

THE GOLDEN EAGLES ARE TRULY GOLDEN!



August 2023

www.npcfriendsfamily.org



NPC Friends & Family

Northland Pioneer College Celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2024

When I first came to NPC in 1997, there was no email, and cell phones were not yet widely used. Most of our NPC locations consisted of one to three modular buildings. NPC faculty put in “windshield time”, measured in hours, rather than miles, as they traveled from site to site. They also taught at “remote locations” that included storefronts and chapter houses. Distance learning consisted of “video classrooms” where students watched their instructors on analog television sets mounted on wheeled carts. If you took a class in an audio classroom, you sat around a speaker on a table in the middle of the room, listening to the disembodied voice of your professor. (Go ahead and date yourself by thinking Charlie’s Angels – yes, the original series). Still, the distance learning arrangement allowed us to reach students across this vast, sparsely populated region, and also allowed classes to “make” with a sufficient number of enrollees to pay the professors.

Northland Pioneer College is truly a unique and special institution. It was born out of the grassroots efforts of dedicated citizens who recognized the compelling need to bring post-secondary education to the people of a vast, isolated rural area. NPC has grown exponentially since producing its first graduating class of eight students in 1974. It has seen eight presidents come and go, provided stable employment for hundreds of faculty and staff, served as a gathering place for communities, and helped to reinforce and advance the economies of Navajo and Apache Counties, two of the poorest counties in the US. It has seen good times and struggled through political upheaval, the demands of an ever-changing workplace, economic downturns, and the two largest most destructive wildfires in the history of Arizona. Yet it endures and continues to grow, because it has to be at least as brave

and resilient and determined as the thousands of amazing students who have passed through its doors and walked out as college graduates.

I have started to build an anniversary present to this place that has given me so much. By the time you read this, know that I have deposited \$100.00 into a dedicated 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund. My goal is to provide fifty NPC students in 2024 with \$1,000.00 each to help them reach their postsecondary goals. If just 499 of you will join me, by donating \$100.00 to this newsletter, we can do it! Details for how to give can be found on the back page.

Meanwhile, I want you to meet some of the people who have shaped Northland Pioneer College. Two of them (including one of the 1974 graduating class) are on my NPC Friends and Family board! One, a former vice-president, who is no longer with us, lives on through a memorial scholarship, and through his family, many of whom are NPC graduates. One has taught at NPC for over forty-four years, and he’s still going strong! As you read their stories, notice that, while they always honored the past, they were never living in it. They truly helped to build and shape the college of fifty years ago, but their visions were always locked on the future and how to continue to innovate and strategize to meet the educational needs of students across northeastern Arizona, enabling them to change their lives, and the lives of their families and communities, through the transformative power of education.

***Happy 50th, Northland
Pioneer College!***



Betsyann Wilson
Executive Director

FROM BEFORE THE BEGINNING TO BEYOND TOMORROW:

PATRICIA “PAT” CEBALLOS

Patricia Ceballos is easily NPC Friends and Family’s longest-serving board member; she began with the Northland Pioneer College Foundation in the early 80s. But her story with Northland Pioneer College goes back well over fifty years, to when she and her late husband, Lucio “Lou” Ceballos helped found NPC. Let me tell you about this amazing person.

In late December 1932, Ellsworth Schnebly was teaching school at Dennehotso on the Navajo Nation. When his wife, Lucille, went into labor on Christmas Day, there was no doctor available at the nearest hospital in Ganado, so the couple traveled to Gallup, New Mexico. There they welcomed a very special Christmas present, when daughter, Patricia, was born on December 26.

Pat may have been born in New Mexico, but she has spent almost all of her life in northern Arizona. I like to think of her as Arizona Royalty. You see, her paternal grandmother was Sedona Schnebly, for whom the famous town was named.

As a student at the Arizona State College in Flagstaff – later Northern Arizona University – Pat met the love of her life in Lou. After their marriage, Lou began a career in business management in Winslow and Holbrook. Pat began a decades-long career as a teacher in both the elementary and high school grades. The couple was passionate about the power of education to change lives. In his work, Lou encountered many young people who were underemployed. He knew they had the ability to benefit from a college education, but he also recognized that many were unable to afford to enroll in a university.

In the late 60’s, Lou and a group of like-minded citizens across Navajo County formed the Navajo County Junior College Committee, and began the work of convincing the State of Arizona to grant them a charter for a community college district. At issue was the population of the county; the state felt it would not support enrollment. Time and again the committee appealed to the state, and in 1972, the first classes were offered at Northland Pioneer College.

Lou continued to support the growth of the college, serving as a member of the first district governing board. In 1983, he helped found the Northland Pioneer College Foundation, the predecessor to NPC Friends and Family, of which Pat also became a member.

But the little college had growing pains. Classes were held at four “campus” locations: Winslow, Holbrook, Snowflake, and Show Low, in

a loose assortment of modular buildings. Dedicated faculty traveled between campuses, as well as to numerous sites across the county. The district governing board saw the need for permanent buildings, and in 1995, Lou and Pat joined the effort to convince Navajo County voters to pass a bond to make them a reality. Ground-breaking ceremonies began in Winslow in January 1996, followed by Holbrook in February, Snowflake in March, and Show Low in April. The new permanent building at Winslow’s Little Colorado Campus was completed in October 1996, and dedicated in February 1997. Lou was tapped to give the address at the dedication. He died just three days before the ceremony; his son, Michael, spoke in his stead.

Lou had dedicated nearly thirty years to the establishment and nurturing of Northland Pioneer College. Because of his vision and determination, thousands of students have gained access to college degrees, including Pat and Lou’s granddaughter. She graduated from NPC’s President’s Scholars program, and later from Northern Arizona University, summa cum laude, returning to NAU for a master’s degree.

Back to Pat. Her pride in the college that she and Lou helped to establish is evident in her commitment to NPC Friends and Family. Still going strong at 90 years young, Pat seldom misses an NPC Friends and Family board meeting and currently serves as vice president. Having been involved with Northland Pioneer College for most of her adult life, she remains a consummate advocate for the institution and its students, giving of herself and her personal resources to help them succeed. Patricia Schnebly Ceballos is an inspiration to me, and I think you can see why she truly is Arizona Royalty!



Pat and Lou Ceballos

THE PALMER FAMILY: PART OF NPC'S LEGACY & FUTURE!

Arvin Palmer often said, "Our family should be the poster family for Northland Pioneer College." Others might make a similar claim, but there is no doubt that the Palmer family have been devoted supporters of NPC for many years.

Dr. Arvin Palmer and wife Jean came to Arizona in the 1970s, because NPC had been created. They left California and many tempting job opportunities to return to their native roots in Navajo County precisely because there now existed an institution of higher education. Dr. Palmer became a top administrator at NPC, taking on the dual roles of Vice President and Dean of Instruction. His formidable leadership skills and innovative ideas helped to build and stabilize this young institution that was still learning how to best serve this rural area. His accomplishments were manifold and critical to the success of NPC.

Jean Palmer served as the Silver Creek Campus manager. Her responsibilities covered the many areas required to keep the main campus office running smoothly while serving both the public and the college staff.

As the 25th Anniversary of NPC was approaching, Arvin, as college historian, was given the assignment to write the history. Jean helped by doing research, proofing, and providing feedback on the manuscript. The result was a

comprehensive history of NPC, which included the many struggles as well as the triumphs of those early, formative years. It was a huge undertaking and a labor of love.

The legacy of Arvin and Jean Palmer continues at NPC, with daughter Jeanette Hancock now serving in the demanding role of assistant to a dean. Beginning as a temporary registration clerk, she has worked for NPC for several years, performing her work assignments with the same determination, dedication, attention to detail, and work ethic that her parents gave to their respective positions.

"It was a huge undertaking and a labor of love."

All three of the Palmer children graduated from NPC, and all three earned bachelor's degrees, Summa Cum Laude from Northern Arizona University. Son, Bryce, went on to earn a doctorate at Southern California College of Optometry, valedictorian of his class. Each degree is a testament to the fine foundation they received at NPC. The NPC poster family of Arvin

and Jean Palmer has grown to include twelve associate degrees as well as several certificates in Fire Science, Welding, Automotive Technology, and Nursing Assistant.

Northland Pioneer College has been of great importance in the lives of the Palmer family. NPC made it possible for them to live in the area they loved, while providing opportunities for meaningful and fulfilling work. It has educated their children and grandchildren. It has been a source of pride to the family to know what NPC has meant to our local communities.

The Palmer Family congratulates Northland Pioneer College as it celebrates fifty years of bringing education to the rural communities of Navajo County. Their fondest hope is that NPC will continue to thrive, to grow, to innovate, and to incorporate solid educational programs as it looks forward to the next fifty years.

Special thanks to Jean Palmer for sharing this story.



Dr. Arvin and Jean Palmer with children

CLAUDE MILLET ENDFIELD

NPC CLASS OF 1974!

Claude Suzette Millet Endfield was one of the eight graduates in NPC's first graduating class in 1974! She recalls that there was no "traditional" graduation ceremony, with caps and gowns, but all the graduates and their guests were taken to dinner at the Paint Pony restaurant by the college administration.

Claude first enrolled in classes at the Whiteriver Center on the Fort Apache Reservation. She began early childhood education classes as a Head Start teacher, and they made a difference in her life, not only as a teacher of young children but as the parent of four.

What Claude most appreciated about working with NPC - as a student and then as Director of White Mountain Apache Head Start, a program serving about 300 children - was that the college faculty would come on-site to mentor and advise students. Many staff, including some community volunteers, were assisted in obtaining their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, a nationally recognized qualification for the teaching of young children, birth through age five, because NPC faculty would come to them in the settings where they worked.

In 1986 "life happened", and Claude left the White Mountain Apache area, moving to another reservation to work with Head Start. She had been doing adjunct faculty work for NPC a couple years prior in Whiteriver, on Hopi and in the western Navajo Nation. Then the Early Childhood Program Chair position at NPC became open! Claude took the job, moved to Holbrook, and resided there for the next 30+ years. Interestingly, Rachel, Claude's oldest daughter, was recruited to play basketball the same year (1988) on NPC's first basketball team. NPC didn't know they were related.

All four of Claude's children benefited from attending NPC, and all moved on in education - even grandchildren. Besides Claude, four of her family members have master's degrees and one a bachelors. In addition, one is

a certified law enforcement officer. All of them started at NPC.

In 2016, Claude "retired". She continues to do some substitute teaching in the Whiteriver Unified School District and early childhood consultant work in Navajo, Apache, Yavapai, and Coconino Counties. Ever passionate about professional development for early educators and providers of care for young children, Claude says she feels honored to have had the opportunity, not only to graduate from NPC, but also to work with numerous students and program staff members as they celebrated their own growth and accomplishments. Following her retirement, she established Endfield 8 Consulting and continues

to work with tribal and regional early childhood grantees. The "8" represents family members, and includes her granddaughter Danielle, who passed away several years ago.

Claude serves as secretary of the NPC Friends and Family board, and also representative for the communities served by NPC's Whiteriver Center on the Fort Apache Reservation. It is important to Claude that she is helping to spread the message that there is assistance for those students in need of scholarships, especially those who may not qualify for financial assistance

otherwise. Claude even used her retirement party as a way to establish the Claude Millet Endfield Early Childhood Development Scholarship!

As Claude says, "I love the old NPC slogan: 'Making dreams come true', because for me, NPC was there. Their faculty made the trip to my work site and then to classes in my town, so I was able to get my CDA, which gave me the confidence to earn two associate degrees, then a bachelor's then a master's. NPC made a difference in my life and my family's lives. I reached my goals, so it is only fair that I give of my time to repay what that educational experience did for me."



Claude Millet Endfield

REFLECTIONS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT NPC:

Interview with John Deaton

Faculty in Political Science, 1979-Present

What brought you to NPC?

I graduated with my MA in Sociology in 1978 from California State University at Chico. I moved to Tempe to work in a family business, but it wasn't for me, so I got a part-time gig teaching sociology at Mesa Community College and Scottsdale Community College. Decided that's the life for me. Sent out my resume to about 100 community colleges and got one reply. . . from NPC. Interviewed. Vice President Dr. Arvin Palmer called me the next day and offered me the job. Obviously, I took it. In retrospect it was the best career decision of my life. I didn't think so at first, but looking in the 44-year review mirror confirms my choice.

What has meant the most to you during your time at NPC?

What has meant the most to me is that NPC was like a second family. We laughed, worked, and played together. For 35 years or so, I did whatever I could to better the college. I served on most every committee more than once, took over 60 graduate hours past my MA to deepen and widen my knowledge and hone my teaching skills. I attended numerous conferences across the country (two of my favorites were in Hawaii), was elected Faculty Association President a few times, negotiated salaries for the faculty many times. In the last few years I've basically focused on just teaching the online courses that I created around 1999. Since they began, there have been over 30,000 students that have taken them. This has probably been my greatest achievement for the college.

How has NPC changed?

In the beginning, NPC was a collection of double-wide mobiles and the old Goldwater Hospital in Show Low. The faculty would normally travel everyday by riding a shuttle or driving to different campuses. It wouldn't be unusual for a faculty member to get on a shuttle at their home campus at noon to travel and return home at 11:30 pm. The passing of a bond for permanent buildings and the evolution of audio/video/smart classrooms have been the biggest changes since I started in '79. This has cut the faculty travel way

back. I will have to say, however, riding the shuttle and conversing with other faculty and students on those trips brings back fond memories.

What do you think the next 50 years at NPC will look like?

Looking into the next 50 years, the future for NPC, as well as most colleges and universities will be quite different from the present. We see the morphing now. On-campus teaching will decrease, most face-to-face interaction will decrease, traditional Liberal Arts courses will diminish. Remote education, the use of AI and virtual reality will be the norm for most. Traditional teaching will probably be the anomaly not the norm. When AI can recreate the best and greatest lectures and presentations from greatest universities from around the world, in a virtual reality setting, it will be a game changer. I'm not sure of what will be, but NPC has shown to be able to survive challenges over the last 50 years. I expect the next 50 will probably be even more challenging.

If you could put something in a time capsule, to be opened in 50 years, what would it be?

For a 50-year time capsule I would put in a note that says, "Congratulations, you are around to open this, the world didn't have a terminal event. Yes!" And a piece of chalk. They will have to figure out what that is and what it was used for.



John Deaton, Faculty in Political Science

Make a Difference – Donate Today!

NPC students are succeeding in spite of all the odds. Many are the first generation in their families to attend college. Lots of adults are coming back to school while coping with the responsibilities of caring for children or elderly parents. Most have incredible financial need and they succeed because of the scholarships made possible, and sustained, by generous people like you!

YES! I want to donate to NPC Friends and Family and help support NPC student scholarships.

Donations can be made online via credit/debit card at www.npcfriendsfamily.org by clicking the “donate” button. Donations can also be made by using this form. Make your check or money order payable to NPC Friends and Family. **THANK YOU!**

Please add my gift of \$_____ to the following:

- 50th Anniversary Eagle Fund** – Unrestricted scholarships for students in greatest financial need
- AndyVon Scholarship Fund** – For Native American students
- Arvin Palmer, Ph.D., Memorial Scholarship** – For graduates of Snowflake High School
- Charles E. Lisitzky Memorial Scholarship** – For Native American students
- Claude Millet Endfield Early Childhood Development Scholarship** – For degree-seeking students in the ECD program
- Doris Reed Nursing Scholarship** – For nursing and allied health
- Jeanne Swarthout, Ph.D., Presidential Excellence Scholarship** – For degree-seeking students with a GPA of 3.5
- Jennifer Lee Witt Memorial Scholarship** – For degree seeking students
- Jon Graff, Ph.D., Fund** – For NPC students who are university bound, career bound or college-bound
- Martin Lucas Memorial Scholarship** – For students whose lives have been affected by disability
- Martia A. Smith Memorial Art Scholarship** – For all full-time, degree-seeking students
- Mary Kay Smith Lindy Scholarship for Native American Nursing Students**
- Pres Winslow Memorial Scholarship** – For high school graduates enrolled at NPC
- Taking Flight Scholarship in memory of Dr. Eric B. Henderson** – For NPC graduates going on to a university
- U.S. Military Veterans Scholarship** – For veterans, their spouses and their dependents
- VAL 153 Memorial Scholarship** – For students in Fire Science and Paramedicine (EMT) programs

What your donation looks like as tuition:

- \$70** – Provides one credit of tuition for residents of Navajo County
- \$210** – Provides tuition for one three-credit class
- \$420** – Provides tuition for one student to attend half-time
- \$840** – Provides tuition for one student to attend full-time (12 credits)



**Begin a legacy –
Help students in need by starting
your own scholarship**

Please contact me at:

(Phone or Email)

**so I can discuss how to create an
NPC scholarship fund.**

Thank you, for your continued support and donation.

You can learn more about and also give to NPC Friends and Family at www.npcfriendsfamily.org

NPC Friends and Family is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations may be used for tax purposes.