



ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

*Daniel Garcia, President
James Watson, President Elect
Christopher Rayle, Past President*

December 10, 2021

Lee D. Lambert, Chancellor
Pima Community College
4905 East Broadway Boulevard
Tucson, Arizona, 85709-1010

Send via email to chancellor@pima.edu

Dear Chancellor Lambert,

The Arizona Archaeological Council wishes to express its strong support for the Centre for Archaeological Field Training and Field Archaeology Certificate Program at Pima Community College.

The Arizona Archaeological Council (AAC) is a non-profit voluntary organization of more than 200 archaeologists, drawing from private business; local communities; federal, state, and tribal agencies; and academic institutions in Arizona, including alumni of the PCC program. The AAC's mission is to promote and coordinate communication and cooperation; encourage the development and implementation of professional, quality research and publication; advocate for the preservation of the prehistoric and historic heritage of Arizona; uphold state and federal laws, rules, and regulations; advocate and publicize these objectives in the state of Arizona; and promote greater understanding between archaeological organizations and Native American communities.

As you are no doubt aware, the State of Arizona is witnessing unprecedented growth in the residential and commercial land development sectors, and land development in Arizona frequently requires archaeological survey and excavation work prior to development. Private sector Cultural Resource Management (CRM) consulting firms in Arizona provide this essential service to developers. The CRM industry in Arizona currently involves hundreds of professional archaeologists, but there is currently more demand for CRM services than there are available personnel with the essential archaeological field and analyst skills in demand at private CRM firms. We invite you to visit the AAC's online Job Board (<http://arizonaarchaeologicalcouncil.org/Job-Board>) to view a sample of the opportunities available to trained archaeologists and graduates of the Pima Community College program.

This labor shortage comes at a time when Arizona's universities, and four-year colleges nationwide, are producing less graduates with essential archaeological field and analysis skills, and thus fewer and fewer archaeologists are entering the private sector CRM industry. Pima Community College's programs provide an important career pathway for prospective archaeologists. Importantly, the program provides a career pathway for local students that does not require a four-year university education. Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become increasingly important in archaeology, and a two-year community college program provides inclusive opportunities for Native Americans, people of color, and those from other historically disadvantaged communities to pursue a career in archaeology despite the inability to attend a four-year university. The Field Training Certificate program also provides local field experience



ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Daniel Garcia, President
James Watson, President Elect
Christopher Rayle, Past President

opportunities for Arizona students whose four-year archaeology programs do not provide a field school program.

The loss of Pima Community College's Centre for Archaeological Field Training and Field Archaeology Certificate Program would deal a decisive blow to the growing CRM industry in Arizona. As such, on behalf of the AAC membership, I ask that you strongly consider continuation of this vital program.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Garcia', is written over the word 'Cordially,'.

Daniel Garcia, M.A., RPA
President, Arizona Archaeological Council