**Marie Platowski-Beals**, is a Certified Business Analyst with the Yavapai College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) based on the Prescott Valley Campus. Recently relocating from Chicago, Marie has launched multiple businesses with continued success. In 2001, in the wake of 9-11, she transformed a 40,000 sq. ft. vacant office building into the largest privately-owned Executive Office Center in the U.S., boasting 169 private suites. Marie has a bachelor’s degree in Legal Administration and a Paralegal Certificate, both from Loyola University. She specializes in business development, organization, conflict management, strategic planning, human resources, and team management. Marie is also bilingual in Spanish/English, certified in the LivePlan and Growth Wheel tools, and hosts a biweekly Coffee Chat on Facebook Live sharing business tips, trends, and updates relevant to area businesses. Reach Marie at marie.platowski-beals@yc.edu or 928-771-4819.

Add on: Marie lives in Prescott with her husband and two fluffy, little dogs that occasionally show up on a Zoom call. She enjoys hiking, bicycling, cooking, and entertaining.

**Karen Eads** rejoins the Yavapai College SBDC team as a Business Analyst bringing 30 years of operational and management experience. Karen has additional skills in business planning, customer service, process and project management, and accounting. Karen works with businesses in all stages, from start-up to expansion. She is a certified QuickBooks professional and a business planning and financial management resource. Contact Karen Eads: karen.eads@yc.edu or call 928-771-4808

**Ruth Ellen Elinski** has lived in the Verde Valley since 2004 and is the Director and a Certified Business Analyst for the Yavapai College Small Business Development Center (SBDC). An entrepreneur, Ruth Ellen has launched multiple businesses and has educational training in accounting, management, budgeting, marketing, and manufacturing. She has additional experience as a non-profit director leading alongside a 20-member Board of Directors. She is a Fellow of the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership's Flinn Brown Leadership Academy, is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, and has a degree in Public Affairs and Management from Indiana University. Ruth Ellen is most proudly the mom of two brilliant daughters.

**Fanny Zapata** is the SBDC Program Assistant. She graduated from Yavapai College as an Accounting Assistant and Phlebotomy Technician. Prior to her position with the SBDC, Fanny worked nearly 8 years in customer service and the medical field. She has extensive applied experience in communication and handling confidential and personal information. Fanny was born in Casa Grande, Arizona, moved to the Yavapai County area in 2009, and has many professional and personal connections in the Verde Valley. She is a current member of Verde Valley Leadership, is bilingual in Spanish/English, and is an advocate for Yavapai County and its beauty.

Add on: Fanny is married to Hector Zapata. She spends her free time hiking, biking, and camping. She aspires to continue her education in the coming years toward an Associates of Applied Science in Accounting.

**Danusia Szumowski** started her career as a scientist studying physiology and then went on to receive her Masters in International Public Health. Afterwards, she joined The Program for Appropriate Technology in Health working as an ethnographer in Asia and Africa. After working overseas, she headed up Market Research and New Product Development at Alza, a drug delivery company where she helped shape a new pipeline of successful products. She then went on to start a market research company, Test Kitchens, where she worked with 100+ companies for over two decades on the development and commercialization of products and services. Danusia has also worked in numerous companies, including Scientific Learning, the first company to create software that accelerates learning, and as the VP of Medical Product Development at GVO, a product design firm. As the Assistant Director of Research and Education for the Center for Women and Sex Differences in Medicine at Stanford University, she created a class addressing healthcare issues facing women and administered grants. Most recently, she has worked with Liquos, a company dedicated to eliminating the use of bottled water and exploring ways to make water quality information accessible. Last, but not least, Danusia was introduced to the world of winemaking during a sabbatical. She then went on to study at UC Davis and worked with numerous winemakers in California. She now is on the Board of the Verde Valley Wine Consortium and proudly works to promote the Arizona wine industry.