

April 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

You are receiving this correspondence because you have children that are currently enrolled, or are on the waiting list at the Yavapai College Family Enrichment Center.

I hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times.

We have received a number of communications about the decision to close the FEC for summer and I wanted to address some of your concerns and inform you about operations moving forward.

College leadership and I have decided to keep the FEC closed throughout the summer consistent with our decision to only deliver courses and services remotely for our college students for the summer semester. As you may know, the FEC is a learning laboratory for our students in our early childhood education program. This is and should be our primary role. As a result of this role, we provide early child care. In other words, if there were no educational training of early childhood college students, we would not be offering child care on our campus as it is outside of our mission and a significant cost to the institution. However, an important distinction to understand is that if the educational programming is not operating and we are not training students then we would be operating solely as a daycare operation which is outside of our mission. It is in combination with the educational program that we are able to offer this service to our students, staff and the community. Many of our employees who work at the FEC are students. All of our learning laboratories across the entire college are closed to any face-to-face meetings and classes have been moved online.

So, I suppose you might say we could open our center requiring our staff to come in to serve your children with none of our college students involved. But, this puts our staff at risk and it would be the only service that the college is offering to community face-to-face.

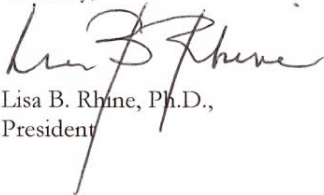
We have determined that it is not safe for our students, and our employees to be on our campus, so I cannot justify how it could be safe for your children. This decision was made to ensure the health and safety of all of your children, families, YC students, employees, and our communities. Some may say that this is a premature decision. However, our information indicates a second wave of virus during the summer and there are too many unknowns at this point. I would rather close the center now, and open it later if it is possible but think it unwise to announce that we would reopen for summer and then close it at the last minute. As a parent myself, I know this would make your planning even more difficult. We debated about making this decision at a later point, but wanted to give parents as much lead time as possible to make alternative arrangements.

We know this may cause difficulty for you, but we believe this is the best action to take at this current time and we hope that you understand our reasoning. We are basing all of our decisions off the best information that we have available at this time from expert health organizations.

Additionally, I'd also like to inform you that our FEC director, Jacqueline Schlosser, has resigned effective today, and will no longer be working at Yavapai College. We will be working immediately to search for our new director.

Again, I hope that you and your families stay safe and healthy during these trying times.

Sincerely,



Lisa B. Rhine, Ph.D.,
President