

YAVAPAI COLLEGE

COMMUNITY UPDATE



FROM THE DESK OF DR. PENNY WILLIS

With the thaw of spring, and the rush of returning students, we see the world of higher education changing at a rapid pace.

So as we greet this semester, we are also focusing on ways to position YC for the future. We're already updating and incorporating best practices in evolving areas like developmental education, dual enrollment, career pathways, online courses, and business/industry standards.

Change is constant – and it can be intimidating – but it's easier when you strongly believe in your mission. At YC, our priority is our students. And the faculty and staff base our decisions on what will benefit our students, now and in the future.

Speaking of changes: Our search for a new Vice President for Instruction and Student Development continues to move forward. We hope to conclude the search in March, with a start date for our new Vice President near the end of the semester.

In 2015, Yavapai College embarked on year one of our new five-year strategic plan. This year's action plans focus heavily on strategies to increase student graduation rates and connect graduates to careers in their field of study. The College is also developing action plans to strengthen our marketing, recruiting, and community engagement capabilities. All these activities include measurable goals, so we can track and document our progress.

Keeping up with the pace of change also means expanding our ability to offer transferrable, effective online classes to our students. We've joined the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), to authorize reciprocity for online classes, so students can seamlessly take courses from Yavapai College.

This is just the tip of the iceberg at YC. As Yavapai County's academic and cultural center, we always have a lot going on and we want to continue improving our communication and outreach to the communities we serve. So please, stay connected! I encourage you to subscribe to our monthly YC e-Newsletter, follow us on social media and check in at yc.edu for the latest news, events and class schedules.

Let's continue the conversation:

If you want to know more about any of our projects at Yavapai College, please reach out. We're always happy to meet with you or your group to answer questions and hear ideas. Just call Karen Jones at 928-776-2307 to invite a Yavapai College rep to one of your meetings.



AROUND OUR DISTRICT

Here's what we're working on as we begin our Spring 2016 semester.

PRESCOTT CAMPUS

The Prescott campus is abuzz with activities and events this spring. The art gallery continues to attract the public with distinguished offerings including the upcoming Spring Faculty Exhibition. Our state-of-the-art library is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary as a member of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), which means we offer free access to government library materials. The residence halls are thriving as busy students engage in a safe community where they can develop quality study skills and meet new people.

Building renovations to the Regional Economic Development Center will equip our REDC staff to engage more effectively with local businesses. Onsite improvements at the Osher Lifelong Learning department will make the building more functional for both the staff and our growing number of lifelong learners.



Prescott Campus Aerial

VERDE VALLEY CAMPUS

Yavapai College will continue its collaboration with the University of Arizona at the DK Ranch. If you haven't seen it, the ranch is an ideal setting for hands-on, experiential learning. And YC and the University of Arizona are developing curricula in a variety of areas, including animal science, fisheries, and natural resources and conservation.

In the coming year, the Verde Valley Campus will partner with local high schools and the Valley Academy for Career and Technical Education to expand opportunities for students seeking skills to enter the workforce.



Verde Valley Campus

The Southwest Wine Center tasting room is now open to the public. We proudly offer five types of student-crafted wines for sampling – Viognier, Grenache, Syrah, Merlot and Petite Syrah – and we'd love you to drop by for a taste.

SEDONA CENTER

The Sedona Center is scheduled for renovation in 2016-17. Physical improvements will include exterior painting, roof replacement and more.

On the programming side, the College is conducting focus groups and stakeholder meetings to discuss community needs and refine our offerings at the center. We want to review and improve our credit and non-credit courses, and develop programs that better meet the area's educational and economic priorities.



Sedona Center Courtyard

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER (CTEC)

Our Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs continue to attract students from all over the state and even the nation! Drawn by YC's strong 90.5% job placement percentage, Tech Ed programs have become an attractive option for many. By pairing high job placement with career coaching assistance, CTE gives our students a competitive edge in Arizona's job market.

CTE Highlight Programs



Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Launched this spring, the Unmanned Aircraft Systems program quickly reached capacity as students are eager to learn about this emerging industry. In the United States, unmanned flight is projected to become a multi-billion dollar, private-sector industry over the next ten years. YC's program is both online and airborne, with flights conducted in FAA-approved airspace at the Chino Valley Agribusiness Center.



Motorcycle Technology

CTEC's popular motorcycle classes are back, with a remodeled building and new instructor: Bill Hamm, of CycleZona. The initial class has filled to capacity for spring, and Bill is excited to teach a curriculum that will include Ultra Terrain Vehicles (UTVs), as well. The UTV industry has exploded in recent years as drivers and tourists gravitate to four-wheel adventure vehicles.

CHINO VALLEY AGRIBUSINESS CENTER

Spring is a very busy time at the Agribusiness Center. Our lineworker students are honing their job skills and prepping their résumés as graduation nears. The greenhouse is humming as horticulture students learn entrepreneurial skills by growing, harvesting, and selling produce at the Prescott Farmers Market and the upcoming Spring Plant Sale. Our aquaculture students are redesigning and installing new tanks in their fisheries lab, and our equine program is working with the Yavapai Humane Society to integrate the new CV Equine Rescue Center into its offerings. Keep up the great work, Chino Valley!



Chino Valley Center Greenhouse

PRESCOTT VALLEY CENTER

The Prescott Valley Center has realigned its staff to provide more streamlined and efficient student services. The Emergency Management and Fire Science (FSC) degree programs have enhanced their partnership with Central Yavapai Fire District; and the Firefighter Certification Academy has moved into the center, providing better classroom facilities for its students. FSC has also increased its marketing initiatives to expand its student base.



Prescott Valley Center

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER (REDC)

The REDC has expanded capacity to include Career Coaches and Adult Basic Education, areas that utilize economic and labor research to both train and place individuals.

The Center also unveiled a new [Employment Services webpage](#) that will serve as a portal for students to connect with jobs. The site's interactive features include online bulletin boards where employers can place inquiries and list opportunities for internships and apprenticeships.



REDC Employment Services

EVENTS AT THE PAC AND ON THE VERDE

This spring, the Performing Arts Center's popular YCPAC Presents series includes renowned performers like Brian Regan (Feb. 28), the Women of Ireland (March 21), Jackson Browne (May 9) and Alton Brown (May 14). We're also looking forward to the upcoming art gallery exhibition, "Issues in Print: Published Works by Brian Stauffer."

In addition to great live acts, both the Verde and Prescott campuses offer satellite broadcasts of productions from the New York Metropolitan Opera, Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet and the National Theatre in London. Find out more by visiting the PAC's website: www.ycpac.com.



Brian Regan in Concert

In other news, the Music Department announced its spring musical, "The Music Man," at the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center, March 17-20.

FINANCIAL AID / RECRUITING

In this day and age, with education so critical in the job market, too many students never reach college because they lack the funds. That's why YC's Financial Aid Office and Student Development Division seek to assist every high school senior in the county. Our Early College Days events, held this spring at the Prescott and Verde campuses, offer assessments, tours, and college readiness briefings to an estimated 1,000 Yavapai County high school students. We are increasing early recruiting efforts as well, with more than 700 tours scheduled for middle and elementary school students.



High School Tours

We continue to expand our academic advising in Yavapai County high schools, with one-on-one services available at Mingus, Camp Verde, Sedona, BMHS, Bagdad, Ashfork, Mayer, Tri-City Prep, Chino Valley and AAEC, and group advising and program presentations at Prescott High School.

ATHLETICS

In 2015, YC placed 44 student athletes on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll (3.0 GPA or higher), the baseball team competed in the NJCAA World Series; the Roughrider volleyball squad advanced to the NJCAA National Championship for the first time in YC history; and the soccer team won their 27th ACCAC Championship. Congratulations to all our athletes!

On deck for spring: YC's baseball and softball teams. The first softball home game and conference doubleheader of the season will be Tuesday, February 2, against Paradise Valley Community College. Baseball's home opener is on Monday, February 15, against Salt Lake Community College. We encourage everyone to support our Roughriders!

IN CLOSING

I hope this brings you up-to-speed on YC's Spring 2016 plans. And I'd like to leave you with a small infographic (below) that reminds us why Yavapai College is the best place to receive a high-quality education through both credit and non-credit programming.

As always, if there's anything you'd like to know more about, please call Karen Jones at (928) 776-2307. We look forward to hearing from you.



Dr. Penny Wills
President
Yavapai College



YC By the Numbers

1,510

Number of YC degrees and certificates awarded in the 2014-2015 academic year

No. 1

Arizona ranking of Yavapai College for its overall affordable online offerings and the affordability of its online Paralegal Studies program

24

Percent of YC full-time faculty members who have Ph.Ds vs. national community college average of 13 percent.

90.5

Average job placement percentage/rate of graduates/completers of Yavapai College tech ed programs (Aviation, Diesel, Electrical & Instrumentation, etc.)

82

Percent of Yavapai County residents who agree with the statement, "YC makes Yavapai County a better place to learn, to work and to live."

3.29

Cumulative GPA of YC students who transferred to universities like U of A, ASU & NAU, ranking them in the 90th percentile of all community college transfer students nationwide

5-star

Quality rating of Yavapai College's Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center (FEC), the only center in Northern AZ to attain the highest rating from Quality First (QF)

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