MISSION
Transforming lives through education and partnerships to create thriving communities.

VISION
Cultivating generations who value knowledge, foster independence, eliminate poverty, and create vital, equitable and sustainable communities.

VALUES
Agility • Passion • Transparency • Unity • Empowerment • Respect

STUDENT EXPERIENCE STATEMENT
Arizona Western College commits to delivering an amazing student experience characterized by:

- A connected community within which students are encouraged, challenged and feel they belong;
- Programs developed and aligned with employment opportunities;
- A clear path to success and completion;
- Flexible, accessible services and learning approaches;
- Contemporary technology that supports and enhances the AWC experience
The faculty and staff of Arizona Western College embarked on ambitious Strategic Plan nearly three years ago, and the report you hold is driven by the work completed in the past year based on what we heard from our students, our partners, and our employees.

Our teams are working every day to deliver on our Student Experience Statement, and to be great stewards of the public dollar as we strive to deliver critical job training and university-ready transfer students.

We are dedicated to building vital, equitable and sustainable communities across Yuma and La Paz Counties. We’re here to serve you.

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, President of Arizona Western College

*Dr. Corr visits with “future Matadors” during the Child Development Learning Lab’s annual Storybook Parade*
ABOUT AWC

Transforming lives through education and partnerships to create thriving communities.
About AWC

Academic, Career Technical and Workforce Education

We offer over 100 degrees and certificates in a wide range of academic and career technical programs, as well as non-credit courses in professional development, customized training, and personal enrichment areas.

We have 12 locations across our 10,000 square mile, 2-county service area, and we host all three state universities on our Yuma campus for face-to-face classes. You can easily transfer to a university of your choice.

Arizona Western College is an equal opportunity employer and affords equal opportunity to all applicants for all positions. AWC and the AWC Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information or any other status protected by law or regulation. It is our intention that all individuals (employees, board members, and students) are given equal opportunity and that selection decision be based on job-related or scholarship criteria related factors.
Arizona Western College has been accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1968. After an extensive reaffirmation process, including the development of a 95-page assurance argument, AWC secured continued accreditation with HLC. More than 50 faculty and staff actively participated in the writing of the assurance document, and many engaged with the HLC visitation team. Community members and students participated in forums where they gave feedback and shared their experience with the HLC review team.

Accreditation granted by the Higher Learning Commission demonstrates our commitment to our students and the larger community. To ensure we provide a quality education, AWC follows the criteria established by HLC in partnership with state and federal governments.

Accreditation by HLC means:
- Our mission is clear and articulated publicly.
- Our resources, structures and processes fulfill our mission, improve the quality of our offerings, and allow us to respond to future challenges and opportunities.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality education possible regardless of delivery mode.
- We act with integrity. We are ethical and responsible.
- We constantly evaluate the effectiveness of our programs through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

Accreditation makes us eligible to apply for federal grants, loans and other federal funds, including research funds, and students are eligible for federal grants and loans and can transfer credits to other accredited universities.

We are pleased to have secured accreditation for another 10 years, and we appreciate all those who supported AWC through the reaffirmation process.

B.H.A.G.
BIG Hairy Audacious Goal
Double the rate of earned baccalaureate degrees in La Paz and Yuma Counties by 2035.
YEAR IN REVIEW

Arizona Western College’s major events, milestones, and annual activities in the 2018–2019 academic year +
2018

**JUL**

AWC extends office hours 7AM – 7PM

**AUG**

Local experts bring small unmanned aerial systems classes to AWC

AWC receives $400K National Endowment for the Humanities grant for Academic Library

**SEPT**

Hosted “Teaching in Arizona” film screening

**DEC**

AWC Ag Department donates 549lbs of fresh food to Yuma Community Foodbank

AWC & ASU launch American Dream Academy for families to navigate college

First-Gen Student Celebration

AWC hosts a Career and Transfer Expo

AWC Women’s Soccer makes their first trip to the NJCAA National Tournament in Foley, Alabama

2019

**JAN**

Endangered Species mural on Yuma campus created as part of national project

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visits AWC; we’re accredited for another 10 years!

**FEB**

KAWC Public Media launches new FM Service: KOFA Border Radio

**MAR**

AWC & NAU Yuma co-host Start Up Weekend for regional entrepreneurs

AWC Men’s Basketball make first trip since 2006 to NJCAA National Tournament
AWC collaborates with 7 rural community colleges to win nearly $600K in grants from National Science Foundation for STEM training

Nearly 1,700 students graduated from Arizona Western College with transfer degrees or occupational certificates

Inducted Softball Coach Charlie Dine and both National Championship softball teams (1983, 1987) into Hall of Fame

Launched debt-free education in Parker: La Paz Promise

Transfer students from AWC to Arizona university partners increased by 33.5% in 5 years

AWC graduates 10 students from its first full-time Law Enforcement Training Academy in conjunction with widespread partnerships with agencies, City of Yuma

Debt-free education comes to 2020 high school grads in Yuma County with the Yuma Promise

Arnold’s Lounge opens at San Luis Learning Center as a gathering spot for students, honors retired student advisor Arnold Trujillo

AWC Men’s Soccer makes first appearance at NJCAA National Tournament in Tyler, Texas

AWC hosts 2nd Horizon Symposium with nearly 300 community and college participants

AWC Theater presented “Just Like Us”, the story of four Mexican girls of various legal statuses coming of age in America

Career and Technical Education Build Your Future open house hosted at Yuma campus

Transfer students from AWC to Arizona university partners increased by 33.5% in 5 years
54.2% of Arizona university graduates had credit from an Arizona community college.
FAST FACTS

A snapshot of data for the 2018–2019 academic year +
FAST FACTS

274%
18 and under enrollment increase Growth Over 4 Years

76%
Minority Students #1 in Arizona

66%
First in their family to attend college #1 in Arizona

54%
Pell-eligible (Federal financial aid) #1 in Arizona

22%
Family income less than $20k #1 in Arizona

100+
Degrees and Certificates

11000+
Students Annually

300+
Students Living on Campus

31%
AWC graduates moved up two or more income quintiles

98%
Percentile Nationally

50+
Student Clubs

17th
Highest Rate in United States Facilitating Social Mobility

CREATING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

AWC drives social mobility
The What’s Your Why campaign was designed to tie directly to our Strategic Plan, Mission, Vision, and Student Experience Statement. Our mission talks about transforming lives, and the students featured in our campaign are all examples of transformation. Our vision talks about valuing knowledge and fostering independence, and the vibrant first-person stories our students tell demonstrate personal motivation, perseverance, and a yearning for knowledge.
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Agility, Technology, Accessibility and Prosperity
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

**Agility** – Cultivate an agile culture and institutional model that strengthens the future of AWC and the region.

- Establish an equitable model of shared governance that builds a culture of empowerment by minimizing hierarchy and broadening decision making.  
  *January 2019*
- Review processes, procedures and policies to improve efficiency and create sensible work flows to increase student and faculty/staff satisfaction.  
  *July 2019*
- Design a cross-training model to support collaborative staffing resource flexibility.  
  *July 2019*
- Create and fund a professional development model to grow bench strength and assist with succession planning.  
  *January 2020*

**Technology** – Improve student success by leveraging technology that personalizes the student experience and increases organizational effectiveness.

- Deliver upgraded technology that reflects best-practices in teaching and learning and supports an enriched student experience.  
  *August 2022*
- Deliver upgraded technology that increases automation in Student Services.  
  *July 2022*
- Eliminate negative IT audit findings.  
  *December 2020*
- Develop a technology-literate workforce that embraces IT as a component to improve responsiveness, efficiency, pedagogy, and student learning.  
  *August 2021*
Accessibility – Eliminate cultural, financial, time and place barriers to education.

- Develop and implement a multi-year data-driven class schedule that aligns with program offerings and transfer/workforce demands to increase enrollment by 5% at all campuses. **June 2020**
- Offer open educational resources in 50% of all classes. **July 2022**
- Allocate appropriate resources to meet the growing community and educational needs in South County and other district priorities as identified by the Facilities Master Plan. **January 2025**
- Develop and deliver “wrap-around” services that accelerate student time to completion. **January 2022**
- Research and adopt a Guided Pathways model that aligns with AWC student and community needs. **November 2018**
- Develop partnership with high school district to articulate student learning outcomes and increase student eligibility, enrollment, retention and success in college-level coursework. **June 2020**

Prosperity – Grow and sustain academic programs that leverage our competencies, fuel economic growth and position graduates for prosperity.

- Develop and deploy three programs that fit local needs by collaborating with key business and industry partners to create regional economic growth. **June 2020**
- Explore learning processes to obtain credits based on experience, skills, and prior learning. **July 2019**
- Develop guiding principles for Learning (GPL) for all AWC students. **October 2018**
LA PAZ PROMISE / YUMA PROMISE

We’re here to help you reach your educational dreams.
We’re here to welcome you to the Matador family!
La Paz Promise and Yuma Promise

Arizona Western College made a significant commitment to our BHAG (Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal) of doubling baccalaureate attainment rates by launching the Yuma Promise and La Paz Promise tuition reimbursement programs.

How it works:

1. Graduate from a recognized high school in Yuma or La Paz County
2. Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
3. Complete and submit a Yuma or La Paz Promise sign-up form
4. Attend AWC each semester for up to 5 semesters, taking classes full time (at least 12 credits a semester)
5. Pay up front for out-of-pocket tuition and program fees
6. Upon earning an AWC transfer degree, students must transfer to a university program in Yuma via one of our 3 state partners: UA-Yuma, NAU-Yuma, or ASU@Yuma, and enroll full-time*
7. Provide verification of Yuma campus university enrollment to AWC*
8. Apply for a refund in full for all out-of-pocket expenses related to tuition and program fees

*Requirement for Yuma Promise only

High school graduates from any recognized high school in Yuma or La Paz County (including accredited home school students) who enroll full-time after graduation are eligible to complete their associate degree debt free and ready for the next step toward their degree.

azwestern.edu/promise
“We’re here to build a pipeline to our university partners and to fundamentally change the fabric of our community with increased higher educational attainment rates, better jobs, and higher wages.”

– Dr. Daniel P. Corr, AWC President
Welcome Center in the lobby of the College Community Center (3C) on the Yuma Campus
INNOVATION FUND

Support Strategic Planning efforts, specifically projects that enhance the AWC Student Experience.
INNOVATION FUND

In the fall of 2017, Dr. Corr and The District Governing Board launched the inaugural Innovation Fund to support the development of AWC initiatives aligned with Strategic Planning. This limited-time funding was designed to encourage innovative thinking outside the parameters of the annual fiscal year budget and is based on President Corr’s frequent assertion that “good ideas come from everywhere.”

The success of the first cohort was evidence that there is enthusiasm and innovation amongst our campus community and led to the continuation of the Innovation Fund. The 2019 cohort received nearly $84,000 to fund 10 new projects that aim to enhance the student experience.

In the first year, nearly $184,000 was allotted for the Innovation Fund. The screening committee reviewed over 20 proposals submitted by faculty, staff, and students that included a written statement explaining how their idea tied to the strategic plan and how it would serve students along with a short elevator pitch video. Ultimately, 12 selected projects made up the 2018 cohort.
The construction of a new Welcome Center in the lobby of the College Community Center (3C) on the Yuma Campus was made possible by the Innovation Fund process. The once bare lobby is now a bright and welcoming starting point for prospective students and visitors. The Welcome Center project was recognized as the 2019 Innovation of the Year by the League for Innovation in the Community College, an international nonprofit organization with a mission to cultivate innovation in the community college environment.
The mission of Arizona Western College Foundation is to make education universally accessible by removing economic barriers.
Celebration of Scholars – Celebration of Scholars is an annual event that celebrates the academic achievements of scholarship recipients and recognizes our donors, volunteers, and community partners who give generously in support of higher education.

Education – The AWC Foundation manages 236 scholarship and program funds for a wide variety of programmatic areas. In 2019, 537 students applied for scholarships to attend Arizona Western College and the Foundation awarded $322,307 in tuition assistance.

We believe obtaining a degree or certificate is a fundamental change maker for economic prosperity for the families in our community. AWC has a proven record of supporting students’ economic mobility, and with your help we can continue these efforts.
WHY GIVE?

We believe that education is the most important and sustainable resource for individual empowerment, community advancement, and poverty alleviation. Your gift is a lasting legacy for our community’s future. We are all stakeholders in that legacy. Start a scholarship or consider contributing to an existing fund today.

AWC Foundation Scholarship Fund –
By donating to the AWC Foundation Scholarship Fund, you are joining a community of givers who believe that college changes lives. Making scholarship opportunities available to those who may not meet the specific requirements of other scholarships but still need help with tuition and books is a priority for the AWC Foundation Board of Directors. Building the AWC Foundation Scholarship Fund ensures a perpetuating revenue source that will continue to fund scholarships that are not criteria dependent but critically important.

AWC Foundation Emergency Grant Program –
The AWC Foundation Emergency Grant Program is a one-time award given to students who are experiencing a temporary financial crisis and are at risk of dropping out of college. This fund was created to help students stay in college and meet their educational goals, securing a better financial future for themselves and their families. Please consider a donation to the Emergency Grant Program so that we may continue to meet these urgent needs of our students.

“The scholarship gave me the opportunity to be able to take more classes and work less because I wasn’t having to pay for all my schooling. I was also able to get an internship with Helena Chemical!”

Hannah Hasty,
Agriculture–Crop Production

$322,307 Awarded in Scholarships (2019–2020)
Apply for Admissions/Enrollment
apply.azwestern.edu
SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES
I’M GOING TO COLLEGE

Since 2010 over 3000 5th grade students from Yuma and La Paz counties have spent a day as a college student through our award-winning I’m Going to College program. We know that if we can get a child onto a college campus three times during their K-12 career, the chances of them attending college anywhere skyrockets. For many students, this is their first time visiting a college campus, and we hope it is their first step on their journey to college.

The event is designed as a mini college day, complete with orientation, three classes taught by college faculty, and a commencement-style achievement ceremony where students walk across the stage to receive a personalized certificate. Bright colored event t-shirts display their anticipated college graduation year and serve as a strong reminder to stay focused on their future goals.

Faculty from both Arizona Western College and its four-year partner, Northern Arizona University-Yuma Branch Campus, volunteer to teach their subjects for a fifth-grade audience. Many enjoy the experience so much they volunteer to teach each semester. Together we are helping to create a college-going culture in our community, one curious fifth grader at a time.
In the spring of 2019, several law enforcement agencies approached AWC with a challenge: sending cadets to academies across the state was draining local budgets, and waiting for them to complete the college’s existing weekend academy was taking too long.

Within 5 months, the City of Yuma, Yuma Police Department, and Yuma County Sheriff’s Office collaborated with AWC to open the academy, which cadets will complete in 16 weeks, versus the 10-month part-time extended academy. The academy, with instructors hired from local law enforcement agencies, is housed in the newly-renovated Ray Kroc Sports Complex, adjacent to the Yuma Civic Center and Desert Hills Golf Course.

The first class of the full-time academy, which graduated in August of 2019, was completely agency-appointed, meaning all cadets had jobs waiting for them in regional agencies when they completed. The cost to send a cadet to an agency elsewhere in Arizona is roughly $15,000, plus travel, lodging and food. The cost for local agencies for the AWC LETA is approximately $1,000 plus equipment costs; out of town agencies will pay less than $5,000.

Exercising its strategic direction of Agility, the college was able rapidly respond to regional training needs ensuring public safety recruits to help keep the communities we serve safe.
SERVING OUR STUDENTS
AWC has a rich history in the arts community regionally, and student productions in both fine and performing arts draw admirers from both the college and the community at large.

The college was selected to be the host of a mural in a national series drawing attention to animals native to each area that are threatened.

In January, 2019, two nationally-recognized artists worked for 10 days to create the latest installment in the Endangered Species Mural Project. The installation recognizes both the Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope and the Yuma Clapper Rail. Both species are threatened by habitat loss from development, drought and water scarcity.

The Endangered Species Mural Project has installed 19 murals in public spaces across the county, and the project collaborates with artists, scientists and organizers to encourage the public to make connections between conservation and community.
At Arizona Western College, 66% of our students identify as first in their family to attend college. Without a family member to guide them through the process, many First Gen students feel alone and confused. Teams around AWC decided that First Gen students efforts were worth celebrating, with colorful shirts, a marketing campaign, a special reception once a year, and a white commencement stole.

Beyond celebration, the teams implementing the college’s first ever comprehensive Strategic Plan let the college’s data drive their work. If 66% of students identify as First Gen, what changes could we make to ease their entry, improve their retention and success? It quickly became evident that whatever we fixed for First Gen students would radically improve the experience of all students, and now we find ourselves in the middle of far-reaching projects like Open Educational Resources (OER), Guided Pathways, Data-Driven Centralized Schedule, Enriched Technology, and we’re launching our first-ever Promise program for full-time students to finish debt-free from AWC.

The key to the work we’re doing is to improve the student experience across the board, and create thriving communities along the way.
ATHLETICS

Matador Athletics added several more chapters to a legacy of successful teams throughout 2019. The Men’s Basketball team reached the NJCAA National Tournament, breaking through to Hutchinson, Kansas for the first time since 2006. This Matador squad earned the 16th seed after breaking through the District Final and earning the program’s third consecutive Region I Championship. Head Coach Charles Harral was named the District Coach of the Year by the NJCAA and the team saw four players move onto Division I programs in the summer, including two in the nearby PAC-12, continuing their academic and athletic careers.

The Region Championships spilled across sports in the spring as the Lady Matador Softball team earned a National Ranking while racking up 53 wins to earn the right to host the Region Tournament on the Charlie Dine Softball Field. Thanks to a capital improvement project, the field received a face-lift before the season and found that new padding and netting behind home plate, displayed its improved sight lines and safe conditions for the conference. The Lady Matadors put on a display during the final day, rallying off three straight wins to earn their way back to St. George, Utah for the National Tournament. It was the program’s first trip since 2014.

The Matador Baseball team completed the most successful three-year period in 50 years of the program with a 38-win season. The summer saw many more fruits of the labor as five former Matadors, including two directly from the 2019 squad, were selected in the Major League Baseball Draft. All five signed professional contracts and played Minor League Baseball in 2019.
With all the athletic achievements in the first half of the season, the Matador Fall Sports teams had a hard act to follow. Those teams all added impressive chapters as all three fall teams; Volleyball and Men’s and Women’s Soccer reached their Region Final. Matador Men’s Soccer entered the Region Tournament as the fourth seed before hitting the road and knocking off Conference Champion Phoenix College and then defending National Champion Pima for the first Region I Championship in ten years. The tough wins extended to the district championship which Matador Soccer won for the first time by beating previously unbeaten and third ranked Salt Lake to become the third Matador team to reach the NJCAA Tournament in the Calendar year. Matador Student-Athletes, for all their athletic talents, displayed plenty of brains to complement that brawn. In the spring, 24 Matadors earned NJCAA All-Academic Honors with four teams earning Academic honors from the governing body. The fall continued to build on that trend with 134 student-athletes combining for a 3.29 GPA, with 61 landing on the Dean’s List. All seven teams averaged a 3.0.
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