

President's Outstanding Alumni-Prescott: Shirley Johnson, 2003-04, FTO/CPR/EVOC

Years Attended: 2003-04

Area of Study: FTO/CPR/EVOC

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Shirley writes "Starting school at Yavapai College was the beginning of putting down roots in the unfamiliar territory of Arizona." She earned her first degree, an Associates of Science, in 2004. Shortly after graduating, she decided to continue her education in the EMS division to earn the Emergency Medical Technician degree.

While attending required classes, she was also a student worker in the YC Central Receiving Department as the Delivery Technician. She assisted Reed Winfrey in the day to day operations of Receiving. "I was timid at first - working hard at school, as well for the Receiving

Department. It took me a while to learn the ropes of the job, tie in school commitments and the demands of being a single mother. It was a hard road to hoe, but a life worth living is a life worth working for." She quickly learned all the ins and outs and started to recognize how to balance her time between family/social and work/school.

Shirley became very familiar with all of YC's departments and liaison infrastructure, and also with the community of Yavapai County. "The College became my second home, and the college teachers and department employees were as familiar as family. To be friendly, helpful and committed are part of my core values, and the way the employees of Yavapai Collage treated me was a reflection of the way they valued my work and me as a person."

Shirley left the college to pursue a career in EMS with Lifeline Ambulance. In the first year of service, she completed several special training courses; the Emergency Vehicle's Operating Chores Instructor, the Basic Life Skills Critical Care Unit training; and her Field Training Officer certificate - which is ability to teach company Standard

Operating Procedures. She also completed her CPR instructor rating. She is now one of the first people the company has utilized to train and orientate new hires to the job.

Last year Shirley was honored to be asked to join Yavapai College's board for the EMS Department. This board gives recommendations to help instructors with classes, and assists in setting up functional day to day practicalities for operations to meet the needs of students and instructors. "I hope to always be a part of the college and hope to positively influence the lives of the people I care so much about. My future endeavors include coming back to Yavapai College to pursue a career in Registered Nursing."