



COCHISE COLLEGE

2020-21 YEAR IN REVIEW



Letter from the President



Why would anyone want to review the year 2020-2021? We faced monumental challenges brought on by a global crisis, and those challenges severely impacted normal operations.

As you'll see, though, last year was a time of renewal and continuous improvement at Cochise College.

Identifying an agreed-upon purpose, vision and mission was a major milestone for the college. These guiding statements hadn't been revisited in some time, and now they are leading us into a new era marked by the same accessible, quality education but with an eye toward community. We'll reflect on the statements each time we consider new ways to create opportunities and enhance access to education.

Cochise College is now part of the American Association of Community Colleges Reskilling and Recovery Network. Through the network, Arizona industry and institutions seek to improve job placement in target industries, close the skills gap, move low-wage workers to jobs with family-sustaining wages, increase post-secondary credential attainment by those with a high

school diploma or GED, and increase public-private partnerships whereby employers sponsor employees in partnerships with community colleges. Our participation in the network is sure to mean new opportunities for students.

Cochise College emerged from 2020-2021 not unscathed, but definitely stronger. Our faculty, staff, and students adapted at an impressive pace. Our students never stopped learning and achieving. Our community never stopped supporting us.

Thank you, and enjoy this look back at an unforgettable year.

J.D. Rottweiler, Ph.D.
College President

Members of the Governing Board



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Chair



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Secretary



Mr. David DiPeso
Member



Mr. Tim Quinn
Member



Mrs. Jane Strain
Member

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Guiding Statements

Over 30 staff and faculty participated in a collaborative effort, led by Dr. Verlyn Fick, Executive Vice President/Provost, to revise and renew the college's mission and vision statements. After a year-long revision and rewrite process, the statements were approved by the Governing Board on August 10, 2021.

Why

(Why we do what we do, the reason for our existence)

To inspire passion and purpose through the education of individuals so that we enhance our community.

Vision

(Our focus is on our stakeholders' futures and aspirations)

Cochise College is a leading and responsive college which transforms and empowers our community by fostering collaborative relationships and providing innovative educational pathways.

Mission

(What we do to accomplish the vision)

Cochise College provides inclusive and accessible educational opportunities that support social responsibility, community engagement, meaningful careers, and lifelong learning.

How

(Our beliefs, convictions, behaviors, and actions)

In all we do, we exhibit collaboration, encouragement, respect, innovation, and service.

Collaboration: We actively connect with our students and community by providing accessible learning opportunities and resources to overcome barriers, build relationships, and cultivate economic, social, and cultural growth.

Encouragement: We provide personal support to students and staff, faculty, and community members through active engagement and compassion.

Respect: We are a community of acceptance which engages our diverse population (diversity), provides resources appropriate to the needs of individuals (equity), and extends opportunity to all (inclusion).

Innovation: We create new learning experiences to respond and adapt to the needs of our community.

Service: We engage our community through service-learning projects, volunteerism, and civic participation.

Celebrating Our Students

- Christopher Odette and Jay Melzer from the Sierra Vista Campus and Alicia Raber and Luis Carlos Estrada from the Douglas Campus were awarded full scholarships from the Arizona Board of Regents.
- Jill Donnelly became the national goat tying and all-around cowgirl champion at the College National Finals Rodeo. The women's rodeo team placed third overall.
- Welding student, Gabe Lewis, won silver at the state SKillsUSA welding competition.





- Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Mu Zeta Chapter on the Sierra Vista Campus won the International Top 100 Chapter Award and an International Award for their Honors in Action (HIA) Project. The HIA project was entitled Strategies of Community College Students, Staff, and Faculty During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving A Legacy Through Podcasting. The podcast was spearheaded by Summer Hom and showcased students, faculty, and staff and how they were managing stress, work, and school under COVID-19 restrictions.
- Women's soccer won the Region 1 Division 1 championship for the first time in school history.
- The men's basketball team won the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference (ACCAC) state and Region I titles.



Community is Our Middle Name

The college distributed its first county-wide community survey to aid in the college's planning efforts. 434 participants completed the survey. The goal of this year's survey was to gather information about how much Cochise County values attaining a college degree or certificate and to assess the community's perception of Cochise College.

WE WANT
YOUR
FEEDBACK!

This Year in Review publication was the result of this year's survey!

- The Culinary Arts Program teamed up with the Sierra Vista Sunrise Rotary and the Salvation Army to prepare turkeys for Thanksgiving.
- Nursing and Allied Health students continued to assist with COVID-19 vaccinations. During the pandemic our students administered 11,846 vaccinations.
- The Sierra Vista Campus Art club designed and painted a mural on a concrete structure in the garden behind the Sierra Vista Public Library.

2020 Cochise Cares Volunteer Awards

Student Volunteer of the Year: Robert Hertman

Faculty/Staff Volunteer of the Year: Dr. Eric Brooks

2020 Presidential Community Service Award Recipients

These awards are led by Americorps in partnership with Points of Light. Cochise College is a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. The Silver Award requires 250-499 hours in a calendar year, and the Bronze Award requires 100-249 hours.

- **Dr. Eric Brooks – Silver Award**
- **Robert Hertman – Silver Award**
- **Breona Mouton – Silver Award**
- **Jennifer Wantz – Silver Award**
- **Eva Dickerson – Bronze Award**
- **Melanie Rottweiler – Bronze Award**



Timeline

July

- Cochise College promotes Census 2020 and the upcoming elections to encourage civic engagement
- Alpha Mu Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa releases the first episode of Cochise Convos podcast



August

- Cochise College receives recognition for excellence in financial reporting

September

- The City of Sierra Vista donates a fire truck to the fire science program
- Cochise College libraries celebrate Banned Books Week with virtual scavenger hunts and more

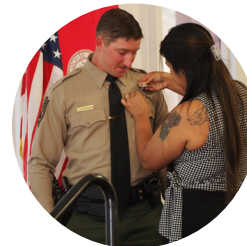
October

- Virtual Cochise College Week hosts workshops, academic department discussions and more
- Sierra Vista Campus students, faculty and staff volunteer in a costume-themed clean up day in Sierra Vista



November

- Southeast Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy graduates 11 cadets



December

- Cochise College Foundation hosts a virtual scholarship celebration
- College hosts open house and cuts ribbon on cybersecurity and virtual reality labs

January

- Automotive Technology Building opens for ribbon cutting and open house
- Senator Mark Kelly visits the Douglas Campus



February

- Douglas Campus students, faculty and staff volunteer in Community Clean Up Day in Douglas

March

- The Cochise College Foundation raises \$122,237.93 in funds for scholarships through the virtual run/walk/cycle event Pathway to \$100K Challenge

April

- Men's basketball wins NJCAA Region I Championship

May

- Southeast Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy graduates seven cadets
- Cochise College hosts drive-through commencement celebrating the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021
- Adult Education hosts a GED recognition ceremony
- Women's soccer wins the Region 1 Division 1 championship



June

- Jill Donnelly becomes the first national champion at Cochise College in goat tying and all-around cowgirl, and the women's rodeo team places third overall

Notable Achievements

Cochise College offers a direct pathway to universities and provides seamless transfer to all three Arizona state universities, as well as dozens of other universities, through agreements that guarantee credit transfers.

In addition to working with our transfer partners, Cochise College began its participation in Arizona's Reskilling and Recovery Network (RRN) to identify and scale strategies that give workers the skills necessary to succeed in a post-pandemic economy. The network is a collaborative effort of Arizona's 10 community colleges, the Office of the Governor, ARIZONA@WORK, business and industry leaders, Achieve60AZ, and local workforce development leaders.



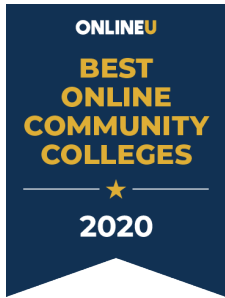
- The Residential Construction Technology program completed its third house despite a five-week delay due to the coronavirus pandemic
- The college hosted an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony for cutting-edge cybersecurity and virtual reality classrooms and labs
- Guests toured a new state-of-the-art Automotive Technology Building during an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony
- Cochise College held its first drive-through commencement ceremonies celebrating the 2,688 graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 at the Douglas and Sierra Vista campuses.
- 22 graduates participated in the Adult Ed General Education Development (GED) recognition ceremony on May 27.



Sierra Vista Herald



By the Numbers



Cochise College was named the **No. 1 online community college in Arizona** and the **No. 12 online community college in the nation** by Optimal

Cochise College was named in the **Top 50 Best Community College** (No. 7) by College Consensus



Quick Facts & Demographics

9,841 2020-21 Students served

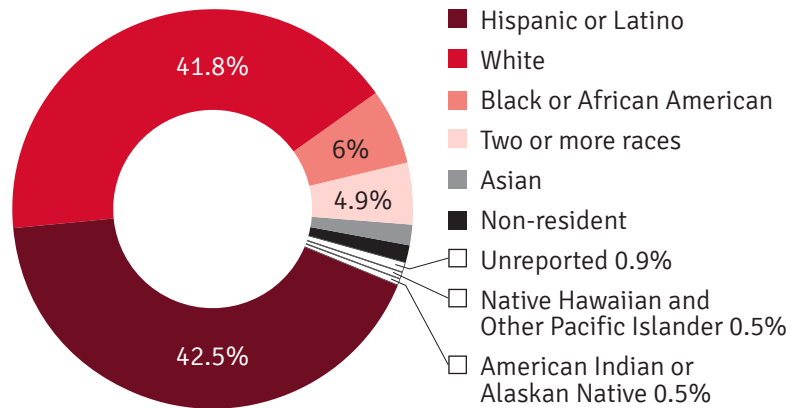
5,013 Military Occupational Students

44% 1st Generation

55.3% Female

44.7% Male

Race/Ethnicity



Average Age

26

Median Age

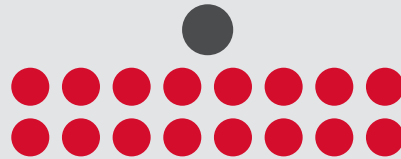
22

Class Size



11

Faculty-Student Ratio



1:16

Degrees & Certifications Awarded

1,521

DEGREES AWARDED

431

CERTIFICATES

Center for Lifelong Learning

160

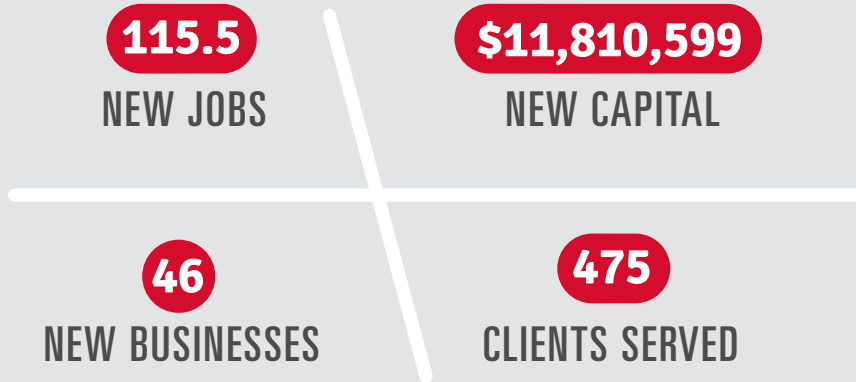
COURSES & LECTURES

1,419

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED

By the Numbers

Small Business Development Center



Scholarships Awarded - 2021 Aid Year

Senior Scholarship

468
STUDENTS RECEIVED

\$194,500
AWARDED

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

102
STUDENTS RECEIVED

\$82,173
AWARDED

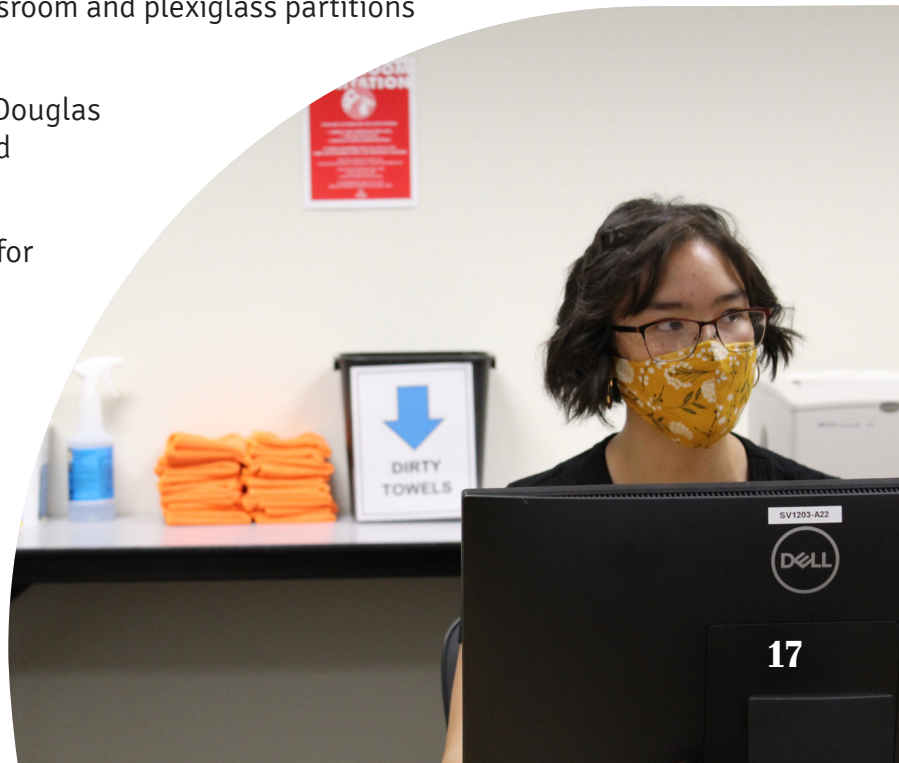
\$700,000
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Supporting Students Through the Pandemic

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the health and safety of the college community remained the highest priority. Staff and faculty adapted to the needs of students to create or expand support services.

- 11 classrooms were remodeled to accommodate new social distancing guidelines.
- The majority of classes moved to remote learning as an online and/or live-streaming model.
- Cleaning stations were set up in each classroom and plexiglass partitions were added in student service areas.
- WiFi was expanded to parking lots on the Douglas and Sierra Vista campuses and Benson and Willcox Centers.
- Laptops and WiFi hotspots were available for students to check out for free.
- The new Cochise Cupboard food pantry program opened for business.
- Nearly 350 students participated in the Student Government Association activities and several other clubs adapted to a virtual format to provide leadership development, social activity, and support networks.



Celebrating Our Staff

- Men's Basketball Coach Jerry Carrillo was named coach of the year.
- Dr. Karen Dale, assistant dean of academic support; Margarita Fate, business faculty and department chair; and Dr. Ella Melito, English faculty and department chair, received the National Institutes for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) award.
- Kimberly Campbell, department assistant for counseling and advising; Ray Howard, mailroom technician; Margaret Reilly, office assistant for Nursing & Health Sciences; and Coleen Thrasher, veterans services assistant, received the Achieved Classified Excellence (ACE) award.
- Retired faculty Cecelia Lewis, English, and Rebecca Orozco, history and anthropology, were honored with faculty emeritus status for exemplary past service and continued connection to the institution.
- Cochise College named five individuals to its Hall of Fame: Faye Douglas (retired director, Student Development Center), the late Patricia Hotchkiss (retired director, Cochise College Library), educator and businessman Dr. David Mosow ('66), entrepreneur, community servant and APS division manager Danny M. Ortega ('82), and former Cochise County sheriff John F. Pintek ('72).
- Dr. James "Bo" Hall ('71), athletic director and executive dean of student services, retires after 38 years of service as an administrator, coach and mentor.



A Bright Future Ahead

Cochise College is investing in the community to offer students new and upcoming programs close to home. Currently under development are:

- Stackable healthcare programs in phlebotomy, electrocardiogram (EKG) technician and medical billing and coding
- Light diesel certificate
- Mobile trades program to provide access in remote areas
- First Responders Academy to expand the Southeast Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy into emergency medical technician (EMT), paramedicine, fire science and dispatcher training at the Douglas Campus



Greetings from the Foundation

Despite COVID-19 and all its challenges, Cochise College not only excelled but moved forward in significant ways during the 2020-2021 academic year. In fact, as a Cochise College alumnus, retiree and volunteer, I don't believe I've ever been prouder of my alma mater. Although it has successfully faced many challenges over the years, the ways in which Cochise College met and overcame those related to the pandemic have been truly impressive.

And still, the College did NOT "stand still!" It continued to revisit programs and policies, added new initiatives and curricula designed to assist today's and tomorrow's students as well as local employers, and it engaged with even more partners throughout our region in developing curricula designed to carry the institution and our local workforce into the future.

All of this was in no small measure due to the college's major corporate sponsors: the American Southwest Credit Union, the Arizona G&T Cooperatives, and PVB Fabrications. In addition, we owe thank you's to others who have made major investments in our students: SSVEC, Paul Dwyer Memorial Trust, Erwin Fry Foundation, Copper Queen Hospital, HS Lopez Family Trust, Steele Foundation, and Mark Battaglia. We owe a special thank you to Pioneer Title Agency and Sierra Vista Realty. We also extend a special thank you to employees who extended their efforts with students to include personal financial support and charitable contributions!

To all who have contributed to the future education of students, we owe a tremendous gratitude and thank you! Our Foundation board members would tell you that it's not about the money; it's about helping each other and providing students with a sense of moral support. Investments in scholarships and the college change lives by keeping a quality higher education accessible.

Thank you SO very much for all your support of students and our college!

**Sincerely yours,
Joanna K. Michulich ('68), Ph.D.
Cochise College Foundation
Board President**



Thank you to all who provided financial support to students and the college in 2020-2021.

Charles Ables
Rosalia A. Acuna
Frank and Barbara Adams
Aladdin Food
Kevin and Sharon Alvarado
Rosa Alvarez
Gabriela Amavizca
American Southwest Credit Union
Nancie E. Ames
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Erick F. Anderson
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Vern and Linda Appelt
Geronimo Arciniega
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Arizona GGT Cooperatives
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Jan Guy
Kathleen Guy
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Bill and Nancy Hansen
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Carolyn Harris
Carter Harris
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Kristeen Harris
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Silicon Valley Community Foundation
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The Mosow Family Foundation
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Sierra Vista Campus
Willcox Center