Changemaker High School students travel to Prescott

High school students from Changemaker High School traveled to tour Prescott College’s main campus, canoed at Lynx Lake and camped in the Prescott National Forest. For some students in the group, it was their first time camping and canoeing. The students went to national monuments, Montezuma’s Castle, and Montezuma’s Well as part of their three-day outdoor and adventure education experience. The students look forward to pursuing a degree and career in outdoor and adventure education at Prescott College.

Spring is here...

We are excited to end the academic year with news and updates from our friends and partners!

Border Studies Class

Michelle Banks and Claire M. Paradis taught a course on Border Studies and stayed in Tucson for several days at the start of the spring semester. They met with various organizations and activists focused on migrant rights, environmental justice, and conservation. Todd Miller, adjunct faculty, also facilitated a dialogue on his new book, *Build Bridges, Not Walls: A Journey to World Without Borders* (2021).
The Earth Express mobile unit after its final art wrapping.

In April, Arizona Serve received a Public Health Americorps grant of $519,000 from AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. The grant will expand Arizona Serve's presence in Tucson with partnerships with the Pima County Health Department and Pima County's Ending Poverty Now initiative.

Public Health AmeriCorps, a partnership between AmeriCorps and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, supports the recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders. Supported by a five-year, $400 million investment from the American Rescue Plan Act, Prescott College is pleased to introduce its first mobile nature and place-based traveling outdoor classroom. Paul J. Ohm, coordinator and administrator for the Center for Nature & Place, currently based in Tucson along with Wendy Watson, associate faculty in early childhood education, were the thought leaders behind the outdoor mobile classroom called The Earth Express (TEE). One of the missions behind the unit is to provide nature and place-based activities for preschool children ages 3-5 and their parents, caregivers, and teachers. The TEE currently serves Pima County, Santa Cruz County, and Pinal County including the Pasqua Yaqui, Tohono O'odham, and Gila River Nations. The TEE plans to venture to Yavapai County to participate in Prescott Arizona’s Earth Day and 4-Seasons Institutes.

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Tucson Center Director Dr. Anita Fernández will be going on sabbatical at the end of this school year and stepping down from her position as Chief Diversity Officer of Prescott College. While on sabbatical, Anita will be focused on her work as the co-founder and director of the Xicanx Institute for Teaching and Organizing (XITO), a nationally recognized urban education consulting collective that trains educators and organizers in decolonizing and re-humanizing pedagogy. Dr. Fernández’s decades of experience as an educator, scholar, activist, and organizer in the fields of racial justice and social justice education led her to be appointed as the first ever Chief Diversity Officer at Prescott College in March 2021. We want to recognize the tremendous impact Anita has made over the last 17 years in working hard to make Prescott College a more humanizing, equitable, and inclusive space for BIPOC and queer students, staff, and faculty. Thank you for everything and enjoy your sabbatical!

Youth presenters from across the globe came together virtually as part of the 3rd Annual PRAXIS Youth Organizing Conference to explore, learn, network and collaborate on community organizing and social justice issues. The conference was organized by a coalition of Education and Social Justice Studies students and mentored by Tucson Center faculty. PRAXIS stresses the importance of how ordinary people, and most importantly youth, can collectively create (through vision and action) a more just world. This year, the conference took place over two weekends, each day with a different theme: Organizing for Ethnic Studies and Climate Justice & Indigenous Solidarity. The keynote speaker was Lara Kiswani, Director of Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC), and the youth-led workshops included Tucson Youth and Peace (Tucson, AZ), the Washington NAACP Youth Council (Seattle, WA), the API Legal Outreach Youth Advisory Council (San Francisco, CA), MEChA de Roybal (Los Angeles, CA), and the Sabokahan Youth and Liyang Network (Mindanao, Philippines). Learn more at https://xicanxinstitute.org/praxis2022/

The admissions and financial aid staff teamed up to host a spring FASFA and college application night for the seniors at Changemaker High School. Thank you to all the parents and graduating seniors who attended. We wish you the best in your academic endeavors.

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Prescott College Tucson Center

Kenneth Welch, association admissions director, helps a parent and graduating senior navigate the FASFA application.