

First-Year CAVIT Students Excited to Start their Journey

Every year, new and promising students enroll at Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology (CAVIT). The wide variety of programs attracts a diverse pool of students interested in starting their careers in many different fields. CAVIT has interviewed some of our first-year students to discover what led them to enroll and what they plan to achieve during their time enrolled.

Jaekob Hernandez – [Automated Industrial Technology](#)

Jaekob Hernandez's older brothers initially encouraged him to explore CAVIT's programs. He decided that the automated industrial technology pathway was a great fit for him, and shortly after enrolled in the program. Like all first-year students, Hernandez has only been attending CAVIT for a couple of weeks, but so far during that time he has felt welcomed and already sees the potential he can achieve. Hernandez notes that the teachers and staff are respectful to the students and always willing to lend a helping hand. "This year at CAVIT, I want to learn as much as I can and finish with good grades. I am excited to achieve my Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Certification and start looking ahead for jobs and college programs."

After completing his program at CAVIT, Hernandez plans to attend Central Arizona College and get his general contractor license. He is excited about the local career opportunities available in his field.

Anthony Stone – [Fire Science](#)

Anthony Stone was inspired to join CAVIT due to an informational day at his high school. During the informative event, second-year CAVIT students encouraged him to check out the available programs at the career and technical school. He then attended the letter of intent night and enrolled in the fire science program. Stone states, "I am really impressed with the security and safety of the campus. It is also very well taken care of." Stone loves that the program is hands-on and gets the students out of their seats. He appreciates how welcoming his instructor has been, noting that "Mr. DiPietro, the fire science instructor, makes class engaging, lively, and fun." Like Hernandez, Stone is looking forward to receiving his OSHA certification.

After high school, Stone plans to attend Central Arizona College to get his Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) Certification. Stone intends to use his CAVIT education to become a wildland firefighter or work for a fire station.

Riley Estrada – [Physical Therapy](#)

Riley Estrada's family informed her about the opportunities available at CAVIT, and her father was an especially important factor in her decision to enroll. Although Estrada will learn both physical and massage therapy in her program, she is most looking forward to the physical therapy coursework. Estrada is encouraged and motivated by her instructor, Ms. Hansen. "I am most excited to meet new people, learn new techniques, and practice the skills that I have learned. There are [massage spa clinics](#) every few weeks that bring people in from the community for the students to practice on, I look forward to those as well." To make an appointment for a massage service, call (520) 316-4370.

Once Estrada finishes her journey at CAVIT, she plans to attend Central Arizona College for sports physical therapy, and later transfer to Northern Arizona University to further her studies.

Aceton McGuire - [Massage Therapy](#)

Before learning about CAVIT, Aceton McGuire wasn't sure what career path he wanted to pursue. "I had heard about some high school students getting to start their careers early and how they were able to leave campus to learn career skills at CAVIT. I thought that was cool and it was something I was interested in." One of McGuire's favorite parts of his classes so far is the support from his teacher, Ms. Hansen. McGuire is grateful for Hansen's support, kindly stating, "She is super supportive, and I couldn't ask for someone better." McGuire looks forward to learning new massage techniques like deep tissue massage and reiki.

When his time at CAVIT is complete, McGuire plans to attend college and specialize in natural healing techniques. He is driven to keep his grades up and apply for the Lumberjack Scholarship offered by Northern Arizona University.

Our first-year students at CAVIT will continue to thrive with the excellent support provided by their teachers and other staff members. CAVIT looks forward to seeing where their journey leads them and guiding them every step of the way.