Congratulations to all our graduates! The May 19th Graduation at the Glendale Civic Center was a great ceremony and a wonderful way to celebrate all you have achieved. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff at Arizona College of Allied Health, it is our honor to recognize your hard work and perseverance!

Mr. Adail Gonzalez, a previous graduate of Arizona College of Allied Health, spoke to the class and delivered a wonderful message. His speech was engaging and funny, and contained some valuable advice for our graduates. As he said, “It takes work to get work.” Mr. Gonzalez told the students about his experience finding a job in today’s economy, and encouraged them to apply for as many jobs as they can. He asked them not to get discouraged if they don’t get hired right away, and he said his experience was that persistence was required.

The good news is there are jobs in healthcare. The day before our graduation, I attended the Arizona Private School Association annual conference. One of the sessions was titled “Occupational and Educational Employer Demands in Arizona – A Panel Discussion.” The panelists were Cynthia Spell-Tweh of the City of Phoenix Workforce Connections, Patrick Burkhart of Maricopa County Workforce Connections, and Rosalyn Boxer of Arizona Commerce Authority. Ms. Boxer presented information from WantedAnalytics.com that showed the number of jobs that had been posted on the Internet from January through April this year. 35,261 job postings (or a little more than 25% of the all postings) were in health care and social assistance or healthcare practitioners and technical occupations.

That doesn’t mean it will be easy, as Mr. Gonzalez noted. It will take work to find a job. Persistence is required. And we’re here to help. Our career services department is dedicated to assisting you in finding a job, whether you are a recent graduate or you graduated years ago or even if you haven’t graduated yet. Their job is to provide aid with resume writing, interview tips, and job leads. I assure you they are thrilled whenever a graduate finds employment. If you haven’t spoken to them in a while (and by that I mean, more than two weeks!), give us a call!

Again, congratulations to our graduates. Continue to follow your dreams! Be Bold! We’re here to help.

Best wishes,

Nick Mansour, President
Working for Cirque du Soleil

Adventures in Massage Therapy:
You never know where your career might take you!

Thankfully, when opportunity knocked, I opened the door!

In March of 2002, one of my massage clients connected me with Cirque du Soleil, a well-known acrobatic, theatrical company that performs worldwide. As luck would have it, my client, Mark, overheard a conversation between Cirque staff as he was setting up lighting for one of their traveling shows. Cirque was in dire need of a Massage Therapist for their Charlotte, North Carolina venue. Their longtime therapist had left suddenly, and they were actively looking for someone to treat their athletes. After a phone call and two interviews, I was hired as Cirque’s Neuromuscular Massage Therapist for their Quidam Show. I was ecstatic!

My contract with Cirque lasted all of April into May, just over a month, yet the education I received through the field experience felt like a two-year training course. My treatment activities consisted of visually examining the performers, palpating observed misalignments, then providing muscular pain relief to acute and chronically injured areas.

For fifteen hours a week, I worked in the triage tent, alongside a physiotherapist and a physical therapist. There, under the famous blue and yellow swirled big top tent, I learned more about anatomy and the biomechanics of movement than I ever thought possible. The athletes were in superhuman physical condition, touting strength and endurance unlike any athletes I had ever met. I could see their muscular striations, which really helped me learn more about muscular location and layering. As I worked on more bodies of the acrobatic build, my hands became more seasoned in their skill.

Overall, the experience with Cirque was invaluable, and to this day, I still apply the knowledge I gleaned to those whom I treat—regardless of whether or not my clients are performers. Also amongst the many jewels I acquired during my contract with the Quidam Show, I learned that when opportunity knocks, grand, life-changing events may be on the other side.

---Katherine Thompson, Program Director of the Massage Therapy Program at Arizona College.

Now offered!

Massage Therapy
Continued Education

Arizona College is now offering continuing education classes. These classes are open to the public and current students and graduates are eligible to participate in these classes as well! These classes allow licensed massage therapists in the state of Arizona to earn required continuing education units toward their bi-annual license renewal. The Arizona State Board of Massage Therapy requires each licensed massage therapist to complete a minimum of 25 hours of continuing education in order to renew a license, with at least 13 hours being completed in a workshop, seminar, lecture, conference, class or other live instruction. Arizona College’s courses meet the requirements to qualify under the required 13 hours of live courses.

Some of the upcoming classes that we are offering include Touch for Health Levels I through IV, Integrating Myofascial Release, Precision Neuromuscular Treatment for the Low Back, Spine, Hips, Shoulders, Arms and Hands. Please visit our website for more information on dates, times and pricing.

All classes will be held on the Arizona College campus and there is discounted pricing available for students.
Arizona College is now a charter member of the Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society!

It is a mark of distinction for an institution to be awarded a Chapter of Alpha Beta Kappa. Students are elected by faculty for membership in this honor fraternity based on academic excellence, leadership and excellence in the classroom or while on campus, strong personal integrity and good moral character and demonstration of policy adherence.

Each honor graduate receives a personalized membership certificate, an honorary Alpha Beta Kappa Gold Key, a special congratulatory letter and, upon request, a letter of reference to use when seeking employment or other opportunities. Alpha Beta Kappa honor graduates also walk with red and black cords during the graduation ceremony to indicate their membership.

To become a member of this nationally recognized honor society is truly a great achievement and Arizona College looks forward to celebrating with those of our graduates who are elected!
“I visited and enrolled all in the same day. Arizona College gave me the skills to find a career and stop working at a job. The instructors were very helpful and encouraging. I loved the small class sizes [and] the instructors made sure the lesson was understood before they moved on.”

—Tiffany Szakal, Medical Assisting Graduate

“Making a decision on which school to pick and what major to take was not an easy task to me. I was scared in the beginning and was not sure if I would make it through. But here I am! Done with externship and already a full-time Dental Assistant associate! Couldn’t have done it without all the great teachers at Arizona College! I’m truly glad that I chose to be a Dental Assistant and that I went to Arizona College for my education.”

—Ana Savic, Dental Assisting Graduate

“It’s a learning experience about life and the medical world. The instructors did not sugar coat anything. Sometimes it’s the truth that gets us to become better, stronger, more compassionate people.”

—Inez Hernandez, Medical Assisting Graduate

“My experiences at the college are all amazing. I didn’t know if I would be able to make it through school. I really hated school back in high school so to start over I was so unsure how it would be. I can’t say enough about all my instructors—Mr. Davis, Ms. Ilano and Ms. Hart made school fun and taught me so much. I really feel they taught me all I needed to know to be a great Dental Assistant. It really was proven when I went on my externship because from the very first day, I was doing things on my own with the doctor and I felt very comfortable because I had the skills and knowledge to do the work. My site told me my second week that I was a keeper and they would be hiring me.”

—Amie Salamone, Dental Assisting Graduate

“I enjoyed my time at Arizona College. The small class size gave me a very personal and comfortable experience. My instructors were wonderful! They are very knowledgeable and genuinely cared about my success. I learned everything I need to know to have a fulfilling career in massage therapy. I have many open doors to take my career in many different paths. I have the skills to work in a spa setting, in a rehabilitation facility, in the medical field, with sports teams or to even run my own business. I now have a great career working with a Chiropractor and I am able to set my own schedule. Arizona College gives you the tools and teaches you the skills you need to immediately begin a rewarding career.”

—Maria Amador, Massage Therapy Graduate
Agencies provide assistance to Students:
Help is available to many!

So far it’s been a busy season for Agency development. In the months leading up to high school graduations, my travels have taken me all over our beautiful state and Arizona’s tribal nations where I’ve had the honor of speaking to hundreds of people, many high school seniors, about careers in healthcare. Now that summer is here, and the “kids” are out of school, we are beginning to talk to many of them about potential new careers!

On the other side of the coin are the many agencies, here in the valley, who serve people who need career training and/or other assistance to get back into the workforce. Examples include people who have been laid off, are otherwise unemployed, those who are “under-employed”, at risk youth and people with disabilities. As the College’s Liaison to these many agencies, I have proudly accepted the role as the chair of the “Training Expo” planning committee. “Training Expo” is an annual conference that is specifically designed for workforce professionals. These are the kind-hearted folks who are in the profession of helping people get back to work. Each year nearly 200 workforce professionals attend this conference for a day of fun and learning, all centered on the topic of career training and building a stronger workforce through educational opportunities.

Arizona College of Allied Health is an approved training provider for Arizona Workforce Connections. If you would like more information about these agencies and how they may be able to help you, please give me (Dennis Hobgood) a call at 602-759-2259. I’d be happy to tell you more about it.

—Dennis Hobgood, Agency Liaison

Arizona College
Pharmacy Technician Students score High on Certification Exam

Arizona College has been successfully preparing students for their national Certification exams for years. Through the use of relevant curriculum, outstanding instructors, and a lot of hard work on the part of the students, the pass rate for students who take the PTCB Certification Exam is consistently higher than the national average. You may be asking yourself, what is the certification exam, and why is it important? To answer that, I have included a section from the PTCB website:

Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam
PTCB’s pharmacy technician certification program enables technicians to work more effectively with pharmacists to offer safe and effective patient care and service. Certification is achieved by meeting specific eligibility requirements and earning a passing score on the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE). The PTCB certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

We are happy to announce the scores for 2011 for the PTCE. Students who identified themselves as attending Arizona College had an 84.4% passing rate in 2011. The national average was 75.9%. This is a difference of 8.5%!!! We are very proud of the hard work and dedication put in by our faculty and students, and the results speak for themselves. Please feel free to contact our admissions department or myself to get more information on the great things we are doing here in the Pharmacy Technician program.

—Joshua Kramer, Pharmacy Technician Program Director

We’re changing our Name!

Effective in June of this year, our school will be shortening its name to ARIZONA COLLEGE. Our school leaders decided on this name change because we hope to one day offer a broader range of programs beyond Allied Health at the college. We are excited at the prospect of growth for our progressive college!
Would you rather be a 9 or a 10?

A Medical Coding Perspective

Wouldn’t it be nice to be able to choose if we are a 9 or a 10? In the world of medical coding we do not get a choice. According to the World Health Organization we are all currently a 9—that is the International Classification of Diseases 9th Revision (ICD-9) and have been since 1977. This coding system allows physicians and hospitals to accurately report services and treatment to insurance companies for reimbursement. In real world terms it means that these codes allow us to get paid and in turn pay employees.

Most of us currently working in medical coding have only ever known ICD-9 and are proficient in its details. This expertise is then passed on to the students through the faculty at Arizona College.

Let’s think about the changing world of medicine and the impact it may have on medical coding. Since 1977 we have been using the same coding system with additions and revisions each year. To combat and assist the advancements in medicine and ensure that providers continue to receive the appropriate payment the World Health Organization has now released ICD-10. With this release comes a brand new way of coding with more codes, a new format and new methodologies.

ICD-10-CM has an expanded level of coding, making it possible to have approximately 69,000 different diagnosis codes. This is a major difference over ICD-9 and its approximately 13,600 codes. ICD-10-PCS has over 71,000 different codes to allow hospitals to code in patient procedures. This coding system is completely new from the 1977 version of ICD-9-PCS. Because these coding systems are so drastically different, coders will need to take courses to become trained in ICD-10-CM for all providers and ICD-10-PCS if they code for hospitals. These courses should be comprehensive and detailed in the conversion changes and allow the coder to have extensive hands-on coding using the new system.

Arizona College is fortunate to have an AHIMA approved ICD-10-CM/PCS Trainer on staff to instruct current and future students in the new coding system. Ms. Haley Wilfong, Director of Health Information completed an exhaustive training course through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) to gain expertise in all aspects of ICD-10.

—Haley Wilfong
Program Director of the Health Information Program

Veteran Support at Arizona College

Arizona College has launched a great effort to support veterans who are seeking to further their education and has created a department called Military Support Services. Military Support Services is headed by Mr. Kevin Kane. Mr. Kane is an Army veteran himself with the distinction of having been awarded 2 Purple Hearts during his service. A former police officer as well, Mr. Kane has worked with non-profits and schools for veterans’ causes for several years.

The Military Support Services department is in place to assist new students with navigating the VA education system and to provide support to veterans while they are completing their education. The department also seeks to increase military sensitivity awareness among staff and faculty, to ensure proper recruiting practices, and to involve Arizona College in community events and programs relating to veterans. Arizona College is working to lead the way in veteran–friendly campuses by applying to become a Veteran Supportive Campus per Arizona law and is looking to create strategic partnerships that will help our veteran students and support our military community.

If you are a veteran looking to start a career in healthcare, we are here to support you! Please reach out to Mr. Kevin Kane and our Military Support Services department by calling 602-222-9300.
What is TOPS?
It stands for Team of Physicians for Students

About a decade ago, Dr. Paul Steingard founded the TOPS (Team of Physicians for Students) program to give back to the community. In partnership with the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA), Midwestern University, the Arizona Heart Institute, and other community associations, TOPS now provide free sports screenings for over 3000 high school and college athletes each year, including free EKGs and echo cardiograms to detect potential heart problems. "If we save one life or help one child have a healthier future, we will have succeeded in our goal," says Dr. Steingard.

This year, more than 500 students, 8th through 12th grade, went through free TOPS screenings, held on a Saturday, April 21st 2012, at Youngker High School in Buckeye, Arizona. The screenings included comprehensive cardiac testing, which consist of EKG's, Echocardiograms, and students had their vital signs performed. All of this was conducted by an awesome group of doctors and nurses who volunteered their time as well as medical assistant students and instructors from Arizona College.

Our Arizona College students were enthusiastic and excited about volunteering. Their experience to such a worthy cause, and participation in our community is a solid foundation to a lifetime of what it truly means to be a committed medical assistant; helping people, when and where we can. Under the guidance of dedicated practitioners and instructors, all our medical assistants shined! Two of our outstanding students, through networking at TOPS, were offered jobs that same day.

Students are looking forward to future opportunities to participate in TOPS and other health fairs.

The medical assistant department would like to thank Mr. Kevin LaMountain and Mr. Nick Mansour for allowing us this wonderful opportunity and providing transportation to and from the event.

— Maria Romero, Medical Assisting Instructor at Arizona College

Summer Calendar of Events

- 7/4/12—Independence Day, School closed
- 7/12/12—Orientation for New Students
- 7/16/12—Start Date for New Session: Welcome New Students!
- 8/16/12—Orientation for New Students
- 8/20/12—Start Date for New Session: Welcome New Students!
- 8/26/12—Women’s Equality Day
- 9/3/12—Labor Day, School closed
- 9/8/12—Graduation!
- 9/11/12—Patriot Day
- 9/15/12-10/15/12—National Hispanic Heritage Month
- 9/20/12—Orientation for New Students
- 9/22/12—First day of Autumn
- 9/24/12—Start Date for New Session: Welcome New Students!
- 9/28/12—Native American Day

*CPR classes and testing are offered weekly (every Friday) at Arizona College. Space is limited so please contact the Front Desk for your reservation.

Medical Assisting students from Arizona College and Instructor, Linda Sanchez, are all smiles at the TOPS screening event at Youngker High School.

An Arizona College Medical Assisting student takes a patient’s pulse during this volunteer event.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbas Khayami, D.C.</td>
<td>Diann Tate, CPhT. Lead Tech</td>
<td>Better Health Solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Strunk, B.S., CPhT</td>
<td>Heather Blythe, DA DC Dental</td>
<td>Cardinal Health</td>
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<td>Angel Harrington, L.M.T.</td>
<td>Jeanette Baker, L.M.T. Massage Envy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Lassister, AZ MGMA Certified Practice Manager</td>
<td>Jothi Nadarajah D.M.D. Cholla Hills Family Dentistry</td>
<td>Advanced Surgical Institute</td>
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<td>Barbara Stackhouse, R.D.H., B.S.</td>
<td>Kathy Donner HIV Prevention Manager Arizona Department of Health</td>
<td>The Schuster Center for Professional Development</td>
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<td>DeJarra Sims N.M.D.</td>
<td>Lalit Mansukhani, R.Ph., M.S. Director of Pharmacy John C. Lincoln Hospital</td>
<td>Synergy Health</td>
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<td>Nicole Leon, L.M.T.</td>
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<td>Sharon Jaycox</td>
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<td>Arizona Department of Health Services</td>
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<td>Sharon Richard, R.N., CPC.</td>
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<td>Banner Arizona Medical Clinic</td>
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<td>Teresa D'Acquisto, A.A.</td>
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<td>Arizona Medical Billing</td>
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<td>Wanda Darling</td>
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