Meet Stephen

Stephen Zubia lives in El Mirage, Arizona, and works for the Department of Admission, Registration & Records at Glendale Community College. Stephen began his college career pursuing an associate degree at GCC before transferring in 2011 to The Extended Campuses of Northern Arizona University through the 2NAU Joint Admission Program.

The Obvious Choice

In his job, Stephen is always communicating — with students, with colleagues, with supervisors. “I’m standing in front of people, talking with people, and presenting in front of people for my current job,” he says. “So going for a degree in Communication Studies just made sense to me.”

Northern Arizona University was an easy choice. “I knew a lot of people who earned their degrees through NAU and had positive experiences,” he says. “Plus, it was convenient for me to take my classes at the NAU–Glendale campus.”

NAU’s Communication Studies program is currently offered at the Glendale campus but will soon expand due to demand. It was designed for professionals like Stephen who want to perfect their interpersonal and presentation skills in the corporate workplace. Good communication skills tops the list of what hiring managers look for in job candidates today, according to recruitment firm The Adler Group.
A Community at Home

From Stephen's first day of classes, NAU felt like home. “Transitioning from GCC to NAU was very simple, easy, and straightforward,” he says. “My NAU advisors still ask me how I am doing.”

What surprised Stephen was how close he became with his peers. “We’re always attending each other’s presentations and helping each other out with projects,” he says. “We became a tight-knit community.”

The friendships weren’t just inside the classroom: “We’d always hang out after class. I anticipate having these friends for a good part of my life.”

Lessons Outside the Classroom

In addition to his GCC job, Stephen took on an internship through NAU at his church teaching Sunday school. He was immediately able to take what he learned inside and outside the classroom back to the office. “I apply my new observations to the different things I do at my job everyday,” Stephen says. “I am able to communicate in the most effective way to solve each problem.”

After graduation, Stephen is ready to hit the ground running with his new skills and his sights set on advancing his career and earning a promotion.

Learn More

To find out more about NAU–Extended Campuses, including its degree options, locations and affordable tuition:

Visit: nau.edu/extended
Call: (800) 426-8315
Email: extended.campuses@nau.edu
Go: Visit your local NAU campus