Transforming Lives By Building Futures

"I never finished high school. I got in trouble a lot and was in and out of jail and only made it through 11th grade. I knew that I needed to make a change in my life." Since those troubled days, White-river resident and Native American Vaughn Willeto, now age 27, has transformed his life through NPC's Integrated Education and Training (IET) program. IET fast-tracks disadvantaged youth and adults in Navajo and Apache counties to career success through GED® (General Education Diploma) preparation and training in construction skills.

IET is providing a fresh start in life for Willeto and his fellow students. Working together since last August, they built a tiny home that will be used to house NPC police academy cadets in Taylor. They've learned all the valuable skills that go into home construction, solid skills they can now apply in their careers.

The class instructor, Steve Mills, calls Willeto a model student and role model who just needed a "re-start" to prepare himself for a promising career. In fact, that career is already happening. An employer in Phoenix learned about Willeto's newly learned skills, his dedication and industry certifications and held a job for him while he finished the IET program!

"I would encourage others to get involved in the IET program, get their GED® and turn their lives around," Willeto says. "NPC is really a great school, and I highly recommend this program to others. Take this program and learn a trade. If I can do it, everybody can do it. A lot of Native can benefit from this program because it provides a really good opportunity and they should jump on it. There is no cost to the student, it's all paid for. It's a great way to prepare for an actual career and earn better pay."

This spring Willeto also became one of the first recipients of the new Jon Graff, Ph.D., Fund Scholarship at NPC. Willeto put the scholarship to good use as he earned the OSHA-10 safety certificate, Arizona Career Readiness Certification credentials and National Center for Construction Education and Research credentials in Core Curriculum and Construction Technology. All highly valued by employers!

Instructor Mills is highly impressed with how hard Willeto has worked in the IET program. "Vaughn has the one thing that will make him successful with whatever he does: work ethic. He attended NPC full-time, worked full-time and still managed to be a family man with the remaining time. He used this educational opportunity to attract an outstanding work placement and transform not only his future but his family’s," Mills says.

Who will be the next "Vaughn Willeto," the next disadvantaged person in northeastern Arizona who needs a fresh start in life? It could be you! This great opportunity can serve as a springboard to transforming your life and finding career success! If you want to learn more about NPC's IET program, contact Gail Campbell at (928) 524-7346. She's accepting applications for the fall 2019 semester.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

A Quality Education

A review of student outcome data for Arizona's 10 community college districts in 2018 ranks NPC No. 1 in course completion rate for College Algebra and English Composition II. Overall, NPC has the second highest completion rate of college-level work among the state's community college districts!

NPC's 86.2 percent completion rate for Composition II (English 102) and 89.6 percent completion rate for College Algebra (MAT 152) ranked highest among Arizona's community colleges. The statewide community college average for College Algebra was 65.4 percent, and the statewide average for Composition II was 77 percent.

NPC ranked a close second to Cochise Community College (78.7 percent) in English Composition I with a 78.0-percent figure.

These rankings appear in Arizona's Strategic Vision 2030, which creates a framework for the state's community colleges to reach the Achieve 60 AZ goal of having 60 percent of Arizona's working-age population possess a post-secondary credential by 2030.

Paying It Foward, Making a Difference

Generous Arizonans recently showed their support for higher education in a big way! On the April 2, AZ Gives Day, they donated more than $25,000 to Northland Pioneer College for student scholarships. These gifts were leveraged by incentive bonuses of over $8,000, stretching the total donations to $33,837, our all-time high for this event and ranking NPC third among small nonprofits in the state! With NPC’s coverage area spread over the state’s two poorest counties, these scholarship funds are making a huge difference in the lives of our students.

NPC graduates are making a difference locally by making significant contributions in their communities as nurses, firefighters, public safety officers, teachers, dentists, business people and many other ways.

Area businesses are also showing tremendous support for NPC students. Summit Healthcare provided an incredibly generous corporate challenge match of $5,000! The House Show Low provided beefy support for higher education by adding the “NPC Burger” to its menu and donating a portion of the proceeds to scholarships. The Red Barn Creamery also offered a sweet deal by donating a portion of their proceeds from the sales of ice cream to NPC.

Betsyann Wilson, executive director of NPC Friends & Family, says, "Your gifts help us make post-secondary education accessible to those students who need it most, breaking the cycle of poverty and low levels of educational attainment. Every dollar you donate is truly life-changing."

NPC has helped educate and transform the lives of northeastern Arizona communities for over 45 years. Many of our graduates understand the importance of "paying it forward" and helping current students attain the quality education they received at NPC. Wilson says, "No gift is to small, and many gifts added together make a big difference in students lives."

But you don't need to wait until the next Arizona Gives Day to make a difference. NPC Friends & Family holds many fundraising events throughout the year as well as accepts online donations at There is still time to donate to students seeking to expand their minds and transform their lives through an education at NPC. And remember to put AZ Gives Day on your calendar for the first week of April each year. Be a difference maker in the lives of the inspiring, dedicated people preparing to serve your community!

Please continue to invest in your community by supporting NPC.

(800) 266-7845

https://achieve60az.com