CELEBRATING THE PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE

50 YEARS

EST. 1969

CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE

Proud to Serve Pinal County
This year marks the 50th anniversary of Central Arizona College. Since September of 1969, CAC has provided high quality and affordable educational opportunities for thousands of students and residents of Pinal County.

I am fortunate to serve as president, as this remarkable milestone gives me even more reason to express my pride in the team of dedicated employees and community members who have and continue to lay the groundwork for new and innovative methods of distinguishing CAC as Central Arizona's premier choice in education and career excellence.

CAC is dedicated to providing a TRUE Learning community by empowering our students and staff to succeed. Our history of providing quality education and supporting student's goals of achieving a certificate or two-year degree, transferring to a four-year institution, entering the career of their choice, or completing courses for personal enhancement remains our primary focus.

Over the past 50 years, CAC has transformed the lives of over 21,000 graduates and has impacted hundreds of thousands of others through its educational, cultural, and community outreach programs and events.

Our legacy is distinguished by the impact we have achieved on the citizens of Pinal County and beyond. I am confident that as we enter this next era, CAC will not only further establish the College as a driver in workforce and economic development for the communities we serve but also inspire others to meet their full potential.

Thank you Pinal County for 50 years of support and making Central Arizona College, Your Community College!

Sincerely,

Jackie Elliot
President/CEO
Central Arizona College

Vision ➤ Central Arizona’s premier choice in education and career excellence.


Values ➤ 1. Accountability 2. Communities 3. Trust
A Brief History of Central Arizona College – Pinal County’s Community College

The process to establish a community college in Pinal County began July 1, 1961, when the Arizona Legislature passed a bill permitting counties with the necessary assessed valuation and potential numbers of students to form junior college districts. Pinal County voted in favor of organizing a district on Dec. 17, 1961.

County Superintendent of Schools, Mary C. O’Brien, appointed five citizens to make up the original Pinal County Junior College District Governing Board. The group held their first meeting on Jan. 16, 1962.

For the first six years, the board worked diligently to find a suitable location for the campus while simultaneously preparing for a bond election to actually build the Signal Peak Campus.

In 1968, Dr. Ronald F. Schoen of Casa Grande was elected president of the Central Arizona College Foundation, an organization designed to help raise funds for the institution. The presidential board of the organization also consisted of first vice-president Ivor G. Pickering of Kearny; second vice-president Robert Bean of Coolidge; and secretary-treasurer Mona Collette of Casa Grande.

The governing board determined that a modern Spanish-Indian motif would be utilized in the construction of the college buildings to align with the history and diversity of the region.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held at Signal Peak on Nov. 8, 1968, and Central Arizona College opened its doors on Sept. 22, 1969, near the base of Signal Peak Mountain. Approximately 1,000 full-and part-time students registered for classes at the new campus.

CAC began extending its accessibility throughout Pinal County, becoming an important economic partner.

During the 1972-73 academic year, the state board for community colleges approved preliminary construction plans for the Arizona College of Technology, now known as the Aravaipa Campus.

The date of May 16, 1975, marked the first graduation and dedication at the Arizona College of Technology.

In 1979, the Governing Board approved the recommendation to develop a college with the name Central Arizona College with multiple campuses. Location names changed from CAC to Signal Peak Campus and Arizona College of Technology to Aravaipa Campus.

In 1982, CAC began offering classes in Apache Junction, using portables at Apache Junction High School. From 1985-1987 CAC held classes for students from the east valley at the Grand Hotel, which housed an administrative office and four classrooms. During the summer of 1987, the Superstition Mountain Campus opened at its current location, and by 1992 an additional 28.5 acres were purchased to expand the growing campus from one building to four buildings.

On Aug. 10, 2006, a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the new Maricopa Center located in the heart of this thriving community. A year later, CAC’s new location – the Corporate Center – located at the former Palm Center Outlet Mall just off the Florence Boulevard exit of I-10 – opened.

In Nov. 2008, voters of Pinal County authorized the college to expand educational opportunities and accessibility throughout the county by approving a nearly $99 million general obligation bond. This stamp of approval allowed CAC to build new campuses in the San Tan Valley area and in the city of Maricopa, while also upgrading some of the facilities at the Signal Peak, Superstition Mountain and Aravaipa campuses as well as the Casa Grande Center.

Central Arizona College’s San Tan Center in The Shops at Copper Basin opened for business along the Hunt Highway Corridor in 2009.

Two years later, CAC conducted the groundbreaking ceremonies for its new campus in Maricopa, giving the college the ability to extend services to the growing community. With the first phase of the campus complete, the Maricopa Campus opened for business on Jan. 2, 2013. More than 200 community members from the City of Maricopa, the Ak-Chin Indian Community and Pinal County gathered on Sept. 17, 2013 for the official ribbon cutting and opening of the campus.

CAC’s newest campus in the San Tan Valley was celebrated during a ribbon cutting ceremony on Dec. 5, 2013 and opened for business in Jan. 2014.
1969
- CAC Opened its doors with approximately 1,000 full- and part-time students registered for classes at the new Signal Peak Campus on Sept. 22.
- The college started its second year of teaching at the Arizona State Prison. During its first year, 100 inmates registered for the program. Since then, CAC has educated thousands of inmates.
- The Associated Students held their first election of officers on Nov. 26, 1969. The following students were elected: Rick Gibson, president; Marion Stewart, vice president; Debbie Millsapgh, secretary; Joanne Hoefer, treasurer; Cynthia Aspinall, Larry Herrera, Ryan Fulk and Ron Probasco, sophomore senators; and Karen Boyd, Terry Boyle, Bill Hawkins and Jolynn McNeil, freshman senators.

1970
- The Central Arizona College Dedication Ceremony was held on Sunday, Jan. 11, 1970.
- Additional dorm units were completed to accommodate the growing student population.
- The CAC board approved a seal for the college, designed by William Hudson, dean of student’s affairs for the college. The center of the gold seal contains the seal of Pinal County which represents mining. Below a saguaro cactus and a cotton plant are depicted. The entire design is surrounded by the Pima sun symbol. The gold center rests on a green background, representative of the school colors. The college seal was drawn and produced by the late Don Ratz who was as CAC art instructor.
- The CACTus, CAC’s student run newspaper published its inaugural edition.
- In September of 1970, CAC finished its $1 million Career Center on the Gila River Indian Reservation. Nearly 300 students who were Pima and Maricopa Native Americans signed up for classes. CAC operated the Center for 20 years.
- First class of nursing students graduated on May 22, 1970.
- CAC’s first commencement exercises were held on May 31, 1970. Associate degrees were conferred on 25 charter graduates.

1971
- A veteran’s club was formed at Central Arizona College.
- The popular Spanish instrumental group, Los Vaqueros del Colegio, and the Jazz Choir received a special invitation to perform at the Fiesta Bowl on Dec. 27, 1971 in Tempe. The game featured Arizona State University vs. Florida State University.

1972
- CAC head coach, George Young qualified for the Olympics in Mexico City, his fourth Olympiad.
Historical Timeline

1973
► The state board for community colleges authorized a 48-bed addition to dormitories at CAC, and approved preliminary construction plans for the Aravaipa Campus.
► David Callahan, a CAC art student from Arizona City, was commissioned to paint a 30-foot modernistic mural of a Vaquero on a black horse to decorate the water tower at the Signal Peak Campus.
► A groundbreaking ceremony for the new fine arts building was held on April 23, 1973.
► In October, plans for the development of a law enforcement academy at CAC to serve Pinal and Gila counties was announced.

1974
► Registration for classes at Arizona College of Technology at the Aravaipa Campus, was held and classes started on Sept. 23.
► The Governing Board approved a resolution naming the new fine arts center the Don P. Pence Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

1975
► The first graduation and dedication at the Arizona College of Technology was held May 16, 1975.

1976
► CAC officials partner with the Pinal County Fine Arts Council to begin offering a cultural events series in the Pence Center for the Visual and Performing Arts.

1977
► George Young, Athletic Director and Track Coach is inducted into the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame for his four-time participation in the Olympic Games, an achievement accomplished by only one other individual. The Governing Board votes to officially dedicate the Signal Peak Gymnasium as the George Young Activity Center.

1978
► Students from San Manuel High School participated in the first Central Arizona College High School Math Contest.

1979
► Prompted by the needs of Apache Junction and Superior residents, the recommendation is presented to the Governing Board to purchase land for an eventual campus in Apache Junction.

1980
► The Governing Board approved Dr. Mel A. Everingham’s recommendations to develop a college with the name Central Arizona College with multiple campuses, changing location names to Signal Peak Campus, and Arizona College of Technology to Aravaipa Campus.
► For the 10th year in a row, the CAC Parli-Pro team finished in the top five nationally.
► Dr. Everingham led the fight locally against Proposition 106, which would have reduced community college funding statewide. The proposition was defeated in November.
1981
▶ Fourteen fire department and ambulance company employees received certificates at the first graduation ceremonies for a community college paramedic training course.
▶ Seven students graduated from CAC’s building trades apprenticeship program at the Gila River Career Center in Sacaton.

1982
▶ CAC began offering classes in Apache Junction, using portables at Apache Junction High School.
▶ The moon in the first quarter phase highlighted Central Arizona College’s first public viewing night at the Schmidt Observatory on the Signal Peak Campus.

1983
▶ Student competitors in speech, journalism, drama and business excel in various competitions.

1984
▶ The first College for Kids summer program was conducted at the Signal Peak Campus. The program was for children in third through sixth grade.
▶ Dozens of students from 10 high schools across Arizona participated in Central Arizona College’s annual High School Welding Contest at the Signal Peak Campus.
▶ The Gila River Career Center, a skill center operated by CAC, offered evening college, featuring more than 30 courses.

1985
▶ The CAC Governing Board approves a two-year agreement to lease the Grand Hotel in Apache Junction and the college begins offering classes for students at this new site.

1986
▶ CAC became the first community college in Arizona to require drug testing for student athletes.

1987
▶ A new tuition and fee schedule for 1987-88 that includes a two for-one savings for students taking up to six credit hours was approved by the CAC Governing Board.
▶ During the summer of 1987 the Superstition Mountain Campus opened at its current location.

1988
▶ Central Arizona College’s Recreational Vehicle Maintenance and Repair program, one of only two such training programs in the country, graduated its first class of trained technicians at the Apache Junction Campus.

1989
▶ CAC student athletes finish a record year with three national championships – men’s cross country, women’s basketball, and women’s softball – and a second place national finish in men’s track and field.

1990
▶ A unique cooperative venture between Central Arizona College and the Ak-Chin Indian Community resulted in a specialized education program for workers at the nation’s first formal Eco Museum. An environmental study for the Central Arizona Project uncovered more than 700 artifacts and several archaeological sites in the path of the CAP on the Ak-Chin Indian Community, located south of Phoenix near the community of Maricopa.

1991
▶ The first phase of major renovations at the Superstition Mountain Campus of Central Arizona College was completed with completion of the second phase set for January of 1993.

1993
▶ Central Arizona College reached a new Full-Time Student Equivalency record of 3,000.
▶ The first Auto and Diesel Mechanics Contest is held at the Signal Peak Campus.
▶ CAC’s Apache Junction Campus offers College for Kids for children entering third grade through those exiting the fifth grade.
1992
- Redistricting of the Pinal County Community College precincts is required by law because of the new population figures established by the 1990 census. The CAC Governing Board approved new district boundaries. The physical boundaries shrank in the districts that encompass Casa Grande and Apache Junction because of population growth in those areas.
- An additional 28.5 acres were purchased to expand the growing Superstition Mountain Campus from one building to four buildings.

1993
- Working in New Directions, Central Arizona College’s program aimed at easing the transition to a vocational program for students returning to college has grown from 35 participants in 1991 to 150 at the Aravaipa, Signal and Superstition Mountain campuses. W.I.N.D. provides reentry students with an opportunity to meet, share ideas and concerns and provide help to other students and their families.
- CAC celebrated the completion of another construction phase at the Superstition Mountain Campus.
- A new computer-based catalog system that provides access to public libraries throughout Pinal County began in the Learning Resource Center, or library, at the Signal Peak Campus.

1994
- More than 60 CAC employees from the Aravaipa, Signal Peak and Superstition Mountain campuses volunteered to be mentors in CAC’s Student Academic Mentoring program.

1995
- The CAC Governing Board received the inaugural David Pierce Quality Organizational Leadership Award by the National Initiative for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness and North Carolina State University. CAC was the only Arizona community college and one of only 15 nationwide to receive the honor.
- The Graphic Arts Technology class at the Arizona State Prison Center won nine Gutenberg Awards in the Student Graphic Arts contest.

1996
- The CAC Governing Board held a joint work session with the Pinal County University Foundation Organizing Committee. The two groups reviewed progress of the university foundation’s efforts to raise money for a Northern Arizona University building at Signal Peak and discussed the possible location for the building.

1997
- CAC’s training partnership with Caterpillar and Empire Southwest continues to set new standards.

1998
- CAC’s 20th Annual High School Math Contest is held at the Signal Peak Campus.
- CAC President Dr. John J. Klein announced plans to open a Casa Grande Adult Education Center in early 1998. The college leased two suites totaling approximately 3,300 square feet in the Casa Grande Clinic Plaza at the corner of Florence Boulevard and Trekell Road. The facility initially housed a computer lab and classroom for ABE/GED/ESL classes, and provided facilities for the college's Small Business Development Center. (Known today as the Casa Grande Center.)

1999
- The U.S. Department of Education awarded CAC a three-year, Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology, grant totaling nearly $1 million to assist in preparing 350 kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers to use computer-based technology in their classrooms.

2000
- Central Arizona College was one of 69 institutions throughout the country to receive a five-year Title V development Grant to serve Hispanic and high-risk students. Only three Arizona institutions were chosen for the grant designed to enhance academic offerings, program quality and institutional stability.
2001

- The CAC Foundation launched Project Early Start, a scholarship program that potentially could provide a two-year college degree to any Pinal County high school graduate. The program is aimed at eighth-grade students who sign a contract and commit to complete high school with a 2.75 or better grade point average. Upon graduation, the student must enroll in at least 12 credit hours at CAC and maintain a minimum 2.75 grade point average. The Project Early Start Scholarship covers tuition for four semesters.

- CAC representatives and area law enforcement officers threw the first shovels of dirt to mark the beginning of the Regional Public Safety Training Center. The ground breaking was held Sept. 18, 2001. Also that afternoon, CAC’s governing board approved a bid for nearly $1 million to construct the first phase of the training center.

2002

- The Arizona Firefighters Foundation and CAC established a scholarship fund for dependents of Arizona firefighters.

2003

- The first Empty Bowls, a unique charity event is held at the Signal Peak Campus. Guests pay $10 and receive a handmade ceramic stoneware bowl filled with soup. The proceeds are donated to select charities and organizations in Pinal County.

2004

- The CAC Foundation announced a new name for one of the nation's most innovative programs aimed at combating high school dropout rates - Promise for the Future. The program was formerly known as Project Early Start. A major gift of $150,000 from the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation of Phoenix was received.

- Central Arizona College's dietetic technician program became the first in the state of Arizona to be granted a 10-year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE.)

2005

- Central Arizona College dedicated its Gloria R. Sheldon University Center at the Signal Peak Campus.

2006

- A project to develop student learning outcomes won national recognition from the League for Innovation in the Community College. CAC’s project was among three dozen across the country to receive a 2006 Innovation of the Year Award from the international consortium headquarters in Phoenix.

- A ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 10 officially opened the new Maricopa Center in the heart of the thriving community.

2007

- CAC’s Corporate Center - located at the former Palm Center Outlet Mall just off the Florence Boulevard exit of I-10 opened. The new location became home to the Weekend College program.

- Barnes & Noble, the nation’s largest bookseller, opened their location at the Signal Peak and Superstition Mountain campuses.

2008

- In November of 2008, Pinal County taxpayers supported CAC’s vision of expanding access to higher education by approving a $99 million general obligation bond to increase
accessibility by building two new campuses and increasing educational space at four existing locations.

- The CAC Foundation’s Promise for the Future Scholarship program received a $1 million boost from the Gila River Indian Community.

- Central Arizona College’s San Tan Center in The Shops at Copper Basin opens for business along the Hunt Highway Corridor.

2009

- The U.S. Department of Education awarded CAC a $1,376,000 two-year grant to help increase educational opportunities for minority and low-income students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

- The U.S. Department of Labor awarded CAC a $1,992,763 five-year grant to help train healthcare workers in Pinal County and the metropolitan areas of Tucson and Phoenix. CAC was one of 68 organizations receiving a total of $123 million in grants as part of the President’s Community-Based Job Training Grants Initiative.

- Forty inaugural Wall of Success candidates were inducted during the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Signal Peak Campus on Nov. 14, 2009.

2010

- Campus expansions and renovations took place throughout the District as a result of the general obligation bond approval in 2008.

- Aravaipa Campus - renovation work on 2-3 buildings, including the cafeteria, the entire building housing ITV, and the library.

- Casa Grande Center - purchased adjacent property to complete a square block in the city of Casa Grande that gives Central Arizona College an opportunity to expand services in the heart of the largest city in Pinal County.

- Maricopa - the CAC Governing Board approved the purchase of 217 acres of land in the city of Maricopa for the purpose of building a new campus in the western region of Pinal County.

- San Tan Valley - the college worked with local, regional and county officials to identify roughly 200 acres of land that serve as the best possible location for CAC’s campus in the area.

- Signal Peak Campus - the CAC Governing Board approved the purchase of property located adjacent to the public safety training facility for future expansion, while architects developed renovation plans for the Wakefield Building (nursing), Pence Center (to improve handicap accessibility), O’Neil Building (administration), and a new front door to the campus.

- Superstition Mountain Campus - the CAC Governing Board approved the purchase of an additional parcel of land adjacent to the existing property. The college secured an agreement with the city of Apache Junction that included the abandonment of Broadway Avenue between Winchester and Idaho roads. CAC assumed responsibility for the roads. In return, CAC installed a traffic light at the intersection of Winchester Road and Old West Highway.

2011

- The Central Arizona College Board of Governors approved the recommendation by the CAC administration to purchase approximately 208 acres of land in the San Tan Valley for construction of the college’s new campus in the area.

- A grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Central Arizona College Child Care Center took place on Oct. 18, at the Signal Peak Campus.

- Barnes & Noble bookstores implemented a textbook rental option program for students.

2012

- Following a yearlong, multi-million-dollar facelift, Central Arizona College’s Don P. Pence Center for Visual & Performing Arts officially reopened its doors on Saturday, Oct. 27.
2013
► With the first phase of the campus complete, the Maricopa Campus opened for business on January 2. The official ribbon cutting was held on September 17.
► The College Center at Central Arizona College’s Superstition Mountain Campus (SMC) earned an Excellence in Architecture for a New Building Merit award from the Society of College and University Planning (SCUP).
► The trade publication Metal Architecture selected the Maricopa Campus as a Grand Award Winner during its annual Design Award contest in July.
► A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new San Tan Valley campus was held on December 5.

2014
► CAC’s newest campus in the San Tan Valley opened for business in January.
► The Maricopa Campus is recognized as the “Best Education Project” of the past year by the Arizona Commercial Real Estate (AZRE) Magazine. The publication announced the honor during its Ninth Annual RED Awards reception.
► The Wall of Success was dedicated in the lobby of the Don P. Pence Center.
► CAC was awarded a $10 million TAACCCT grant and established the Arizona Regional Advanced Manufacturing Professional Upgrade project (AZ RAMP Up).

2015
► CAC Implemented a new mobile app.
► As part of a national effort to train 10,000 baby boomers for new jobs in health care, education and social services, CAC joined the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program.

2016
► A MakerLab at the Signal Peak Campus is implemented.
► CAC announced a partnership with Lucid Motors.
► The first annual Vidas Brillantes conference for young women took place at the Signal Peak Campus.
► Enhancements were completed within the resident halls, including free Internet/Wi-Fi access, study areas with onsite tutoring, and new living and learning communities tailored to help students transition to college and maximize their on-campus living experience.
► The College received a $1,155,515, five-year TRIO Student Support Services grant from the United States Department of Education.

2017
► The first annual Young Advanced Technology Academy at the Signal Peak Campus was held in June with two different sessions being offered for students entering seventh through tenth grade.
► CAC offered the Air Force Association’s CYBERPATRIOT National Youth Cyber Education Program at both the Signal Peak Campus and Superstition Mountain Campus for high school students who have completed the 9th-12th grade.
► A new workforce development partnership between Central Arizona College and Tempe-based general contractor Sundt Construction, Inc., was celebrated on July 13 when CAC dedicated the new Sundt Training Wall built by Sundt for the college’s Welding Department.
► CAC was awarded a $1.3 million Upward Bound Grant to assist first generation and low-income students in preparing for a college education.
S.E.E.4VETS pledged $13,960 to assist in funding a new Veterans Center at the Signal Peak Campus. During 2017-2018, CAC served more than 250 veteran and active military students.

The Weekend College program was redesigned with classes scheduled to begin in Fall 2018. At the completion of the three-year Weekend College program, students will earn an Associate of Arts Degree.

CAC launched a new, mobile friendly and responsive website.

CAC launched the new CampusNexus Student module in November. The services offered include online admissions forms for academic, community education courses, and residence life; degree audit for student planning; and payment plans and electronic signatures. This change also allows CAC staff and faculty many ways in which to contact and communicate with students.

CAC and the BlackBox Foundation established a partnership to offer noncredit theater related workshops along with theatrical performances and two theater productions, one in the fall and one in the spring.

The College implemented the CampusNexus CRM in spring 2018.

Throughout the month of April, Central Arizona College welcomed more than 160 high school students from Casa Grande Union and Vista Grande High Schools during Vaquero Rally Days. Each day served as a high school orientation for freshman students already committed to CAC.

Central Arizona College officially celebrated the opening for the new Science Building and Mel A. Everingham Student Union at the Signal Peak Campus on Tuesday, August 21. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at each building.

A new concrete pad, donated by Sundt Construction, Inc. was dedicated on October 30.

The CAC chapter of the National Society of Leadership & Success (NSLS) held its inaugural induction and awards ceremony. CAC’s Chapter of the NSLS was established in August.

### 2018

- CAC, in partnership with Resolution Copper, offers training for current and potential hires.
- The College implemented the CampusNexus CRM in spring 2018.
- Throughout the month of April, Central Arizona College welcomed more than 160 high school students from Casa Grande Union and Vista Grande High Schools during Vaquero Rally Days. Each day served as a high school orientation for freshman students already committed to CAC.
- Central Arizona College connect, an educational partnership with Maricopa, Apache Junction, Poston Butte and JO Combs high schools launches. This new and innovative partnership provides space at each high school where CAC advisors, academic departments and recruiters will meet with students during normal business hours.

### 2019

- CAC implemented CampusNexus Finance, HR and Payroll.
- Central Arizona College was named a 2019 Gold Circle of Excellence award winner by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for their entry, “Central Arizona College & Sundt Construction: Education at the Speed of Industry.”
- Food Pantry locations open at all Central Arizona College library locations.
- Central Arizona College and Wilson Electric collaborate to offer a Professional Electrician Training program at the Superstition Mountain Campus.
The men's athletic programs began in 1969-70. The programs included basketball, baseball, track, wrestling and golf. The very first CAC athletic contest was men's basketball. They beat Navajo Community College 91-80 in Chinle, AZ.

Despite having to travel 20 miles to practice until the gymnasium was completed in January of 1970, the Vaquero basketball team finished with a 19-9 record during the 1969-70 campaign.

The CAC Rodeo Team captured many honors in the fall of 1970, with the women's team placing first during a competition featuring 15 other teams representing universities and colleges in Arizona and California.

Women's basketball, volleyball and softball had their start at CAC in 1971-72, with Lin L. Laursen coaching. Cross country was added to give CAC 11 team sports.

Today, CAC offers baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's rodeo, men's and women's cross country, and men's and women's track and field.

CAC athletics has perennially ranked in the top ten in the Nation, being awarded the NATYCAA award for overall program excellence in two-year college athletics. CAC has had numerous All-Americans and Academic All-American athletes and has celebrated a total of 42 national athletic championships in the past 50 years.

**Athletic Highlights:**

- 1971-72 . . . . Dr. Chuck Foster becomes CAC’s first National All-American, Cross Country/Track
- 1976 . . . . . . . . Baseball wins the national title to give CAC its first national championship
- 1977-79 . . . . Women’s rodeo wins back to back national titles
- 1984-2005 . . . Softball wins 12 national championships during this period of time
- 1996-2008 . . Track and Field wins nine national championships (4 men’s and 5 women’s), with back to back performances by both
- 2002-2011 . . . CAC captures 16 total national titles during the nine-year period
- 2012-Present . CAC wins six more national titles, bringing their total to 42

**National Championships by sport and years:**

- Women’s Cross Country . . 2005 & 2009
- Volleyball . . . . . . . . . . . 1983
- Baseball . . . . . . . . . . . 1976, 2002 & 2019
- Women’s Rodeo . . . . . . . 1978, 1979 & 2014

**CAC’s Mascot – The Vaqueros**

In 1970, Ray Lara, a Coolidge resident and technical drafting student, was the winner in the contest to select an athletic nickname and mascot. This was the beginning of the Central Arizona College Vaqueros.

The process to determine the new look for CAC’s mascot began in 2016. Students and employees participated in a survey, voting on the face, custom made chaps and vest for the individual who represents the Vaqueros. Appearances began in Fall 2018.
Central Arizona College Library

Then
- 1 campus library
- Largest library in Pinal County
- 1 library director, 1 librarian assistant, 2 clerical assistants, and 20 student workers
- Card catalog system
- Books
- Print and bound magazines, and microfilm of magazines
- 35 Listening Centers which allowed students to listen to lectures
- Group study rooms and typing rooms
- Chime system that rang every hour and 10 minutes prior to class

Now
- 5 campus libraries
- Connected with all of the public libraries
- 1 library director, 6 librarians, 11 library assistants, 5 student workers
- Online catalog
- Access to over 300,000 Books (fiction, non-fiction, young adult, graphic novels)
- Over a million eBooks
- Digital magazines
- 37 databases = millions of academic journal articles
- Streaming online videos
- DVDs
- Audiobooks
- Online citation management system
- Social media

Still dedicated to serving students, faculty, and staff no matter the changing technology or format of materials.
Join CAC in celebrating 50 years at one or more of the events planned this spring!

**New Shanghai Circus**  
Thurs, Jan. 23, 2020  
7:00 PM, Pence Center

**AZ Puppet Show**  
Tues, Feb. 4, 2020  
10:00 AM, Pence Center

**Joe Castillo ‘Sand-Art’ Show**  
Sun, Feb. 9, 2020  
3:00 PM, Pence Center

**CAC Alumni Concert**  
Wed, Feb. 12, 2020  
7:00 PM, Pence Center

**“Paperback Writer” Beatles Tribute**  
Sat, Feb. 22, 2020  
7:00 PM, Pence Center

**Empty Bowls**  
Tues, Feb. 25, 2020  
11AM-1PM, N Plaza

**Utah Shakespeare Company**  
Wed, Feb. 26, 2020  
10:00 AM, Pence Center

**Come Back Buddy**  
Sun, Mar. 1, 2020  
3:00 PM, Pence Center

**Student Art Gallery Opening**  
Wed, Mar. 4, 2020  
3:00 PM, N107

**Black Women Walking**  
Fri, Mar. 6, 2020  
7:00 PM, Pence Center

**Rocktacular Spring Midterm**  
Tues, Mar. 10, 2020  
12:00 PM, I Bldg Outdoor Stage

**Creative Arts in Concert**  
Thurs, Mar. 12, 2020  
7:00 PM, Pence Center

**Black Box “Picnic”**  
Sun, Apr. 5, 2020  
3:00 PM, Pence Center

**Spring Student Art Gallery Opening**  
Tues, Apr. 28, 2020  
5:00 PM, Pence Center

**CAC Band and Orchestra**  
Tues, Apr. 28, 2020  
7:00 PM, Pence Center

**CAC Choir, Handbell Choir**  
Sun, May 3, 2020  
3:00 PM, Pence Center

**Rocktacular Spring Final**  
Wed, May 6, 2020  
7:00 PM, Pence Center

Complete event listings can be found at www.centralaz.edu/50 or EventsAtCAC.com

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**Water Tower Changes**

In 1973, David Callahan, a CAC art student from Arizona City, was commissioned to paint a 30-foot modernistic mural of a Vaquero on a black horse to decorate the water tower at the Signal Peak Campus. Callahan said the idea, which he and art instructor Don Ratz designed, started with President Dr. Don Pence. The Vaquero mural was 20 feet wide and 40 feet tall.

In fall of 2016, the Signal Peak Water Tower received a face lift due to needed repairs. The symbolic athletic logo replaced the original design.

**Before**

![Before Image](image1)

**After**

![After Image](image2)
College Leadership

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mrs. Gladys Christensen
District 1

Dr. David Odiorne
District 2

Mr. Richard Gibson
District 3

Mr. Dan Miller
District 4

Mr. Dave Waldron
District 5

COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

Jacquelyn Elliott, Ed.D.
President/CEO

Chris Wodka, M.B.A., CPA
Vice President of Business Affairs
Chief Financial Officer

Mary Kay Gilliland, Ph.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Brandi Bain, M.B.A.
Vice President of Talent Development/Legal Affairs

Jennifer Cardenas, Ed.D.
Vice President of Student Services

Terri Ackland, Ph.D.
Academic Dean

Jani Attebery, Ph.D.
Academic Dean

Tina Berry, Ph.D.
Academic Dean

Jeff Bunkelmann, Ph.D.
Academic Dean

Tramaine Rausaw, Ed.D.
Dean of Student Life

Sherrie Licon, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Enrollment Services

Luisa Ott, CPA, CFE, CGMA, M.B.A.
Executive Director
Accounting Services/Comptroller

Angela Askey, MAGR
Executive Director
Public Relations and Marketing

Dustin Maroney, M.A.
Executive Director
Institutional Effectiveness

Margaret Dooley
Executive Director
Institutional Development

Chuck Schnoor, M.Ed.
Director of Athletics

Cameron Sanders
Executive Director
Information Technology Services/CIO
Campus:

- Signal Peak Campus
  8470 N. Overfield Rd.
  Coolidge, AZ 85128
  520-494-5444
  800-237-9814

- Aravaipa Campus
  80440 E. Aravaipa Rd.
  Winkelman, AZ 85192
  520-357-2800
  866-869-6507

- Maricopa Campus
  17945 N. Regent Drive
  Maricopa, AZ 85138
  520-494-6400

- San Tan Campus
  3736 E. Bella Vista Road
  San Tan Valley, AZ 85143
  480-677-7825
  520-494-6725

- Superstition Mountain Campus
  805 S. Idaho Road
  Apache Junction, AZ 85119
  480-677-7700

Centers:

- Casa Grande Center
  1015 E. Florence Blvd.
  Casa Grande, AZ 85122
  520-494-6050

- Corporate Center
  (Interstate 10 & Florence Blvd.)
  540 N. Camino Mercado
  Casa Grande, AZ 85122
  520-494-6600

- Florence Center
  P.O. Box 707
  800 E. Butte Avenue
  Florence, AZ 85132
  520-494-6801

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