



FUSD Newsletter

Senior Profiles—The Class of 2015

Every year FUSD is proud to profile a small sample of the amazing graduating seniors from our high schools.

Coconino High School (CHS)

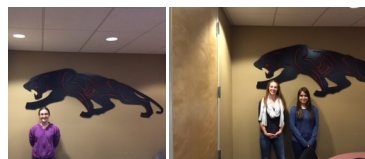
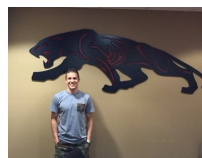
Collin Anderson will be graduating this year after completing the MITe program at Sinagua Middle School and continuing through the CIT program at CHS. He has been on the Wrestling Team for CHS since freshman year and has placed 2nd in the state as a freshman, 5th as a Sophomore, 1st place in state competition Junior year, 3rd place in state Senior year and 8th in the nation. Due to his success he was able to travel to California, Virginia, Nevada and New Mexico and is very grateful for the experiences. Next year Collin will be attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to pursue a Mechanical Engineering Degree. Collin stated that “Wrestling helped in every aspect of high school, what is taught in wrestling translates into success in everyday life, CIT gave me a ‘hands on’ experience that was challenging. The CIT program makes you think and understand the material. My academic experiences at Sinagua Middle School and Coconino High School have allowed me to thrive and succeed.”

Celine Trotter is looking forward to spending this summer in Croatia and attending Northern Arizona University in the fall. She will continue the studies in Pre-Health that she has started through the CAVIAT program. She will graduate from CHS two credits shy of her AA degree from Coconino Community College. She has received the LOUIE Scholarship from NAU and will complete her degree in nursing with the goal of becoming a Labor and Delivery Nurse. Celine is a member of HOSA, a national student organization to promote career opportunities in the health care industry, works at a preschool and volunteers with Special Olympics. “Although I have been influenced by so many remarkable people here at Coconino High School, I must say that one teacher in particular stands out. Mr. Pavlich has gone above and beyond in assisting me. From Spanish class, letters of recommendation, and even as far as helping me organize a summer abroad, he has been amazing.”

Holly Jamerson had a tough decision between Johns Hopkins University and Duke. As a recipient of the Gates Millennium scholarship she has decided to attend Johns Hopkins in the fall. She will major in Neuroscience. She has been involved in the National Honor Society, the Native American Club and the Coconino Anti-Tobacco Students Organization. CHS was her third

high school in four years and she “likes the teachers at Coconino very much”. As a Girl Scout Holly received her Gold Award through her work to improve the gardens at Cromer Elementary School which are used for education projects for all Cromer students. Holly “loved high school but is super excited to be moving on to college.”

Leah Weinzinger is hoping to attend the University of Texas or BYU in the fall and will major in Animation. Her dream is to make movies for Pixar or DreamWorks. Leah is a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship Award, involved in the CHS Drama Club, her church youth group, and the Flagstaff Youth Theater. She completed the CIT program at CHS and really enjoys the Digital Media classes and learning from the teacher Dean Shaddy. Leah believes “It is important to know that you don’t have to have it all figured out. I haven’t, and I doubt that I ever will but I like figuring out more every day.”



Upcoming Events

May	
Math and the Standards Parent Meeting at Ponderosa High School for Grades 6—8	18
Memorial Day	25
Last Day of School	28
Summit High School Graduation	28
Coconino and Flagstaff High School’s Graduations	29
July	
Please join us for the parade—details will be posted on Facebook	4
August	
First Day of School	6

The Summer Food Program information can be found on the FUSD website under announcements.

Please remember to look for school specific flyers through the Peachjar button on your schools homepage.

Senior Profiles—Continued

Flagstaff High School (FHS)

Celeste Cruz is looking forward to attending Arizona State University (ASU) in the fall with a major in Mass Communication/Journalism through the Cronkite School of Journalism. She has received both the Dean Scholarship and the Alumni Medallion Scholarship from ASU. Celeste has been active at FHS as a member of the student council, National Honor Society, the Humanitarian Club and is a LINKS Leader. Her favorite class was AP Spanish with Mrs. Bradley. According to Celeste “My plans for the future are majoring in mass communication and journalism with a minor in business marketing and through communication enlighten people on not only the problems in the world but also all of the positive things.” “High School has been an amazing experience, allowing me to grow in unimaginable ways, but I am ready to move on to a new adventure. I am extremely grateful for all that the Flagstaff community have given me, and am now ready to give back. I strive to grow and come back to this community which has given me so much.”

Justin McElfresh was interviewed in his Class A uniform and very proud to represent the JROTC Program. Justin is a 1st Sargent and will attend Virginia Military Institute in the fall majoring in Biology. He will continue with the Navy ROTC program and hopes to enter the Navy as an officer in the Special Warfare (SEALS) program and would eventually like to pursue a medical degree. While at Flagstaff High School Justin was involved in the Veterans Heritage Project through a club formed by Ms. Stearns, and has enjoyed his classes, especially Pre AP Geometry with Ms. Hester. When he is not working on school related projects Justin volunteers for the U.S. Forest Service as a volunteer manning a lookout tower and works at the Dog Haus. Justin’s favorite quote is “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”

Delaine Rowland will be attending

the University of Nevada at Las Vegas in the fall with a major in Hospitality/Event Planning. She is hoping to study abroad while in college and continue her culinary training. Delaine has accomplished a lot while at FHS. She is a member of the award winning Culinary Team which won their way to the National Competition this year and she was awarded \$15,000 in scholarships through her participation in the FHS Culinary Program. Delaine has also played Varsity Tennis, is a member of All-Stars, the President of the National Honor Society and works at Little America. She takes 3 culinary classes a day and has really enjoyed her Economics/U.S. Government Class with Mr. Hopson. Delaine said “Coming to FHS was an adventure from the beginning, and has continued to be a wild ride. I’ve learned more about myself, others and the community than I could have imagined. The experiences, lessons, trials, and tribulations I have been a part of in the last four years have caused me to grow in ways I never thought I could. I am forever grateful to FHS, my teachers, the administrators, the students, and the community. Once an Eagle, always an Eagle.”

Monica Algysa is very excited to attend San Diego State and will major in Communications and Spanish and would like to study abroad. She is currently taking 4th year Spanish at Coconino Community College. Monica is a member of the National Honor Society, All-Stars, is an active member of the Student Council as Community Service Chair and Student Body President and volunteers with Young Life. Monica’s goal for her senior year on Student Council was to “pass on the lessons I’ve learned to my younger peers.” In addition she states, “FHS has taught me the value of hard work and how important it is to live for something bigger than yourself – to love who’s in front of you.”



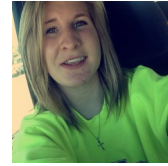
Summit High School (SHS)

Tristen David will graduate this year with many goals in mind and a variety of paths he would like to try. Tristen is interested in exploring welding, forestry and health care fields. He will attend Coconino Community College this fall and then would like to join the Navy after completing his Bachelor’s Degree at NAU. Tristen has really enjoyed SHS and especially the science classes and the Bike Mechanic Club. He really likes the small classes and the 1 on 1 support he receives from the teachers, including support in trying to find a job. “A lot of the kids are able to shine with longer class times and support from the teachers.”

Mollie Lund attends SHS and the Teenage Parent Program (TAPP) and is very happy with the education and support that she has received by all of the staff and especially Mrs. Craig. Mollie will attend the CCC to NAU program and plans to be a Dental Hygienist. Her favorite aspects of SHS have been the Strength Training classes (through Fit Kids), the guest speakers and special programs brought into SHS. She appreciates the 1 on 1 relationship she has been able to have with her teachers and likes the fact that the staff treats students with care as if they are family. “Being able to bring my son with me to school has allowed me to earn my diploma.”



Mackenzie Jansen – A Profile in Determination



Mackenzie Jansen spent the month of March talking to Coconino High School students and the community about her experience recovering from a horrific accident in order to highlight Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month.

November 9, 2012 Mackenzie and her twin brother Matthew got into his truck to head to Coconino High School as they always had. Mackenzie distinctly remembers her brother reminding her to put her seatbelt on and she did. As they continued their ride and passed Cromer Elementary School everything was normal until they approached the hill towards HWY 89. As they went uphill the steering went out and Mackenzie took the shoulder belt off to help Matthew try to keep the truck in their lane. Unfortunately, they hit a semi-truck head on. A good samaritan helped until EMS arrived and extricated Matthew and Mackenzie from the wreckage and they were both transported to the hospital. Matthew was treated for a short time and was released. Mackenzie spent two weeks at Flagstaff Medical Center and then was transported to Phoenix Children's Hospital where she was in an induced coma for 3+ weeks due to brain swelling, pneumonia, meningitis and nerve damage. She endured 10 surgeries including 3 on her eye and stayed at the hospital for a total of 6 weeks. Mackenzie will still need more surgeries in the future.

While her twin continued his junior year at Coconino, Mackenzie recovered for the rest of the school year and returned as a junior the following school year. She made this choice instead of finishing that year taking classes on line due to her love of being a member of the track team. Mackenzie was scared to go back to school worried about her memory loss, short hair and wondering what people would think; she did not want to be looked at as different or challenged. She made sure to study very hard and went to tutoring so that her memory loss would not be the prevailing issue and would not get in the way of her education. She rejoined the track team and though disappointed that she had

an injury to her leg and could not compete in her favorite event, hurdles, she continues to enjoy running and sprinting. Mackenzie enjoys school, has made new friends, and has accepted the changes in her appearance. During this interview with Mackenzie we were joined by her friend Samantha Godesiabois who offered her friend support as she told her story. Mackenzie created a Power-Point presentation of her journey and presented it to her schoolmates during an assembly so that her experience could enlighten others and educate them on what a traumatic brain injury is and how determination and a positive attitude can help you move forward.

Mackenzie is a shining example of a positive attitude and never ending determination. "I am not happy it happened but I am ok with it, I have a better outlook and have learned more than I could have ever imagined". "My message to you all is to never give up on your hopes and dreams. No matter how difficult times can get, you will always have people who support your decisions all throughout life. You can feel bad for yourself all you want, but having pity and staying in bed all day will not fix, nor help you. Because YOU are the only person who is in control."

Mackenzie is now a graduating senior with good grades and is looking forward to attending CCC then NAU in the fall planning to major in Criminal Justice or Forensics.

Mackenzie is very aware of the effect that this accident had on her parents, brother and sister and talks about them with a gratitude that is obvious. She also has many supporters at Coconino High School and the following are quotes about Mackenzie from people who work with her every day.

"Mackenzie's experience, along with her outlook, have put her so far ahead in life. It is incredible to think that having a terrible accident can turn your life in such a positive direction. Mackenzie has shown more fortitude and positivity than most of us will ever get the opportunity to demonstrate."

Sean Kugler– FUSD

"Mackenzie is a strong, independent young lady trying to find her place in this world. She will too. She is determined and has embraced a life-event that would cause many people to crumble. She in turn has taken this opportunity to be the best Mackenzie she can be. I am a better person for knowing her and happy to be sharing this journey."

Gina Kugler – Coconino High School

"I have had the privilege of watching MacKenzie (or Kingman as I call her) flourish from a spunky little freshmen to a strong, independent, goal-oriented young lady. I will never forget the day I heard the news of her accident. There was a period of time where the uncertainty of her future seemed to be a horrible nightmare. MacKenzie and I have shared many, many thoughtful and in-depth discussions of her past, present and future goals. I don't think people realize the difficult road this amazing young woman has had to travel to get where she is now. Although she realizes her journey is still full of speed bumps, potholes, and detours, she remains steadfast in her will to prove to herself and everyone else that very soon she will be going full speed on the interstate of life. It is a great honor to call her a dear friend and know that she will endure.

Abel Garland – Coconino High School

"When I first met Mackenzie, I was impressed with her drive to improve herself, not just her language skills, but in all aspects of her life. She was determined to have a positive outlook and to make the most out of this horrific accident. She told me that she felt this accident happened for a reason: so that she would have an opportunity to reflect on all the choices that she had previously made, and that in the end, she could become a better person than she was before."

Beth Vaughan Wilson, MNS, CCC-SLP

Licensed & Certified Speech-Language Pathologist

News Briefs

FHS Welding Winning Awards

Congratulations to FHS student **Jacob Morrison** who attended the Arizona State Skills USA Competition for welding with his teacher **Mike Rust** and received the highest award, a Gold Medal. Jacob and Mr. Rust will be attending the National Skills USA Skills Competition in Louisville next month. 80 Welding students from schools across Arizona competed in the SkillsUSA Arizona Championships on April 7th and 8th at the Phoenix Convention Center. The contest has been designed to test the welder's abilities in each of these areas to select the best "all around" student welder to represent the state of Arizona at the National SkillsUSA Championships in Louisville Kentucky June 21st -27th. Each state sends 1 student to compete at the National contest in June and FUSD is very proud to have Jacob Morrison represent FHS, Flagstaff and Arizona.

Congratulations to the Flagstaff High School Quiz Bowl Teams!

FHS varsity team finished 9th in the state in the varsity division and the FHS novice team finished 4th in the novice division.

"This was the hardest and most attended tournament yet." Jeff Taylor, FHS Quiz Bowl Team Coach



Odyssey of the Mind

The DeMiguel Odyssey of the Mind team is going to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University May 20—23rd. Seven fifth graders will represent Flagstaff with their coaches **Joy Bergeron** and **Stephanie Mansfield**.



The "World Famous" CocoNuts Attend the World Championships Again!

The CocoNuts attended the World Championships in April for the 8th year in a row (the team has been competing for 8 years). Congratulations to the team and their amazing coaches!



Important Contact Information for Flagstaff Unified School District

Administrative Center Main Number – 527-6000
Curriculum and Instruction Office – 527-6021
Human Resources – 527-6070
Food Service – 527-6090
Bilingual Education – 527-6107
Student Support Services – 527-6160
Transportation – 527-2300
Family Resource Center – 774-1103



SMS Students Advance in the National History Day Competition

Five Sinagua Middle School students attended the State National History Day Competition after advancing from the regional competition and three will continue to the national competition in Maryland in June. Congratulations to **Aiden Fhodes**, **Connor Garrod**, and **Mikhaila Rosanova**.





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Excellence For All By All

Please visit our Facebook page (Flagstaff Unified School District/Facebook) for all of the latest events and good news.



FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Statement of Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs, Motto and Goals



Vision Statement:

Excellence for All by All

Mission Statement:

The mission of FUSD is to provide the best comprehensive educational opportunities for all in a safe, collaborative environment of high standards and expectations.

Core Beliefs:

We believe in the power of expectation; in the impact of high standards; in the value of diversity; and in the six pillars of character.

Motto:

Education at the Top of Arizona

Goals:

- Maintain and Improve Comprehensive Student Opportunities and Services
- Recruit and Retain Highly Qualified, Motivated, and Excelling Staff
- Improve Student Preparedness and Mastery
- Research and Create Desirable and Relevant Educational Opportunities and Services
- Increase Public Engagement and Support for FUSD
- Develop Diversified Partnerships and Revenue Opportunities

FUSD Teachers Are Great!

2015 Coconino County Teacher of the Year

Coconino County Teacher of the Year nominations were announced last month and all three finalists are FUSD teachers. Congratulations to this year's finalists: **Whitney Tapia** (Knoles Elementary School) **Mike Rust** (Flagstaff High School) **Sean Ryan** (DeMiguel Elementary School) The semi finalists from FUSD were; **Noah Hayes-McKeirnan** (DeMiguel) and **Craig Howdeshell** (Coconino High School). The 2015 Third Annual Coconino County Teacher of the Year Award Ceremony was held May 6th. Congratulations to the Coconino County Teacher of the Year—**Whitney Tapia**.



Arizona Education Association Awards

Two FUSD teachers have been honored by the Arizona Education Association: **Jeffrey Taylor** (FHS) received the 2015 Ambassador for Excellence Award and **Patricia Roach** (Cromer) was awarded the 2015 AEA Human and Civil Rights Award. Congratulations to these outstanding teachers!

Congratulations to Doug Allen, FUSD Career and Technical Education (CTE)!

The Association for Career and Technical Education of Arizona (ACTEAZ) announced that Doug Allen has received the ACTEAZ Lifetime Achievement Award.

ACTEAZ stated in the announcement that "The application and nomination statement clearly spoke of your accomplishments and

dedication to students and to Career and Technical Education in the State of Arizona."

Viola Awards

FUSD would like to congratulate the following teachers for their 2015 Viola Award Nominations:

- Excellence in Art Education
Faun Nichols (Sechrist Music Teacher)
- Excellence in Science Education
Jeffrey Taylor (FHS)
- David Thompson** (CocoNuts Coach)
- Craig Howdeshell** (CHS)
- Sean Ryan** (DeMiguel) who was also named teacher of the year by the Flagstaff VFW.

Another nomination for the Viola Awards was a project that was done with Flagstaff High School Photography Students, some Summit High School Students and the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra called *Fantastique FSO*