

Neighbors



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NAU inducts Saguaro teacher into hall of fame

PROGRESS NEWS STAFF

For over two decades, Ashley Crose has walked the halls of Saguaro High School with one purpose: to make history come alive — not just as a subject, but as a lesson in humanity.

His career was celebrated last week with his induction into the College of Education Hall of Fame at Northern Arizona University, becoming just the 25th member — and one of only two currently still teaching in the classroom.

“This recognition is a significant milestone in my career, and I am incredibly excited about this achievement,” Crose said. “But such an honor would not be possible without the unwavering support of my colleagues, our leadership, and most importantly, my students and their families.”



Ashley Crose, Saguaro High School’s Social Studies Department chair, was inducted into the Northern Arizona University Department of Education’s Hall of Fame. (Special to the Progress)

It’s just the latest in a string of accolades for Crose, who was named Arizona’s 2024 History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, a national nonprofit that honors excellence in K-12 history education.

“Their unwavering dedication to educating our youth is commendable,” said James G. Basker, president of the institute. “We take great pride in honoring the most exceptional educators across the country.”

For Crose, teaching was never just a job — it was a calling.

“I have always had a drive to help others,” he reflected. “When I was in college, I got to teach economics to middle schoolers through Junior Achievement, and I loved it. That surprised people because I was shy, but in front of a class, I came alive.”

That spark ignited in a class taught

by NAU professor Dr. Ronda Beaman. Though the class met just once a month, it left a lasting mark.

“On the first night, she took a Polaroid photo of each of us,” he remembered. “The next morning, she greeted us by name. She had gone home and memorized all of our names from the pictures. That class was the most energetic I’d ever been part of.”

During his student teaching in Flagstaff, his mentor Terry Davis gave him advice he still carries today:

“No one will learn from people they don’t like. That stuck with me.”

At Saguaro, Crose is more than just the Social Studies Department Chair — he’s a trusted mentor, former coach, and lifelong learner.

Crose taught and coached basketball for a decade and credits Coach

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2 nonprofits partner to help women in need

PROGRESS NEWS STAFF

In a state where one in four families is led by a single mother, the path to stability is often steep, especially when everyday obstacles—like childcare, transportation, and the rising cost of living—block access to even basic care.

Now, two local nonprofits are joining forces to change that narrative.

Mother’s Grace and Hope Women’s Center have launched a unique partnership to help women “move from moments of crisis to lasting confidence.”

Together, they are offering a lifeline for mothers at their most vulnerable—whether they’re facing medical emergencies, financial hardship, or emotional isolation.

“This partnership represents the best of what can happen when two missions align,” said Tammy Abernethy, CEO of Hope Women’s Center.

“Mother’s Grace meets moms in the middle of their storms, and Hope Women’s Center helps them step into the calm after through mentoring, education, counseling, and community,” she said. “Together, we ensure no mother has to walk this journey alone.”

At the heart of this collaboration is a belief that no mother should have to choose between surviving and thriving, according to Michelle Moore, founder of Mother’s Grace.

Moore built her organization to act quickly when crisis strikes—offering immediate grants and aid when moms



Hope Women’s Center’s locations maintain boutiques where women in need can find household and baby items. (Hope Women’s Center)

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