



**President's Outstanding Alumni-
Verde: Randall Garrison, Associate of
General Ed.-Fall 1990, Associate of
Applied Science Computer
Information Systems-Spring 1997,
Phi Theta Kappa-Fall 2000**

I am honored to nominate Mr. Randy Garrison for the President's Outstanding Alumni Award. You will find Randy is a man who possesses the attributes worthy of this distinction. Randy attended Yavapai College where he earned two degrees before graduating Summa Cum Laude at Northern Arizona University. He accomplished this while working full time and caring for his family.

The Garrison family is one of the early pioneers of the Upper Verde Valley. In the late 1800's, Randy's great, great grandfather and his sons struck out from Nevada to find a better life. Traveling for two years the men finally drove their herd of cattle over Mingus Mountain and down into old Cottonwood, where the family ran a cattle ranch and later a dairy. The need for clean water resulted in the Garrisons drilling a well and putting in a holding tank. As more people moved into the area they ran pipes from the Garrison tank and before long the Cottonwood Water Works was born. The family owned the water company for over 100 years before recently selling to the City of Cottonwood. Prior to the sale, Randy continued in the footsteps of his grandparents and ran the water company with his father for over twenty years. Today Randy is in land development with Casmir Properties, LLC.

Randy's pioneer roots have instilled in him a strong work ethic. His ongoing desire to grow and learn led him to Yavapai College in 1990. He began by taking classes that appealed to him, enjoying the study as well as the many interesting people he met. Randy took a class every semester at Yavapai with the exception of the semester his daughter Shelby was born. Shelby had a very difficult early life and spent time in Phoenix Children's Hospital. Randy's commitment at that time was to his wife Debbie, and their daughter Shelby.

Commitment is one word I would use to describe Randy Garrison. His community involvement has been extraordinary and he makes Cottonwood a better place in which to live. After serving on the School Board of Mingus Union High School for two years, Randy was selected for the Board of the Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District and is currently the President of that Board. Mr. Garrison is a dedicated leader; always ready to commit the time and energy needed to provide a quality education for the students. He is a pleasure to work with and is respected by staff and administration for being a fair and supportive board member. Randy is an advocate for all children, especially those with special needs, understanding firsthand the amount of time and energy a disabled child requires. He is committed to insuring that all children have the opportunity to learn in a loving environment.

Randy serves on many committees for the City of Cottonwood; most noteworthy is his work with the Economic Development Council where he has been the chair for two years. Because Yavapai College holds a special place in Randy's heart, he has become an active member of the Greater Verde Valley Chapter of the Yavapai College Foundation. Randy spends many hours each month attending meetings, assuring that Yavapai College continues to be a positive addition to the entire Verde Valley community.

I sincerely hope that I have done justice to fine work Randy Garrison has contributed to this community. He has been a student and a scholar. He works diligently to insure that public education performs well for students of all ages. He is committed to his community and to his family. He is an inspiring leader who does not seek personal recognition, but is willing to give of his time and intelligence to make his community a better place in which to live.