

YC360

YAVAPAI COLLEGE, YOUR COMMUNITY & YOU | SUMMER 2021

The Yavapai College Foundation at 50

*A prestigious legacy and a
brand-new mission* Page 4



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YC360

A Yavapai College Publication

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COVER SHOT

Celebrating 50 years of supporting higher education, the Yavapai College Foundation turns to the future with a new leader, an ambitious agenda, and a philosophy that blends new approaches and core values. The Foundation team: (L to R): Donor Relations/ Annual Giving Specialist Karen Leja; Major Gifts Officer Ashley Hust; Director of Development & Alumni Affairs Kammie Kobyleski; Director of Finance & Operations Jeanne Welch; Executive Director Mary Talosi. NOT PICTURED: Major Gifts Officer/ Athletics Jason Herbers. Photo by Bill Leyden. Read the full story, p. 4.

Message Board

Yavapai College President
Dr. Lisa Rhine

Turning the Page on Pricy Textbooks

Our mission at Yavapai College is two-fold: 1) Provide the best possible education and training to our students. 2) Do our level-best to ensure that college is affordable and accessible in our community.

On this second point we've been especially vigilant. *The YC Promise*, the 2019 program we created that refunds tuition to students who complete their degrees on time, sent its 100th graduate up the aisle this Spring. Now we turn to an expense that has priced many a student out of college: textbook costs.

Nationally, textbook costs have risen 142% since 1998. College students pay, on average, more than \$1,200 per year for books. In a recent study, 31% have skipped a course – and 14% have dropped a course – because the books were too expensive. With today's students already shouldering tuition, fees and loans, expensive books are often a deal-breaker.

Open Educational Resources (OERs) offer a promising alternative. OERs are public-domain materials, like websites, videos, software and other resources, that can be collected and curated as a free alternative to course textbooks. Two of our own YC instructors, Karen Palmer and Sandy Van Liew, led this movement by developing free OER materials for their English courses in 2019. Now it's time to explore its potential on a larger scale.

This summer, YC and six other community colleges received an \$800,000 federal grant for "Open Textbooks for Rural Arizona." Spearheaded by our Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Diane Ryan, this program will fund faculty to develop high-quality course materials from internet, public domain and royalty-free resources. These course materials will then be shared, across the six schools, so no Arizona community college student will have to blunt their curiosity or change their plans because the book just cost too much.



Lisa B. Rhine
Lisa B. Rhine, Ph.D.
President

"TEAM OF DOERS"

With a new director
and a new approach,
the YC Foundation addresses the future



Above, The Foundation's 2020 Framing the Future event; Inset, new Executive Director Mary Talosi.

When Mary Talosi was offered the directorship of the Yavapai College Foundation, she thought of Jean Phillips. "Jean had an incredible wit," Talosi said, of the YCF's founding spirit. "That's why we got on so well together. She loved the college, she enjoyed supporting it. She had this Helen Keller quote: 'Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.' Jean was a doer."

Now, determined to honor her spirit, Mary Talosi has assembled a team of latter day-doers to move the Foundation forward.

Things To Do

This year, the Yavapai College Foundation celebrates its 50th Anniversary in interesting times. Years of solid financial stewardship have left the YCF fiscally healthy. It is funding more than \$750,000 in scholarship allocations in 2021-22. But new priorities, new programs and a changing national landscape have compelled the Foundation to adjust its leadership and approach as the college endeavors to train a post-pandemic workforce and reach deeper into underserved communities.

Historically, the Foundation has always risen to the moment, finding scholarship

funds as far back as 1968, when the College itself was more an idea than an institution. For her part, Talosi welcomes the challenges. "I don't have 'obstacles' or 'challenges,'" she said. "I was raised not to use certain words. These are 'opportunities,' and 'things to do,'" she laughs. "So, let's start doing them."

They have an ambitious to-do list – expanded fundraising in academics and athletics; a targeted, three-year development plan; and a 'Culture of Philanthropy' mindset that enlists the assistance of everyone at YC. But they're also changing how they pursue their goals, with a team-based approach that pools the individual talents of board and



Major Gifts Officer/Athletics Jason Herbers (upper left); YCF's Wine & Dine in the Vines (upper right); Talosi, above, with YC Vice President Rodney Jenkins.

staff members and puts them on a path for success.

“No One Sits On The Sidelines”

“Mary is the right person at the right time to lead our Foundation,” YCF Board President Valerie Wood said. “I look forward to continuing our strong, collaborative working relationship as we strive to further our cause of supporting the College and its students.”

The former Operations Director for the Anacortes (WA) Chamber of Commerce, Talosi worked in Human Resources at Prescott College before joining the YC Foundation in 2016. Since then, she has held every major position in the organization, except Finance, during that time. “I’ve been the Foundation coordinator, donor relations, the major gifts officer and the events person,” she said. She learned the nuts and bolts of operations but felt the organizational

structure needed more collaboration. “We were all very good at our jobs, we just did our own thing.”

It’s a personalized approach she uses on the Foundation Board, as well. “To me, it’s about understanding why they’re on the board, what is their passion, and how to give that purpose.” Some people are ‘experts,’ she says. Some ‘connectors,’ and some ‘closers.’ “It’s about where you fit, and what you do well. No one sits on the sidelines.”

The Culture of Philanthropy

This collective approach is part of a “culture of philanthropy,” which expands advocacy and fundraising across the entire YC community. Athletics will expand its profile and its capacity as a fundraising arm – and the YCF has hired Jason Herbers, a Major Gifts Officer for Athletics, to direct those efforts. The Foundation will also be working more closely with its alumni, as well as faculty



We needed a leader with vision, drive, and passion. Mary brought those things with a healthy level of experience.”

–Rodney Jenkins

Vice President of Community Relations & Student Development

and staff, to promote the College.

“Everyone [in the College] should be an advocate for their programs,” Talosi said. “COVID taught us a lot about fundraising. We’ve got to tell people what we need, and create an environment where people can contribute. That’s the culture we have to establish – and we can all get there together.”

It’s a different mindset, with a broad agenda – and a three-year plan growing thick with benchmarks and notations. But Talosi and her development team are taking it one task at a time. “For me, it goes back to Jean,” Talosi said. “She led quietly, by example. She didn’t tell people what to do. She went on a journey and people followed her. I want people who love the College to go with us on this journey. Because it’s important.” She smiled. “And it’s fun.”

What's News

YC PROMISE Graduates Its 100th Student

The YC PROMISE, an innovative program that allows students to attend college tuition-free, graduated its 100th student this spring.

"I am very blessed to have been part of the Promise Program," Spring semester graduate Kynlee Gillespie said.

Introduced in 2019, the YC PROMISE was designed to put college within reach for students who considered it unaffordable. It frees them from exorbitant student loans by refunding tuition costs if they complete their two-year degree on time.

For students like Kynlee, that means more money to invest in their future. "I will be transferring to NAU this Fall, to apply for their Dental Hygiene Program and obtain my BSDH. I think Yavapai College was very considerate for developing this opportunity for students."

Learn more about the YC PROMISE program at: www.yc.edu/promise



Homecoming Cancelled, Fun Run Continues

Yavapai College's 2nd Annual Homecoming, scheduled for October 2021, has been cancelled due to lingering concerns about the pandemic. Two key events, however, will continue:

The 2021 Roughrider Athletics Golf Classic

The highly anticipated new event, benefitting YC student-athletes, tees off Friday, September 24, at 11:30 a.m., at Antelope Hills Golf Course in Prescott.

The 2021 YC Fun Run The YCF & Phi Theta Kappa-sponsored 5K for runners, walkers, strollers, babies and pups on leashes, breaks the tape on Saturday, September 25, at 8:30 a.m. on the Prescott Campus.

YC's full three-day Homecoming celebration will return September 22-24, 2022 with special guests, The Little River Band. Stay updated on Homecoming '22 events at:

<https://www.yc.edu/v6/yavapai-college-foundation/homecoming/index.html>



FMA Student, YC Library Win Video Awards

Spring saw cinematic glory coming from multiple directions, as a Film & Media Arts student and the Yavapai College Library each received video awards

Livia, the Frescoed Lady FMA grad and sculptor/filmmaker Cincy DeCecco's hilarious musical riff on Roman art won 'Best Comedy' at the Rome (Italy) Film Awards, as well as a Silver Award for Best Parody Short from the Independent Shorts Awards.

Living Art The YC Library's clever two-minute salute to National Art Day recreates paintings from Warhol to Cezanne, and won Bronze and Silver from the 42nd Annual Telly Awards, for Educational and Non-Profit social media videos.

Livia, the Frescoed Lady may be seen soon at the Prescott Film Festival and here on **IMdB**. *Living Arts* can be seen **here**.



YC Visual Arts Awards \$19K in Scholarships to 14 County Students

In April, Yavapai College's Visual Arts Department awarded \$19,000 in scholarships to 14 students from Bagdad to Rimrock to Prescott Valley.

"I'm very thankful," scholarship winner Violet Grey of Prescott said, "it's going to help me so much with achieving my academic and lifelong goals."

The awards were made possible by generous community donors through the YC Foundation and independent fundraising. YC Art Professor Laura Bloomenstein said each recipient will also be mentored by a YC Faculty member.

"Scholarships like this allow me to focus on my career and dreams without having to worry about how I'm going to pay off loans or keep a roof over my head." Sedona scholarship winner Danielle Hook said.

Photo by Visual Arts Student Ashleigh Hayden.
For a complete list of winners, click **here**.

focus

on the Yavapai College Foundation



One Scholarship's Ripple Effect

YC graduate and Massie Scholarship recipient Michael Swyres.

We understand the power of scholarships, or think we do. At the Foundation's Annual Meeting, Michael Swyres, a second-year honor student, took us beneath the surface of his scholarship, and showed us a ripple effect we may have never imagined:

"The Perry and Sandy Massie scholarship put food in my fridge and gas in my car, a roof over my head and shoes on my feet. Scholarships like these afforded me the opportunity to complete my degree. While scholarships unbury students from the circumstances of their lives, this next set of benefits are of equal importance and meaning."

"When I graduated from high school, I chose not to go to college. I had to live with that regret. I graduated into the 2008 recession and ended up working as a gas station attendant. Former classmates, who had graduated college, would run into me while I was cleaning bathrooms and mopping floors. And I thought I could not possibly regret my life's choices any more."

"Then my little brother, William, began to follow in my footsteps. He started working

as a gas station attendant and seemed as unhappy and lost as I was. This was unintended and disastrous. One day, I got a call from my boss. They'd sent William to work at a station in downtown Phoenix, and he had been robbed. In that moment, the price of my indolence became apparent. I had been so busy lamenting my lack of support that I failed to recognize all the ways I was failing those around me. I promised myself I would do better."

"When I first moved to Prescott, and enrolled at YC, I didn't have confidence in myself. Even after doing well in classes, Imposter Syndrome kept me from sharing my successes with family back home. My perspective was so flawed that even success met with skepticism. But when I started to receive acknowledgment and support from people who knew better, it became impossible not to share with my brother and my family."

"When the Foundation awards a student scholarship, it does not just empower them. It empowers their siblings, their parents, their children, their neighbors, peers and community. It reveals a confidence that is 100% transferrable to the people they

love. As quickly as the confidence had been bolstered in me, I began spreading the message to any loved one who would listen, starting with my brother: 'Really good things are happening up here, man. If you're ready to do something new and better, I found the place to do it.'"

"William doesn't work dangerous dead-end jobs anymore. He moved here to Prescott. He's a Roughrider, and he passed Calculus this semester. This summer, we're looking at Embry Riddle programs together."

The scholarship from the YCF changed the life of my brother and every loved one in my life that I will positively affect. I cannot begin to express to you how grateful I am."

Read Michael's full remarks at: www.yc.edu/foundation

RUSS LYON FOUNDATION OFFERS LYON'S PRIDE SCHOLARSHIP

By Sue Wiant

Yavapai College students have a promising new financial aid opportunity.

The Lyon's Pride Scholarship, funded through the Russ Lyon Foundation and administered by the Yavapai College Foundation.

Three YC students will receive \$1,000 scholarships (\$500 per semester for tuition and other program costs). Students of any age or year of study are eligible to apply.

The Lyon's Pride Scholarship is sponsored by Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty (RLSIR), which funds similar scholarships at community colleges in Maricopa, Pima and Coconino counties.

"The Russ Lyon Foundation is mostly involved in crisis-based causes," says RLSIR Chief Executive Officer and Owner Todd Gillenwater. "However, the Lyon's Pride initiative is opportunity-based, and is for those in our communities who are seeking higher education and self-improvement but facing resource challenges."

Preference will be given to first-generation college students, heads of households, and single parents. For more information on the Lyon's Pride Scholarship, contact the Office of Financial Aid at financial.aid@yc.edu or call (928) 776-2152 (Prescott) or (928) 634-6502 (Verde Valley).

Russ
Lyon



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Yavapai College Foundation Board Welcomes Three New Members

By Michael Grady

The Yavapai College Foundation Board took bold strokes at its May 12 meeting, electing three new members and honoring a longtime College advocate.



- Spectrum Healthcare Chief Executive Officer **April Rhodes**, a licensed family therapist and '09 alumna, brings nearly two decades of healthcare and human services management to the Board.



- **Dr. Linda Mast**, Associate Dean for the School of Health Sciences from Northcentral University, is a passionate advocate for equity in higher education and will co-chair the YCF Fundraising Committee.



- Arizona Public Service executive **Jeff Spohn** comes to the Board with an extensive track record of community service through organizations like the Prescott Valley Economic Foundation and the United Way of Yavapai County.

The Board also approved third terms for standing members Anne Barton and Don Michelman, and bestowed Member Emeritus Status on longtime Foundation leader Phil Winkelstern. Board President Valerie Wood, First Vice President Cindy Nyman, Second Vice President Anne Barton, Treasurer Don Michelman and Secretary Marnie Uhl were each elected to one-year terms.

Foundation on the Move

Roughrider Athletics Golf Classic Sept. 24 By Sue Wiant

Golfers, get ready to dust off those clubs and shout “fore!”



The First Annual Roughrider Golf Classic tees off Friday, September 24 on the lovely rolling hills of the Antelope Hills Golf Course in Prescott. Sponsored by the YC Foundation, the tournament raises funds for YC student-athlete scholarships. It's open to players of every level. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Each golfer will receive 18 holes of golf, a cart, lunch before their round, and a premium YC Athletics gift.

To register, visit www.yc.edu/golfclassic. For sponsorship information, contact Jason Herbers, Major Gift Officer for Athletics, at jason.herbers@yc.edu or (928) 776-2063.

50 Foundation Announces “Fifty for Fifty” Fundraising Campaign

YCF Yavapai College Foundation

Drawing upon 50 years of supporting education, the Yavapai College Foundation announced a \$50,000 initiative to meet today's challenges. “The Covid-19 pandemic brought us unpredictable times at Yavapai College,” Fundraising Committee Co-Chair Dr. Linda Mast says. “This campaign allows the Foundation to respond to emerging priorities and unpredictable situations.”

“50 for 50” continues a YCF tradition. The YCF has helped support all YC campuses, the Performing Arts Center, the Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center, Nursing, Allied Health, CTE and Athletics – as well as allocating over \$700,000 in scholarships for next year. “This campaign fulfills our mission to support Yavapai College objectives and activities and promote community awareness,” Executive Director Mary Talosi says. Learn more about the campaign by calling 928.776.2025 or emailing foundation@yc.edu.



Yavapai College Dedicates Pantalione Field

College Leaders and Roughrider Athletic royalty assembled on a windy day in March to dedicate the new Soccer field to Yavapai College's legendary coach, Mike Pantalione.

The dedication of Pantalione Field recognized the soft-spoken coach whose incredible 32-year-Yavapai College dynasty included seven national championships, as well as his esteemed longtime Assistant Coach Hugh Bell.

Current Men's Soccer Coach Andre Luciano – a Pantalione protégé – and new Women's Soccer Coach Rozie DeWeese pledged to continue YC's family culture and winning traditions. Members of YC's 1990 National Championship Team joined in on the festivities to congratulate their coach.



“Love the Wine You're With” at SWC This Fall

Taking a page from songwriter Steven Stills, the Friends of the Southwest Wine Center are challenging donors to “Love the Wine You're With.”

At the Fall fundraiser – Saturday, Oct. 23, noon to 3 p.m. at YC's Southwest Wine Center – donors will choose, and drink a bottle from the SWC's assortment of award-winning wines. The event will also feature a silent auction and a complimentary tasting of wines from distinguished alumni.

Proceeds will support YC's Viticulture and Enology programs. To register for the Wine Pull or Silent Auction items, please visit: www.yc.edu/foswcLoveTheWine

THE SHOW GOES ON!

YC Performing Arts Center Announces 2021-22 Season



YCPAC's '21-22 Season includes (clockwise from top left:) Brian Regan, The TEN Tenors; Kalie Shorr; Pink Martini; the holiday musical *It's A Wonderful Life*; and Boz Scaggs.

YCPAC is finally ready to say those magic words: Curtain up!

"As we emerge from this worldwide pandemic, I am thrilled to present our 21-22 season!" YC Performing Arts Director of Programming & Development Dr. Craig Ralston said. "We have rescheduled canceled shows and engaged new artists you will love. With our new HVAC system purifying the air, our performing arts center is ready to welcome you back!"

Subscription renewals begin August 17. New Director's Choice subscriptions are available August 24 and single tickets go on sale September 14. For more information, please call the YCPAC Ticket Office at (928) 776.2000 or visit: www.ycpac.com.



2021-22 SEASON

OCTOBER

Bluegrass Mass Guitars from Spain Oct. 23 & 24
Oct. 29

NOVEMBER

Voices of Service Nov. 12
Kalie Shorr Nov. 19

DECEMBER

Josh Turner Dec. 2
Handel's Messiah Dec. 4 & 5
It's a Wonderful Life (Musical) Dec. 16-19



JANUARY

Croce Plays Croce Jan. 14

FEBRUARY

We Banjo 3 Feb. 3
The TEN Tenors Feb. 18

MARCH

Ballet Victoria Mar. 5-6
Pink Martini Mar. 24
Mike Super Mar. 26

APRIL

PAC Musical (TBA) Apr. 14-17;
Apr. 21-24

MAY

Brian Regan May 5
Chris Peroni's Stunt Dog Experience May 28

JUNE

Boz Scaggs Jun. 8

YC's Verde Valley Skilled Trades Center Opens Its Doors



The CTEC-style Skilled Trades Center will be open for classes August 16.

By Sue Wiant

Just seven months after breaking ground, the Yavapai College's Verde Valley Skilled Trades Center is now open for learning.

"It's amazing to see this project go from its final design to an actual building so quickly," Director of Facilities Management and Planning David Laurence said. "We thank the College's partners, SPS+ Architects and McCarthy Building Systems, for keeping it on the fast track."

To introduce the facility – and to enhance local interest in the building and construction trades – The College is offering free tuition to all students who enroll in Skilled Trades Center classes for the Fall 2021 semester. (See sidebar.)

The ten-thousand-square-foot facility on the College's Clarkdale Campus provides hands-on training in essential career and trade programs (several of which can be completed in two semesters,) as well certifications in Construction, Electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing.

"The Skilled Trades Center offers the latest technology and low equipment-to-student ratios to ensure that students acquire a marketable skill," John Morgan, Dean of Career and Technical Education, explained. "We want students to leave here knowing how to do something—not just knowing about something."

The center opened to the public on August 7 as part of the Verde Valley Campus open house, and a grand-opening event will be held on August 13. Classes begin August 16.

To learn more, contact: ycadmission@yc.edu or call (928) 634-7501.

On the Fence About Learning a Trade?

What if your first semester was free?

By Tyler Rumsey



To launch their new Skilled Trades Center and foster interest in the building trades, Yavapai College has unveiled a remarkable offer:

Enroll in Fall classes at the Verde Valley Trades Center, and your first semester is free.

The offer allows students to receive hands-on training in essential career and technical trade programs and receive professional certifications in:

- Construction
- Electrician (can be completed in two semesters)
- HVAC (Heating & Cooling/can be completed in two semesters)
- Plumbing (can be completed in two semesters)

The free tuition covers all classes for the entire fall semester. Upon completing their certificate, students will be ready to enter the workforce immediately in these high-demand jobs and stay close to home. Fall classes start August 16.

For more information on the free semester, click [here](#), call (928) 634.7501 or email: ycadmission@yc.edu.



EDUCATION, At A Business Pace

REDC pipes collegiate knowledge and skills into the marketplace

By Michael Grady

When local employers began hurting for staff in the post-COVID economy, Yavapai College's Regional Economic Development Center jumped in to help. "Across the industries – construction, hospitality, retail – the people they do find lack soft skills," REDC Director Karen Jones explained. 'Soft skills,' like dressing appropriately and workplace communication, are important. But local employers can't afford to take new hires offline to learn them. "So we've developed a teaching library of 30 soft skills. Employers direct new hires to the learning modules online,

and they can study them online after their kids have gone to bed."

The program typifies the REDC approach: College resources helping local industries – at the speed of business.

Workforce Troubleshooter

"YC's Regional Economic Development Center seeks to enhance the quality of life in Yavapai County," Executive Director Richard Hernandez explained. "We do that through job creation, business and workforce development,

innovation, and regional collaboration."

The REDC was founded in 2013 to help local businesses with data – demographics and emerging trends. They still do that, but they found they could offer a lot more by being proactive.

"We have to go where the workers and businesses are, see what they need and how they can access it," Jones said. "These people are busy. We can't roll out a program and say, 'this is what we have.' We have to go to businesses and ask, 'What do you need?'"

That service-oriented approach has led REDC programs to every corner of Yavapai County, where their business knowledge and State- and Federal-level expertise has created timely solutions.

Training programs are one example. Local employers are now using REDC courses on everything from reading blueprints to OSHA compliance. “We’re working to connect them to certificate programs,” Jones said. “So workers can continue into a management course or an A.A.S. certification.” That can make an employer more attractive. “Businesses are already offering signing bonuses. But the idea that an employee could improve their own skill set while on the job is a pretty good hiring incentive.”

Lessons from the Pandemic

The REDC showed its versatility during COVID-19. When the economy froze overnight, they responded with a wealth of resources. “The pandemic caught everyone by surprise. But our collaborative relationships allowed us to quickly offer services.” Hernandez said. They held video seminars on emergency grants and other resources to sustain struggling businesses; they organized virtual job fairs for the unemployed; and worked with partners to build a dedicated website, www.azbusiness.org, to connect the two.

The REDC’s Small Business Development Center converted their counseling resources from cultivating new start-ups to helping local businesses survive. “We worked remotely with clients to assist them with access to Federal, State and local disaster funding,” SBDC Director Jeri Denniston said. “In the early part of 2020, changes occurred weekly to the Economic Injury Disaster Loan process and then the Paycheck Protection Program application process.” The SBDC team flexed and stayed current with the changes, assisting 182 clients for a total of \$4,258,173 in disaster funding.

The REDC continues helping local businesses as COVID recedes. “Initially, the prevalent business needs were gaining funds for working capital to pay rent, utilities and salaries.”

Denniston explained. “With re-opening, the main challenge continues to be finding and retaining workers.” The SBDC has staged 46 events, including webinars with marketing tips, to help business owners attract customers and provide clean, safe workplaces for employees and customers alike.



“The Regional Economic Development Center is a key resource for Yavapai County businesses. It provides customized industry and workforce training that fosters sustainable growth and contributes to the region’s vitality. The REDC highlights how the education and business communities intersect with a shared vision.”

—Jamie Kerr

Vice President of Rural Economic Development, Arizona Commerce Authority

Growth on the Horizon

Like their business clients, the REDC has its own vision for the future.

“We want to be a full-service business incubator,” Jones said. Plans are on the drawing board for a huge expansion. “We want to host corporate trainings and regional conferences, and act as a think tank. We want to have ‘hotel space’ for corporate employees to work remotely, and we want to be a place where two kids from Embry-Riddle can work an idea into something real.”

But even as it grows, Yavapai College’s Regional Economic Development Center will still measure success the same way.



The REDC’s 2019 Economic Development Forum brought local business and community leaders together. Below, an REDC Job Fair.



The REDC’s steady schedule of job fairs went online during the pandemic.



REDC Executive Director Richard Hernandez with (L to R) Hispanic Community Outreach Specialist Lisa Raygoza; Business Analyst Marie Platkowski-Beals, Programs Specialist Katherine Anderson; Business Analyst Karen Eads; SBDC Director Jeri Denniston and REDC Director Karen Jones.

“We want to be a leader in local economic development,” Hernandez said, “and an organization that delivers on its promise to improve the quality of life in our community.”

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
YREDC
AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE

ROUGH RIDER VOLLEYBALL

Ties for 13th in
National Championship
Tournament



Roughrider Volleyball won three titles this season.

In a season battered and abbreviated by COVID restrictions, Yavapai College's Volleyball Team demonstrated poise, tenacity and a steady rise to excellence.

On April 3, the Roughriders achieved an incredible Trifecta, securing Conference, Region and District championships with its 3-0 sweep over the 18th-ranked Rebels of Hill College (TX).

Frosh Elizabeth Toiaivao and Samantha Holman led a team attack that included 52 kills, 15 blocks and five service aces. The 25-22, 25-14 and 25-15 wins earned the Roughriders an automatic bid into the NJCAA DI National Championship Tournament.

As the tournament's 15th seed, the Riders took on second-ranked Odessa College. After faltering early, the Riders battled back to win the third set, 25-21, and fought a contentious fourth before losing by a whisker, 25-23.

YC's tournament run caps a banner year that included twelve wins, and a seven-match winning streak in addition to its three championships. Toiaivao was named ACCAC Co-Player of the Year; Heather Wanninger was named ACCAC Libero of the Year, and Alia Rasmussen was named Region I's MVP.



ROUGH RIDER SOFTBALL

Pounds Its Way to
Fourth at NJCAA



Infielder Jocelyn Ulrich connects for the Roughriders.
(Photo by Chris Henstra)

Nicknamed "The Cardiac Kids," Yavapai College's Softball Team played up to their name and then-some, with an exciting 38-win season that carried them all the way to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Yuma. There, the Riders managed to knock off the #1, 2 and 3 seeds before finishing fourth in the tournament overall.

Roughrider Softball punched its ticket to Yuma by pile-driving opponents in NJCAA Region I Division I and NJCAA West Division Championship in mid-May, where they pounded run-rule victories of 17-2 and 14-2 over Eastern Arizona and Arizona Western. Multi-hit performances by Mia Weckel, Kayla Rodgers, Mikaela Payne and Esperanza Rodriguez, and home runs by Payne and Bella Porreco then won them the championship game over Arizona Western, 12-5. Weckel was named tournament MVP.

Jocelyn Ulrich, Mikaela Payne and Emily Dix each earned spots on the NJCAA's National All-Tournament Team.

YC Softball wraps the season 38-7, as the reigning ACCAC Division I Champions, the NJCAA Region I Champions and the NJCAA West District champs.



YC Campus Safety is one of only three community college programs selected for accreditation.

Yavapai College Campus Police Earn Coveted Accreditation

First Arizona Community College to Receive the Honor

Yavapai College Campus Safety affirmed its reputation as an elite policing and security force in June, when it received accreditation from the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), the largest professional organization dedicated to campus safety and law enforcement. "We congratulate Yavapai College Campus Safety on achieving accreditation, a unique distinction among campus police and public safety agencies," IACLEA President Eric Heath said.

YC's Campus police now join a prestigious, 63-year-old organization of police chiefs, public safety directors, law enforcement and security personnel specifically dedicated to the protection, service and support of higher education. With more than 4,200 members in eleven countries, the IACLEA shares best practices, solves problems and sets performance standards for their peers around the globe.

To YC's incoming and outgoing police chiefs, the honor caps a rigorous three-year process of self-assessment, commission review and inspection.

"This is not just for best practices in law enforcement, but best practices as they relate to policing in higher education," new Chief Tyran Payne explained. "It lets the community know we're listening; we have their best interests at heart and we want to provide the best service we can."

Outgoing Chief Jerald Monahan said IACLEA will help Campus Police going forward. "We're not working in a silo. We've got peers – campus law enforcement leaders – looking over our shoulder, so to speak. People who've been there and done that successfully. It fits nicely into the whole message of police reform in today's environment."

Both chiefs agree that campus policing is a specialized brand of law enforcement. Monahan credits YC's District Governing Board for envisioning their role as a positive force, not a punitive one. "We're not there as an enforcer. We're there to calm and de-escalate situations. That's been a big part of what [Chief Payne] has driven the department towards. So students can get re-balanced, and go on with their education."

LESSONS FROM THE LAW

YC Campus Police Chief Moves to the Classroom



Outgoing Chief Jerald Monahan (L) with new YCCS Chief Tyran Payne.

Chief Jerald Monahan is trading the badge for the lecture hall. This fall, the former College and Prescott Police Chief will begin teaching in YC's Administration of Justice Program.

"My specific courses will be Constitutional Law, the Corrections Function, the Police Function, Criminology and the Introduction to the Administration of Justice," Monahan said.

He's excited to bring lessons learned from his 38 years in law enforcement into the classroom. "I definitely see [it] as an extension of what campus safety and public safety are all about."

The move is also a first step toward establishing the Yavapai College Justice Institute, an AJS-Campus Safety partnership he has been developing with incoming Chief Tyran Payne.

"The Justice Institute will not only create additional interest in the AJS program, but it's also an opportunity to host community events where guest experts discuss issues such as bail reform, qualified immunity, and the defund the police movement," he said. "It's all part of the national conversation taking place in our country today."

The Yavapai College Justice Institute is scheduled to begin programming in 2022.



CUTTING A RUG FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Yavapai College President Dr. Lisa Rhine is one of eight couples bustin' a move for a worthy cause. In *Dancing for the Stars*, community leaders pair off with professional dancers to raise funds for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona. Dr. Rhine (2nd row, left) and partner Daniel Garcia (front row, left) will compete in the October 2nd event to support afterschool programs in Prescott and Prescott Valley. Learn more at: www.dancingforthestars.net.

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