



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Northern Arizona University sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks, on homelands sacred to Native Americans throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.

GREETINGS FROM THE CM PROGRAM



After ten years leading the Construction Management Program at NAU, I'm excited to announce a change in leadership in the department. **Prof. Agnes Drogi** will be taking on the role of Associate Chair for CM as I move into the position of Department Chair, overseeing Civil Engineering, Construction Management, and Environmental Engineering.

We welcome three new faculty members to the department: **George Cathey, Mishael Umlor, and Tony Wolkowsky**. George will be full-time with Construction Management, while Mishael and Tony will be teaching across all three programs. **Franchell Tohannie** has also joined our department as Senior Administrative Assistant. We extend our best wishes to **Rob Bruner**, who is leaving NAU to pursue a leadership development role with Kitchell. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the leadership provided by past chair **Dr. Paul Gremillion**, who recently retired from NAU.

We are proud to announce the formation of the **NAU Infrastructure Consortium** and the appointment of **Prof. Kai Kaoni** as the Beavers Professor of Infrastructure. Kai will be working with Consortium partners **Sundt, Granite, Haydon, Kiewit, and McCarthy** to develop cutting-edge heavy-civil and infrastructure curriculum including a Minor in Infrastructure.

I see new opportunities for industry partners to interact with and recruit Civil and Environmental Engineering students, providing additional career pathways for our students.

Dr. John Tingerthal

Professor and Chair - Civil Engineering, Construction Management & Environmental Engineering

I am deeply honored to step into this new role as the Associate Chair for our Construction Management program. John and I are eager to partner in this new leadership chapter to push our program to even greater heights.

My transition into leadership is driven by a singular mission: to use my real-life experience to better our industry by preparing the next generation of builders. My roots in construction run deep in Arizona, from Cost Estimator to Project Manager, to Director of Construction, overseeing all construction projects on NAU campus for 8 years.



When I joined the faculty in the Fall of 2017, it was to bring that 360-degree, real-world knowledge directly to our students. Whether I am teaching Intro to Construction, Cost Estimating, Communication Skills, or guiding seniors through their capstone, my goal is to ensure they are fully prepared for the realities of your jobsites.

In my dual role as Associate Chair and Industry Liaison, I am committed to ensuring our curriculum is tightly aligned with your workforce needs. I look forward to working closely with all of you in the coming year to strengthen our partnerships, welcome you to campus, and deliver highly capable, forward-thinking graduates ready to lead your future projects.

Thank you for everything you do for NAU Construction Management.

Agnes "Annyes" Drogi

Professor of Practice, Associate Chair

GREETINGS FROM THE CM PROGRAM



The NAU Construction Management Program continues to achieve remarkable growth and success. This past year, we reached new milestones with **386 students enrolled** in the program and a combined total of **94 graduates**.

Over the past five years, student **enrollment has grown by 47%**, establishing the CM program as one of the **fastest-growing academic programs at NAU**. Our student population reflects the diverse and talented individuals choosing to pursue careers in construction, including 20% women and 35% first-generation college students. Most notably, **90% of our graduates receive a job offer before graduation** — a testament to the quality of our students, the program's strength and the increasing demand for construction management professionals.

The success of our program is made possible through the generous support of our industry partners. In FY26, the Generation Next Sponsorship Program expanded to **58 industry partners** and generated more than **\$850,000 in philanthropic investment** and program support. This extraordinary level of engagement reflects the construction industry's confidence in the program and its commitment to developing the next generation of construction leaders.

Looking ahead to FY27, the program is projected to generate **\$854,400 in total revenue**, with nearly **\$370,000 invested directly in student and faculty support initiatives**. Additionally, our portfolio is projected to exceed **\$1.7 million in assets**, providing sustainable funding that supports academic excellence, workforce development, and emerging industry priorities for years to come.

As our partnerships continue to grow, so does our commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for recruiting, industry engagement, and student success. Together, we are building a sustainable model that positions the program as a national leader in construction education and workforce development. Thank you for your generous support and engagement.

Cami Iacona

Business & Educational Partnership Manager

DON'T MISS:

Infrastructure Consortium (pg 8)

Award-winning Students (pg 9)

Student Organizations (pg 12)

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INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD

Over the past year, the NAU Construction Management Program Industry Advisory Board has been actively engaged in supporting the program's growth, student success, and connection to the construction industry. The Board celebrated increases in enrollment, student diversity, and new faculty and staff who are strengthening the program and expanding students' opportunities.

A significant accomplishment this year was the expansion of the Construct for Practice (C4P) Lab. Through the generous donations of time, labor, expertise, and materials from industry partners, the project created additional instructional space that will offer students more hands-on construction experience. The Board also advanced plans for the **Northern Arizona Construction Education Partnership**, an independent nonprofit organization designed to strengthen industry engagement with NAU. We celebrated growth in Generation Next sponsorship participation, which boosts student experiences, facility improvements, and workforce development initiatives.

Together, these accomplishments reflect the strong partnership between industry and academia and the Board's ongoing commitment to supporting workforce-ready graduates and the continued excellence of the NAU Construction Management Program. On behalf of the Board and myself, thank you for a successful year of education and partnership.

Regards,
Chad Buck, Sundt Construction
IAB Chair



IAB MEMBERS

Leadership:

Chad Buck, Sundt Construction, Chair
Bill Headley, Vice Chair

At-Large members:

Brad Gabel
JP Jaramillo, NOX Group
Justin Newman
Rob Presuhn, ISX-Inc.

Association Members:

Dawn Rogers, AZ Masonry Council
Kim Davids, AZ Builders Alliance Construction

Appointed members:

Aron Kirch, Kitchell Contractors, Inc.
Becca Whitehead, Okland Construction
Brad Hughes, Mortenson
Clay Creaser, JE Dunn Construction Group
DJ Anderson, Willmeng Construction
James Faria, CORE Construction
Kelly Gore, Hensel Phelps Construction
Matt Lyons, McCarthy Building Companies
Mike Thomas, Kinney Construction Services
Nico Swart, PCL Construction
Ricardo Naranjo, Henkels & McCoy
Tony Allen, Austin Industries
Tyler Mark, Wespac Construction

Purpose: The Advisory Board provides advice, guidance and support for the development of a high-quality Construction Management Program at NAU. The Board advises faculty and staff and promotes the Construction Management Program at NAU.

GENERATION NEXT SPONSORS

PLATNUM SPONSORS

CANNON & WENDT
ELECTRIC

HOLDER

MCCARTHY

PENTA
The PENTA Building Group

SUN VALLEY BUILDERS

CORE

Hunter
CONTRACTING CO.

OKLAND
CONSTRUCTION

RUMCO
Rummel Construction, Inc.

WCP
WEST COAST
PARTITIONS

HAYDON

JEDUNN
CONSTRUCTION

PCI
PERFORMANCE
CONTRACTING INC.

willmeng

Hensel Phelps
Construction Co.

KITCHELL

PCL
CONSTRUCTION

SUNDT

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DPR
CONSTRUCTION

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WT
WHITING-TURNER

Vulcan
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100% Employee Owned

W

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builders

SILVER SPONSORS

A.R. MAYS
CONSTRUCTION

CHASSE
BUILDING TEAM

GH Phipps
CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

MOSS

WEITZ

Austin

dp
DP ELECTRIC

Gilbane

PROGRESSIVE
ROOFING

University Mechanical
& Engineering Contractors
An EMCOR Company

bc
Banicki Construction
A Sterling Construction Company

FCI
Constructors, Inc.

Kiewit

PUEBLO
A MODIGENT COMPANY

VENN
construction

BUNGER
STEEL

FELIX
CONSTRUCTION

Layton
CONSTRUCTING WITH INTEGRITY

RURAL
ELECTRIC

WESPAC
CONSTRUCTION INC.

Caliente
Construction Inc.

FLYNN

Mortenson
construction

Southland

WW CLYDE

C4P LAB RENOVATIONS

Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our industry partners, the Construction for Practice (C4P) Lab underwent a significant renovation in summer of 2025 in preparation for the incoming fall semester. Led by **Professors Andrew Iacona** and **Tim Womack**, these improvements were made in direct response to the program's continued enrollment growth and our commitment to providing students with an exceptional hands-on learning experience.

Our laboratory courses are foundational to student success, offering practical, project-based experiences that mirror real-world construction environments. The renovation project **expanded instructional capacity, modernized technology and workspaces, improved accessibility and functionality**, and enhanced the overall student experience within the lab.

Key improvements included:

- Installation of ground, polished, and sealed concrete flooring in the build room.
- Reconfigured and modernized student workstations with new L-shaped desktops and renovated cubicles.
- Construction of two additional student cubicles and a new instructor workstation.
- Installation of additional electrical outlets, IT infrastructure, and data drops throughout the lab, office, and conference spaces.
- Replacement and expansion of computer equipment, including eleven new computers and eight laptop docking stations.
- Improved storage solutions for PPE, office supplies, and construction materials.
- Acoustic, accessibility, and security enhancements, including rock wool sound baffles, card reader access, and door modifications.
- Updates to classroom finishes, furniture, shelving systems, and instructional resources.

These improvements were made possible through the generous donation of materials, labor, and expertise from our industry partners.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Cannon & Wendt, CORE, Hensel Phelps, Total Building Systems, and Wespac for their outstanding support of this transformational project.



INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM



\$1 million investment creates the first professorship in NAU's CM program.

NAU's Construction Management program is developing a new infrastructure program and heavy civil minor to prepare graduates for **careers in heavy civil construction**. Housed in NAU's Steve Sanghi College of Engineering, the **college's first endowed distinguished professorship** will advance faculty support, create programs and curriculum in infrastructure construction. We are proud to announce that the first professor to serve in this role is **Prof. Kai Kaoni**.

"One of the things that makes the construction industry unique is that we are all working toward a common goal of building stronger communities and developing the next generation of industry leaders," said Sundt Construction President Chad Buck, '00.

With generous support from the Beavers Charitable Trust and partnerships with Granite Construction, Haydon, Kiewit Corporation, McCarthy Building Companies, Sundt Construction, and the AZ Board of Regents Eminent Scholar program NAU has established the **Beavers Endowed Distinguished Professorship of Infrastructure**.



[Watch video
about the consortium](#)



[Read article from
NAU Foundation](#)

STUDENT AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Student	Scholarship
Luis A. Ayala	Kinney Construction Services Award
Olivia S. Bowie	Chuck Orr Construction Management Scholarship
Deshawnte D. Cardenas	Construction Financial Management Assoc. Valley of the Sun Fund
Dylan C. Gebhardt	The Beavers Heavy Construction Scholarship
Cassie R. Gill	Ben C Griggs/ASA Endowment Fund
Shaw R. Green	The Beavers Heavy Construction Scholarship
Kaedon D. Hirsch	Construction Financial Management Assoc. Valley of the Sun Fund
Daniel R. Mills	CEMEX Construction Materials Scholarship Fund
Diego Robles Ontiveros	GLHN Scholarship Fund
Kendra K. Pieczonka	Chuck Orr Construction Management Scholarship
Minadora L. Reutov	Jon and Christine Bourgeois Scholarship
Carter R. Richard	CEMEX Construction Materials Scholarship Fund
William A. Spina	Scott William McFarland Memorial Scholarship



Fatima Ortiz Botello
Gold Axe Winner
& SCE Distinguished
Senior
Fall 2025



Ellington Baggerly
Gold Axe Winner



Trevor Walsh
Scott McFarland
Service Award
Fall 2025



Luis Ayala
SCE Distinguished
Senior
Spring 2026



Blake Evans
Scott McFarland
Service Award
Spring 2026

GRADUATES

FALL 2025 GRADUATES

Ellington Baggerly
Luke Bashford
Connor Basso
Phillip Burish
Noah Case
Owen Chynoweth
Dani DePadre
Jakob Dotson
Latham Fritz
Evan Fulton
Cole Kane-Corley
Ethan Kuchta
Michael Lopezlira
Chris Lovett

Maxwell Loyet
Zakai Martin
Shawn Moskowitz
Fatima Ortiz Botello
John Randel
Noah Ribary
Nicco Riccabona
Diego Robles Ontiveros
Evan Rosenbaum
Ethan Seppala
Brian Smith
Kyle Stoffregen
Garrett Tope
Trevor Walsh



GRADUATES

SPRING 2026 GRADUATES

Luis Ayala
Graydon Bearinger
Troy Beilfuss
Maximillion Berg
Jedidiah Bernier
Wyatt Brown
Deshawnte Cardenas
Mason Carter
Liam Casey
Jacob Casper
Seth Castoe
Ryan Ching
Joshua Conway
Roman Daoud
Alex Diamanti
Will Donegan
Blake Evans
Liam Fraser
Luke Fulk
Dylan Gebhardt
Cassie Gill

Zachary Henson
Kaedon Hirsch
Jacob Hoover
Robert Hunt
Alexander Iverson
Bradley Jacobson
Jace Keith
Michael Krichbaum
Adam Lechuga
Anthony LoGrande
Owen Losh
William Meador
Julian Meza
Jocelyn Miller
Kevin Miranda
Ognjen Mircic
Cooper Montgomery
Ethan Morrison
Sierra Noss
Quintin O'Grady
Luis Perez Bernal

Hunter Platt
Krystyna Pramowski
Garrett Rainwater
Carter Richard
Ruben Rodriguez
Max Ryan
Jhon Santiago
Jake Shearon
Sage Smart
Iyioluwa "Elijah" Soyannwo
Reid Sperl
William Spina
Ethan Sterne
Blake Thomas
Hayden Tramundanas
Joshua Turcas
Bryce Vehrs
Joshua Walker
Mason Walker
Aaron Wentz
Aiden Werner



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



Student Leadership for 2026-2027

Construction Management Organization (CMO)

- President - **Will Natale**
- Vice President - **Trevor Hall**
- Treasurer - **Cassandra Frederick**
- Secretary - **Marcus Kiszczak**
- Event Coordinator - **Braden Heiling**
- Quarter Master - **Tyler McCarthy**
- Social Media - **Sophia Fritsche**

Lean Construction Institute (LCI)

- President - **Kysen Rios**
- Vice President - **Tyler McCarthy**

Sigma Lambda Chi (SLC)

- President - **Brayden Daly**
- Vice President - **Ava Lechner**
- Treasurer/Secretary - **Cassandra Frederick**

Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)

- President - **Kysen Rios**
- Treasurer - **Olivia Bowie**

Women in Construction (WIC)

- President - **Ryan Adamson**
- Vice President - **Josephine McAfee**
- Treasurer - **Ava Zaccagnini**
- Social Media & Marketing Manager - **Alora Stoddard**

ASC COMPETITION



Mixed Use Team - 1st Place



Design Build Team - 2nd Place



Heavy Civil Team - 2nd Place

NATIONAL RECOGNITION AT THE ASC COMPETITION

We are proud to share that NAU Construction Management students achieved national recognition at the **2026 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Competition** — one of the most prestigious student competitions in the country. Competing against **241 teams from 57 universities**, our students delivered outstanding results:

- **Mixed-Use Team** – 1st Place
- **Design Build Team** – 2nd Place
- **Heavy Civil Team** – 2nd Place
- **Alternate Competition** – Owen Kunes & Tyler McCarthy - 1st Place

These honors are a testament to our students' **dedication, teamwork, and technical skills**, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments.

Special recognition also goes to our **Integrated Project Delivery & Commercial Teams** who demonstrated tremendous effort and professionalism throughout the competition.

Real-world experience is a cornerstone of the Construction Management program, and opportunities like the ASC competition are made possible thanks to the support of our sponsors and industry partners.

Thank you to all of the Generation Next sponsors and industry partners who mentor and prepare our students.

CM IN GERMANY

In May 2026, Professors **Lou Cirelli** and **John Tingerthal** lead a group of twelve NAU students to southern Germany to study the history and future of wood construction.

In partnership with the **Hochschule Biberach** (HBC), NAU Students explored timber topics ranging from forest harvesting to mass timber production to construction, comparing US and European standards, products and practices.

The trip included visits to the experimental forests at the **Hochschule Rottenburg, Ilim Timber** in Landsburg am Lech, CNC machine manufacturer **Hundegger, Hörmann** prefabrication factory in Buchloe and the **Liebherr** tower crane plant in Biberach.

We look forward to hosting students and faculty from HBC in August at NAU, as well as the potential for a future dual degree partnership with HBC.



JOBSITE TOURS

Hands-on learning is at the heart of the Construction Management program. During our academic year 2025-2026, students had the opportunity to participate in jobsite tours and enjoy guest lectures, gaining valuable insight into modern construction practices. **We are grateful to our partners for opening their doors to help us shape the next generation of construction professionals.**

Guest Lectures:

- Balfour Beatty
- Cadell Construction
- Canon and Wendt
- Case Equipment
- CORE Construction
- DPR
- Encon/TPac
- Encore Steel
- Haydon
- Holder
- J. Banicki
- Kinney
- Kitchell
- Lusardi Construction
- NAU Facilities
- Okland
- PCI
- Ryan Companies
- Southland Industries
- Sundt Construction
- Swinerton
- Walsh Group
- West Coast Partitions
- Whiting Turner
- Willmeng
- WMA Architects

Site Visits:

- Atmosphere Commercial Interiors
- Block-Lite
- Felix
- FNF
- Gilbert Bridge - Sundt Construction
- Gilbert Project - Granite Construction
- HWY 89 Drainage - Granite Construction
- ISX
- Kiewit
- Kinsey School - CORE Construction
- Mortenson Construction
- Southwest Siteworks
- Tyler Reinforcing
- US Courthouse - Lusardi Construction



FUNDRAISING – TOURNAMENTS

We hosted two very successful fundraising tournaments this year, raising **\$265,900** to support student success, faculty development, and industry partnerships.

Our annual **Fall Golf Tournament** brought together alumni, industry partners, and students for a great day on the green to raise **\$55,800**, benefiting the **Clair Hill Student Endowment**.

Tournament winners:

- *1st Place:* NOX
- *2nd Place:* Okland
- *3rd Place:* GH Phipps

Individual Awards:

- *Longest Drive, Men:* Dylan Lutes
- *Longest Drive, Women:* Vanessa Wedra
- *Closest to the Pin, Men:* Tommy Zumora
- *Closest to the Pin, Women:* Kaitlyn Emery

The **Spring Sporting Clays Tournament**, held at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, generated **\$48,300** in support of the **Friends of Faculty Endowment**.

Coyote Course winners:

- *1st Place:* LGE Design
- *2nd Place:* McCarthy
- *3rd Place:* DPR Construction

Roadrunner Course winners:

- *1st Place:* Sundt
- *2nd Place:* Kitchell
- *3rd Place:* Haydon



CONSTRUCT FOR PRACTICE LAB SPONSORS

Thank you, partners, for directly supporting the C4P+ Lab with your generous donations!

- CORE Construction
- DPR Construction
- McCarthy Building Companies
- NOX Group
- The PENTA Building Group
- Pueblo Mechanical & Controls
- West Coast Partitions
- Wilson Electric

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

The following companies have made contributions to the CM program, providing essential support to students:

- ALB Piping Products & Services
- The Beavers Charitable Trust
- Bosch Building Technologies
- Copestone General Contractors
- Ferguson Waterworks
- LGE Design Build
- Ryan Companies
- Total Building Systems

NAU GIVING DAY

NAU Giving Day on May 1, 2026 was a meaningful success for the Construction Management program. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, friends, faculty, and supporters, **\$2,595** was raised to benefit the **Clair Hill Student Endowment**, **Friends of Faculty**, and the **CM Special Projects Fund**.

Every gift, regardless of size, helps strengthen the program by supporting student success, faculty excellence, and hands-on learning opportunities. We are grateful to everyone who contributed and helped invest in the future of Construction Management at NAU.



UPCOMING EVENTS & A LOOK AHEAD

August

- 24: Fall Semester Begins
- 28: ACI Disc Golf Tournament
- 29: Home Football Game

September

- 12: Home Football Game
- 25: IAB Meeting (Phoenix)

October

- 8: NAU WIC Banquet
- 9: CM Fall Career Fair
- 10: Home Football Game
- 16: Golf Invitational
- 17: NAU Homecoming

November

- 14: Home Football Game
- 21: Home Football Game

December

- 4: Fall Banquet
- 12: Fall Commencement

January

- 11: Spring Semester Begins

February

- 2-6: ASC Competition
- TBD: CM Spring Career Fair

March

- 8-12: NAU Spring Break

April

- TBD: CM at the Ballpark
- 2: IAB Meeting (Flagstaff)
- 30: Demo Ball Graduation Banquet

May

- 8-9: Commencement

CM at the Ballpark

Faculty Fundraiser - Coming Spring 2027

The NAU Construction Management Program is proud to announce the launch of its newest signature **recruiting event, CM at the Ballpark**, debuting in Spring 2027.

Created as a strategic investment in faculty excellence and industry recruiting, this event will bring together construction leaders, alumni, and program supporters for an evening of baseball, networking, and philanthropy. The Faculty Fundraiser reflects our commitment to strengthening the people who make the NAU Construction Management Program one of the nation's leading construction education programs.

Our faculty are more than educators—they are mentors, researchers, and industry partners who shape the future workforce. The Faculty Fundraiser also represents an exciting evolution of our fundraising portfolio. Designed to create meaningful connections the event aligns with the Generation Next Sponsorship Program's mission of creating strategic partnerships that advance workforce development and student success.

Event location: Phoenix

Packages start at \$2,500 and include 5 admission tickets, food and beverages.

Additional event partnership opportunities are available!



STEVE SANGHI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING CO-OP EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

A DIRECT TALENT PIPELINE TO CAREER READY STUDENTS

Introduction

The NAU SCE Co-op Experience Program is a structured, full-time, paid academic co-op that creates a direct talent pipeline between NAU students and industry partners.

Students apply advanced academic training in real workplace environments while earning academic credit. Employers gain a low-risk, performance-based pathway for early career hiring.

- ✓ One full semester of full-time, supervised professional experience
- ✓ Application of technical and professional skills in a workplace setting
- ✓ Structured evaluation of student performance and learning outcomes
- ✓ Integration of academic learning with industry experience
- ✓ Faculty-supported framework with regular check-ins



Strengthen your workforce pipeline before students graduate.

Employer Commitment

Program Investment: \$2,500 per co-op student

This program fee supports:

- Faculty mentorship and biweekly check-ins
- Academic oversight and performance checks
- 6 academic credit hours for the student's co-op

Employers also provide:

- A full-time position during the co-op term
- Meaningful, skill-aligned professional work
- A designated workplace supervisor
- Participation in periodic check-ins
- An end-of-term performance evaluation

How the Program Works

Before the Co-op

Students complete advanced coursework and professional preparation.

During the Co-op

Students work 40 hours per week and:

- Contribute to projects and operations
- Apply technical and professional skills
- Gain hands-on industry experience
- Participate in structured check-ins with faculty and supervisors

After the Co-op

Students return to campus to complete final coursework and graduate.



Steve Sanghi College of Engineering

Email Chrissy.Speer@nau.edu
to learn more