

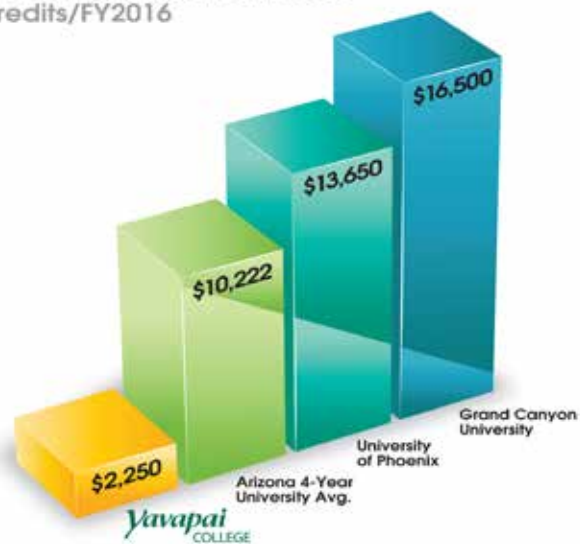
September 2015

Dear Friends,

Let me start my Fall update with a reminder that we'd be happy to meet with your group and answer your questions about anything in this update or other issues that we can address. Call Karen Jones at 776-2307 to invite a Yavapai College rep to one of your meetings.

Reading and hearing about the growing student debt crisis, I thought I'd share the following chart in the hope that you will help us spread the Yavapai College value message throughout Yavapai County:

**Cost Comparison:
Annual Tuition & Fees**
30 Credits/FY2016



Source: Institutions' Websites April 2015

But cost is just one aspect of value. Quality is the other. Did you know that **24% of our full-time faculty members have Ph.Ds.**? Nationally, only 13% of community college full-time faculty members have Ph.Ds. A few other quality indicators:

- YC grads who transfer to 4-year Arizona universities have a cumulative first-year GPA of 3.1, ranking them in the 90th percentile of public community college transfers from across the nation.
- YC nursing graduates have surpassed graduates from all other Arizona and nationwide programs in their success rate on the NCLEX-RN exam.
- Our Career & Tech Ed grad job placement rates are:
 - Electrical & Instrumentation: 100%
 - Welding: 85%
 - Computer Numerical Control (CNC): 82%
 - Aviation: 95%
 - Industrial Machine & Mechanics: 90%
 - Diesel: 92%
- 95% of our Radiologic Technology grads pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) national certification and registration test the first time. 89.5% have found medical jobs within six months of graduating.



Further, Yavapai College's most recent reaccreditation visit resulted in full reaccreditation with no sanctions or follow-up reports required.

On a more personal level, one of our students posted on our Facebook page, "Verde campus instructors are awesome!" I agree.

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Moving to a 30,000-foot view, we are invigorated knowing that, based on our most recent survey of more than 1,600 county residents, **82 percent of Yavapai County residents agree that Yavapai College makes Yavapai County a better place to live.** But we know we have to earn that support continuously with our actions. So here are some of the things we're working on as we begin our Fall 2015 semester.

First, please save the date of **Saturday, October 10 to attend our grand re-opening of YC's Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC)** near the Prescott Airport. Tech ed is one of our fastest growing offerings, prepares students for well-paying careers and helps boost the local economy. Facility renovations include new classrooms, computer labs, faculty offices, instruction areas and environmental enhancements. We'll also celebrate the opening of the new Rural Center for Entrepreneurship incubator, which is housed at CTEC. Join us on October 10 to learn more about these valuable programs, the people who teach them and the students who benefit from them.



In the Verde Valley, our "[Southwest Wine and Dine in the Vines](#)" event is set for **October 24** this fall. This annual [Yavapai College Foundation](#) fundraiser for the Southwest Wine Center on our Verde Valley Campus helps support our Viticulture and Enology academic programs. We'll showcase Arizona wines and fine foods with a total of over 30 wine makers, restaurant owners and chefs providing tastings of their favorite edibles and drinkables. Tickets go fast, so call Janice Souttee, 928-776-2025, if you're interested in being part of this fabulous evening.

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Next, I'd like to update you on a couple of issues that some of you may have been following. This summer, the Steele Foundation in Phoenix donated a 45-acre property, the DK Ranch, in the Verde Valley to the University of Arizona. Our proposal received very positive feedback from the Foundation. "Yavapai had a tremendously impressive proposal," noted Marianne Cracchiolo Mago, president of the Steele Foundation. "**Yavapai's programs are already strong**, especially their viticulture program - this program was the reason we thought of them from the start. The high quality of their campuses, the agriculture programs they have in place, and their history of success was extremely evident to us all." More importantly, U of A has agreed to integrate several of our agriculture programs into its plans for the ranch. Most importantly, the people of the Verde Valley and Yavapai County will reap the educational benefits of this property being converted to a learning center.

Yavapai College continues to have a [vibrant aviation program](#) that features training for flight service specialists, dispatchers, flight instructors, airport managers, air traffic control and helicopter or airplane flying. What has changed is that the Veterans Administration has decided that it will not pay for veterans to enroll in the two flight programs (not just at YC, but at schools throughout the country) unless at least 15% of the students enrolled in those specific programs are non-veterans. We're working on this issue from several different directions, with the goal of serving the education needs of our country's veterans.



Our [5-year strategic plan](#) was presented to our District Governing Board earlier this month. The big issues identified in the plan include improving student retention and completion, improving course scheduling, improving fiscal performance of our auxiliary and public service programs, increasing social and cultural opportunities for Yavapai County residents who live outside of the quad-cities area and documenting Yavapai College's economic impact.

On that last item, I want to make sure that everyone who reads this knows about the [Regional Economic Development Center](#) here at Yavapai College. REDC is a self-sustaining organization that provides valuable, spot-on research to the cities and towns of Yavapai County. For example, REDC provided data that was instrumental in **helping Chino Valley** win a U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for \$1.6 million to develop a new industrial park at Old Home Manor. REDC also recently completed the **first Workforce Analysis for the Verde Valley** since 2000. Let us know how REDC can help your group.

And that reminds me--I had the chance to join Steve Haynes from our Radiologic Technology program as he visited two of our clinical sites, Prescott Imaging and YRMC. Wow! Not only are our students outstanding, but the relationships that Steve and Program Director Rich LeClair have established with our health industries are the ultimate partnerships! This is just one example of how we are working with business and industry to **develop strong workforces throughout Yavapai County**.



New/updated programs

There's big news in our Arts & Humanities Department, which now oversees the popular YC Performing Arts Center (www.ycpac.com). The department, under the leadership of Dr. Craig Ralston, will be presenting college performances at the PAC in addition to a fabulous line-up of national and international acts; new music and performance classes; a new associate degree in Fine Arts; a Verde Valley concert season; choral, band and orchestra festivals; and a new musical theater program.



We trust you share our enthusiasm about the **new/re-vamped certificate programs** that started this fall and are based on the Verde Campus: Culinary Arts Fundamentals, Enology, Film and Media Arts, Canine Behavior and Welding. These programs were developed based on our own research as well as suggestions from the community. As always, we welcome the positive contributions of everyone who wants to help increase enrollment at our campuses and centers throughout the county.

Soccer/volleyball schedules

Our soccer and volleyball seasons are in full swing, so check out their [schedules online](#) to keep up with their progress. We have great hopes for both teams, and these young athletes have worked hard to earn the community's support.

On a personal note, I invite you to enroll in at least one Yavapai College class—on campus, online, credit or non-credit. You'll see for yourself why our students are so enthusiastic about the Yavapai College experience.

As always, if there's anything that you want to know more about, call Karen Jones at 776-2307. We look forward to continuing the conversation.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Penny Wills". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Penny Wills
President
Yavapai College