

## Air trailer enhances CCC/Flag Fire partnership



CCC recently used STEM funds to purchase an air trailer to be used during firefighter training classes.

A partnership with Coconino Community College and the Flagstaff Fire Department is proving beneficial to both organizations.

"CCC is an important provider for us in terms of training and their vocational program," said Flagstaff Fire Chief Mark Gaillard. "The College assists in providing EMT classes, which are important for folks to have under their belt before they apply to our department or other regional fire departments."

As part of the agreement, CCC uses the Flagstaff Fire Department's training facility at the Wildcat Treatment plant area to train firefighters for northern Arizona, said Dr. Monica Baker, CCC's Dean of Career and Technical Education.

"All of our hands-on training is out there," said Dave Manning, CCC Emergency Medical Services and Fire Science Coordinator. "The students are cutting holes in roofs and doing vehicle extrications. It's set up for repeated student use."

Most recently, CCC used Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) money to purchase an \$86,000 mobile air trailer to be used in firefighter training. The trailer is used to refill SCBA cylinders, which are used in the fire science education program.

"We are taking students through the basics of becoming a firefighter," Manning said. "We have a good

partnership with the Flagstaff Fire Department to use their training facility. There's a smoke tower where we are able to train the students on search and rescue and simulate house fires."

The firefighters-in-training use the air bottles when sent into a simulated fire. It allows for the firefighter to breathe cool, clean air while fighting a fire.

Depending on the size and capacity of the bottle, they can last anywhere from 30-minutes to an hour before they start to run out, Manning said. "In the past, we would have to travel back to a stationary station to refill them," he said. "Now we have the ability onsite."

Under the agreement, Flagstaff Fire will store and house the mobile air trailer and it will be available to support actual emergencies. Right now, not every fire station is equipped with a compressor to refill bottles, so many times, firefighters have to deal with the logistics of shuttling around extra bottles and refilling them.

"With the air trailer, we will be able to deploy it in and around Flagstaff," Gaillard said. "There isn't anything like that in northern Arizona. This air trailer is just another example of expanding the partnership with CCC."

