jr., Beth Morgen, Chelsi Leffler, Dylan Weatherhead, Galen Crittenden-Armstrong, Jessi Brianne Holt, Marissa Kulen, Nicholas Paul Escoto, Samantha Kay Mace, and Tess McPherson.

To view photos of the event, visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHskVDjxBo>

Page site celebrates students



CCC Page Director Jim Hunter (right) interviews graduates Mildred Williams (center) and Giselle Bedone (left) during a Student Awards Ceremony in Page on May 18.

Page, Ariz. - Page resident Mildred Williams wants to stick close to home after she gets her bachelor's degree in business from Dixie State University.

Her goal is to own her own bakery in her hometown, and her associate degree in General Studies of Arts from Coconino Community College was the start.

"I've done all of it here in Page," she said of her work to get her associate degree. "I enjoyed it because I was able to stay home with my parents and work, and because Page is so small, I know all the administrators and almost all the teachers here."

Williams was among a handful of students recognized during a Student Awards Ceremony on May 18 at the Page Instructional Site. An intimate gathering of about 40 people congratulated the students on their accomplishments.

"It's important to recognize the achievements of our students and graduates here," said Jim Hunter, Director of CCC-Page. "For many of our students and their families, it would be difficult for them to get to the ceremonies down in Flagstaff."

Nine students, including Williams, were recognized for their successful

learners a year!

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completion of their studies at CCC by Biology Instructor Erin Lively and Math Instructor Robert Bullard. The two faculty members were also recognized themselves as employees of the year for the Page site.

One student, Cheynea Curtis, was recognized for being inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and several students were awarded scholarships at the event. Among those students, Lauren Austin received three separate scholarships -- CCC Employees Scholarship, SRP Navajo Scrubber Scholarship and Theresa Alvarado Scholarship. Student Ashleigh Epps received the Dennis Connell Memorial Scholarship, the Northern Coconino County/Page Scholarship and the Page/Lake Powell Chamber Scholarship.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Deborah Boone, Administrative Assistant to Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler. She shared her story about how, as a 16-year-old mother, she dropped out of school. At 25, she began GED classes at CCC-Page. When she passed her GED test, she received three free credits at CCC.

"I took advantage of it," she said, and she began attending CCC. She applied for and received scholarships. She worked full-time. She went to school full-time. Her husband left her and her four children. "We made the best of it. I can remember my children growing up here."

She dedicated herself to putting in the work.

"I'm living proof you can do anything, anything," Boone said. "You just have to get up and start and not give up on yourself ... Take that chance when life gives you opportunity. Even if you're scared, take it."

And, now, she works for Supervisor Fowler.

"It comes back to here," Boone said. "It comes back to CCC."

Program spotlight

CCC offers students experience abroad

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CCC offers students opportunities to travel abroad to learn about other cultures and ways of life.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - This summer, faculty members at Coconino Community College will offer students valuable experiences of other cultures with educational trips abroad.

One group of students will head to the British Isles, while another group will be heading to Japan.

BRITISH ISLES

Carl Cooke, Psychology Instructor at CCC, took six students as part of the PSY 298 class for three credit hours to the British Isles between May 16 and 25. This is his 12th year offering the trip.

"It's trying to trace the roots of psychology through Ireland and England and its effect on us today," Cook said.

The primary takeaway that Cook said he wanted was for the students to understand different cultures and receive a worldview of psychology. The students travel to different historical sites, discuss the relevance the sites have on people today, and what relevance those sites have to psychology. Special venues include a tour of London's Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and Museum and the Freud Museum.



Carl Cook's students in 2016 stand in front of the Tower of London during their trip to the British Isles.

"In Ireland and England, I would like to show the students the influences each has had on our development as a culture and as a society," Cooke said.

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For instance, during a storytelling tour, the students will listen to people tell stories of Ireland - the Easter uprising, famine, immigration to the U.S. to escape famine, becoming a part of the U.S. culture and more.

"Every time I come back, I tell my classes what I've been doing, and they all say, 'We want to go, we want to go,'" Cooke said.

Student Stephanie Yazzie, who went with the 2016 trip stated: "It was my first time traveling outside of the United States ... The trip was awesome, seeing first-hand what kind of roots Europe had. We got to learn a little about the people and the culture."

JAPAN

Mary "Betsy" Adachi, Japanese Instructor at CCC and NAU, will go with her students to Japan during the month of June. Six of the students are from NAU, and three are from CCC. The first two weeks will be study. The second two weeks will be travel to various locations -- Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Kyoto, Osaka, Nara and Tokyo.

"I really want my CCC students to join and have the opportunity," she said, adding that she is now in her third year offering the trip.

The students "home stay" with Japanese families, and the trip offers real-life chances to learn Japanese. And, for many of the students, it has been a dream of theirs to travel to Japan.

"It sounds kind of cliché, but it's fulfilling, and rewarding, to give them the opportunity to go to the country that they love so much," Adachi said.

The students explore traditional Japanese culture and modern culture as well - etiquette, manners, learning the differences between our cultures and history. They learn about the Japan that they can't be exposed to in the United States.

The students participate in Ikebana flower arrangements, the tea ceremony, kendo martial arts, Shodo Japanese calligraphy - "the way of writing," kimono wearing, Japanese musical instruments, and so much more.

"They are immersed in the culture and the history in this one-month stay, and they delve deep down below the surface," Adachi said. "It's much different from learning from books."

The point is to show the students they live in a much larger space.

"It's opening their eyes up to the world," Adachi said. "Here, we're in a bubble in this college and in this life, and it opens them up to this international world."

Upcoming ...

Faculty of the Year selected

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CCC Instructors Kristine Ketel (left) and Ken Myers (right) have been selected as the 2017-18 Faculty of the Year.

Flagstaff, Ariz. - The newest members of the Faculty of the Year ranks have been announced.

Kristine Ketel received the nod for Part-Time Faculty of the Year 2017-18. Ken Myers is the Full-Time Faculty of the Year 2017-18.

Stay tuned for a full story in a future edition of *CocoNotions*.



Join Our Mailing List!

Have a CCC news story or idea?

News and stories abound on the campuses of Coconino Community College.

- Stories of student success
- Stories of faculty and staff who make a difference
- Stories of innovative programs that foster learning
- The latest news and events going on at CCC

The list goes on.

News and story ideas are always welcome. Please contact Larry Hendricks, Public Relations Coordinator, at larry.hendricks@coconino.edu, or 928.226.4374.