

# March 2026 Board Highlights

## Title I-B, American Job Center

### CNA Student Graduates Valedictorian with Support from Title I-B, American Job Center



A community member supported through the Title I-B, American Job Center program is celebrating an important milestone after completing a fast-track CNA/LNA program at The Meadows of Northern Arizona, graduating valedictorian of her class.

 Removing Barriers to Workforce Training – With assistance from Title I-B, American Job Center, Rachel Graham was able to complete the program without financial stress. The program covered the full cost of the course and required uniforms, allowing her to focus fully on her training.

Reflecting on the experience, Rachel shared:

*“The American Job Center helped me pay for and get through my fast-track CNA/LNA program with all of the support I could’ve asked for. From paying for uniforms to covering the entire cost of the course. I couldn’t be more thankful that this program exists and the people running it were so kind to me. Thank you*

*especially to Art Askew who helped me through every step of the process!”*

🌟 Celebrating Student Success – Graduating as valedictorian, Rachel’s achievement highlights both her dedication and the powerful impact of programs that help remove barriers to education.

Through partnerships like the Title I-B, American Job Center, Yavapai College continues to support students in reaching their goals and launching meaningful careers in healthcare.

### **CNA Student Achieves Career Milestone with Support from the American Job Center**

Yavapai County community member is celebrating an important step toward a healthcare career after completing CNA training at The Meadows of Northern Arizona, made possible through support from the Title I-B, American Job Center.

🎓 Removing Barriers to Education – With assistance from the Title I-B, American Job Center, student Calyssa Smith was able to have her CNA class fully funded, allowing her to focus on completing the program without financial stress.

💬 Reflecting on the experience, Calyssa shared:

*“The American Job Center helped me pay for my CNA class with absolutely no hassle. I was able to get through school without worrying about my financial situation.”*

📄 Looking Ahead – Now that she has graduated, Calyssa is actively seeking employment in the healthcare field and preparing to begin her career as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

🌟 Success stories like Calyssa’s highlight the impact of partnerships like the Title I-B, American Job Center, which help remove financial barriers and open doors for students pursuing meaningful careers in healthcare.

## Division One, Prescott Culinary

### 👩‍🍳 Culinary Students Showcase Talent and Earn State Competition Honors

Students in Yavapai College's Culinary program have been busy this spring—celebrating their skills in the kitchen and representing YC at their first Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) competition.

### 👩‍🍳 CUL 103 Student Showcases Delight Guests

Both the morning and evening CUL 103 classes hosted their Student Showcases in February, welcoming family members, friends, school administrators, and faculty to experience the students' culinary creations firsthand.



🎓 These events gave students the opportunity to demonstrate the techniques and presentation skills they've developed throughout the course, while sharing their passion for the culinary arts with the community.



## 🏆 Students Shine at FCCLA State Leadership Conference

In March, Culinary students traveled to Tucson to compete in the FCCLA State Leadership Conference, marking the program's first CTSO competition.

Their hard work paid off with impressive results:

- 🥇 **2 Gold Medals**
- 🥈 **1 Silver Medal**

🌟 Competing at the state level provided students with valuable experience, professional connections, and the chance to showcase their culinary talents among peers from across Arizona.



We're proud of these students for representing YC with creativity, confidence, and excellence as they continue building their culinary careers.

## Division One, Chino Center

### 🍅 Horticulture Students Cultivate Success with Greenhouse Tomato Project

Students in Yavapai College's Production Horticulture program are beginning to see the fruits of their labor as the first ripe greenhouse tomatoes of the season start appearing.

🌱 **From Classroom to Harvest** – These tomato plants were started by students in the Fall Production Horticulture class in October and transplanted into the greenhouse in November. Since then, students have monitored the plants' rapid development while learning hands-on greenhouse production techniques.

📊 **A Lesson in Growth** – Photos taken throughout the season capture the remarkable progress of the plants:

- 📅 **November 24:** Young transplants establishing in the greenhouse



- 📅 **December 22:** Strong vertical growth beginning



- 📅 **January 25:** Plants dramatically larger and thriving in the lean-and-lower growing system



As temperatures increase, tomato plants grow even more quickly—and the plants have already doubled in size again, now producing ripe fruit ready for harvest.



🍆 Supporting Campus Learning and Operations – Greenhouse tomatoes can produce fruit for nearly a year, allowing students to learn about harvesting, packaging, and marketing while also helping supply produce to The Eatery. The program carefully plans the growing schedule so students have plenty of fruit available during fall coursework while avoiding overlap with the outdoor summer tomato crop.

☀️ This project gives horticulture students valuable real-world experience in greenhouse crop production while contributing fresh, locally grown produce to campus dining—an excellent example of learning through doing.

## **CDL Students Gain Hands-On Learning Through Innovative Training Aid**

Students in the Commercial Driver Training (CDT) program at the Chino Valley Center are benefiting from a creative new hands-on learning tool—thanks to the dedication of a former Yavapai College student who now helps maintain the program’s vehicles.

 **From Maintenance to Meaningful Learning – Randy Dilbeck**, a YC alumnus and newly hired diesel mechanic for the CDT program, has been providing exceptional service maintaining the program’s training vehicles. Going beyond routine maintenance, Randy has transformed retired vehicle parts into valuable training aids for students.

 **Turning Parts into Teaching Tools** – When replacing a broken trailer brake chamber, Randy carefully cut away sections of the component so students can clearly see and touch the internal mechanisms. Components like these are typically difficult to access during normal vehicle operation, making this cutaway model a powerful hands-on learning resource.

 **Giving Back to Future Drivers** – Randy shared that the idea came from his own time as a student. He remembered how helpful it was to physically interact with vehicle components while learning the systems.

Without charging the program for the extra effort, Randy created the training aid simply as a way to give back to the college and support future CDL students as they develop the skills needed for careers in the transportation industry.

 This thoughtful contribution enhances the CDT program’s hands-on training environment and reflects the strong connection between YC graduates and the students who follow in their footsteps.



## Division One, Verde CTE Skilled Trades Center

### Skilled Trades Center

 On February 12, 2026, the Pathways to Careers Exploratory Day—sponsored by the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), VACTE, and Yavapai College—welcomed more than 150 students, school partners, and community members to the Yavapai College Verde Valley Campus for a dynamic day of exploration, connection, and inspiration.

 The event showcased 10 Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs offered at the Verde Valley Campus, along with VACTE programs, as students rotated through interactive sessions led by instructors, industry partners, and 45 current YC students demonstrating the real-world skills they've developed.



 These hands-on experiences created meaningful peer-to-peer engagement, allowing visiting students to envision themselves in high-demand, high-skill career pathways.

 The day also highlighted the importance of scholarship support, particularly funding provided by the Arizona Community Foundation and LISA's Concurrent Enrollment

Program, helping ensure these opportunities remain accessible and attainable for students across the Verde Valley.



🏆 To conclude the event, participating students selected their Fan Favorite Program, with congratulations going to the VACTE Teacher Education Program for earning this year's recognition.

👉 Together, ACF, LISA, VACTE, and Yavapai College continue connecting education with opportunity—empowering students to discover their potential and build lasting pathways to success.



## Division One, Viticulture, Enology, and the Southwest Wine Center

### Viticulture, Enology, and the Southwest Wine Center

 Student-crafted wines from the Southwest Wine Center received strong recognition at the 2026 Arizona Republic Arizona Wine Competition (Governor's Cup).

 The 2024 Sonoran Solstice, produced by two Class of '24 alumni, earned a Gold Medal, while additional entries brought home two Silver medals and three Bronze medals, highlighting the quality and success of the program's student-produced wines.



🌿 On March 6, 2026, the Southwest Wine Center hosted its third Hands in the Vines vineyard volunteer day, welcoming a strong turnout of community volunteers. Participants enjoyed a beautiful day in the vineyard with ideal weather and hands-on learning opportunities.

👤 The event also welcomed three Master Gardeners, further strengthening community engagement and shared learning in vineyard practices.

🏠 On March 7, 2026, the Southwest Wine Center welcomed more than 20 civic leaders from across Arizona as part of the Flinn-Brown Fellowship.

💬 The group included local leaders, policy professionals, and Arizona Senate candidates, who gathered to learn more about the program and engage in conversation about Arizona's future.



☀️ The visit created a meaningful opportunity to connect Arizona's emerging leaders with the work and impact of the Southwest Wine Center.

## Division Two, Health Sciences and Public Services

### Radiology Students Inspire Future Healthcare Leaders Through College4Kids

Students in Yavapai College's Radiology Student Organization spent the month of February giving back to the community while inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals through their participation in College4Kids on the Verde Campus.

 Students Teaching Students – Each week, senior and junior radiography students led engaging, hands-on learning sessions for local 8th-grade students, introducing them to the world of radiology and the many career paths within healthcare.

- Tuesdays: Two senior radiography students led activities.
- Thursdays: Two junior students facilitated lessons.
- The Director of Radiology supported students and attended both sessions throughout the month.

 From Classroom to Real-World Learning – On the final day, the Clarkdale School District transported students to Yavapai College's Prescott Valley Radiology Lab, where they experienced healthcare technology in action. YC graduates from the Limited Radiology Program helped demonstrate X-ray equipment and showed how the concepts taught in the mini-lessons are applied in real clinical settings.

 Mentorship in Action – This student-led initiative created meaningful opportunities for mentorship, leadership, and community engagement. YC radiography students gained valuable teaching experience while inspiring younger students to explore careers in healthcare—demonstrating how YC students are already making a positive impact in their community.

Experiences like this reflect the spirit of YC students: learning, leading, and encouraging the next generation to imagine their future in healthcare.



## EMS Students Earn Recognition and Prepare for Graduation Milestones

Yavapai College **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** students are reaching exciting milestones this semester—from earning new digital credentials to preparing for graduation and advanced certifications.

## EMT Students Earn Digital Achievement Badges

The EMS program recently launched **Parchment digital badges** for EMT students, recognizing strong academic performance on section exams.

 Students earn a badge for each section test when they achieve a **score of 85% or higher**, reinforcing mastery of key emergency medical concepts. Already, **three students have earned badges** from the first two exams—an encouraging start that celebrates student dedication and achievement early in the program.

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Issuers > YC Health Science and Public Services > Patient Assessment and Resuscitation



### Patient Assessment and Resuscitation

This badge represents mastery of essential prehospital care skills and knowledge required in emergency medical settings. Learners develop and demonstrate competency in patient assessment, airway management, basic pharmacology, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the recognition and treatment... [\[more\]](#)

Created on: Oct 27, 2025

 Public

 Achievement type: Competency

Offered by:  [YC Health Science and Public Services](#)

 Verified

[Bulk award](#) [Award badge](#)

[Details](#) [Awards](#) [Claim codes](#) [Analytics](#) [Data management](#)

## Paramedic Students Build Skills Through Annual Hike-Out

Paramedic students recently traveled to the **Prescott Campus** to participate in their annual **EMS Hike-Out**, an important hands-on learning experience that challenges students to apply emergency response skills in outdoor and remote environments.

With graduation approaching, faculty and staff are excited to celebrate the accomplishments of this cohort as they prepare to step into the field as highly trained paramedics.

## **Critical Care Cohort Nears Program Completion**

YC's **first-ever Critical Care cohort** is also nearing completion. These students have demonstrated exceptional dedication as they prepare for their **board certification exam**, and the program is hopeful to see all three candidates successfully earn their credentials.

Moments like these highlight the hard work and perseverance of YC EMS students as they prepare to serve their communities with skill, compassion, and professionalism.



# March 2026 Board Highlights

## Division Three, Visual, Performing, Film and Media Arts

### Performing Arts

The hills are ALIVE! And rehearsals are officially underway!

Our cast just began rehearsals for *The Sound of Music*, and we're already falling in love with this story all over again. From first readthroughs of a scene to the very first notes sung, something truly magical is happening in the rehearsal room! *Sound of Music* premieres at the Jim and Linda Lee Performing Arts Center on April 17 and runs through April 26.





## Film and Media Arts

Students from YC's Film & Media Arts program had a valuable experience attending the Sedona International Film Festival. Helen Stephenson met with several students during the event, where they participated in workshops, attended film screenings, and discussed upcoming creative projects. The festival provided an opportunity for students to engage directly with the film community while expanding their learning beyond the classroom.

**ANNOUNCING:  
FILM FESTIVAL  
WORKSHOPS**

All **workshops** are **FREE OF CHARGE**  
and held at Yavapai College **Sedona** Center

**Tuesday-Saturday, February 24-28**

*Filmmaker*  
**conversations**

## Visual Arts

A Space for Freedom is currently on display at the Patty McMullen-Mikles Art Gallery. Juried by Tai Lipan of Northern Arizona University's Beasley Gallery, the exhibition features portraits exploring people and identities connected to freedom, alongside three-dimensional works that consider how freedom takes shape in space. An international postcard project invited artists from around the world to share mailed artworks reflecting on freedom. Presented in celebration of the America 250, the exhibition encourages viewers to reflect on the many ways freedom can be expressed and experienced.



## Division Four, Academic Programming: Early Childhood/Education, English, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

On Feb. 21, Education and Early Childhood Program Directors **Dr. Heather Leavitt** and **Dr. Tara O'Neill** served as YC hosts for a Kindergarten Readiness Fair for County families. The Fair was well-attended and publicized information about numerous resources designed to support families with Kindergarten-aged children.



# KINDERGARTEN

## Readiness Fair

Saturday, February 21  
9AM-12PM

Yavapai College, Prescott Campus  
1100 E Sheldon St  
Building 19



Representatives from schools across the Quad Cities  
Community Resources to support children and families  
Panel Q & A with kindergarten teachers  
Car seat safety check station with certified technicians  
Hands - on activities for kids  
Explore a school bus  
Raffle Prizes

**Car Seat Safety Checks:**



**SPONSORED BY:**



**With support from:**



**School bus courtesy of:**



**LA TIERRA**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

To prepare students for YC's first annual Research Symposium on April 17, **Dr. Nichole Guzzo** (psychology) developed a Canvas resource to help inexperienced YC student presenters assemble materials for and professionalize their upcoming poster session presentations.

### Yavapai College Research Symposium

**Student Resources**

Travel to [Modules](#) on the left or click icons below to browse resources.

Join students, faculty, and staff for a day full of research. Share your own research and learn about what others in the YC community are doing. If you have any questions, please contact:

Dana Kirkwood-Watts | [dana.kirkwood-watts@yc.edu](mailto:dana.kirkwood-watts@yc.edu)

General Information

Poster Presentation

Slide Presentation

Printing Services

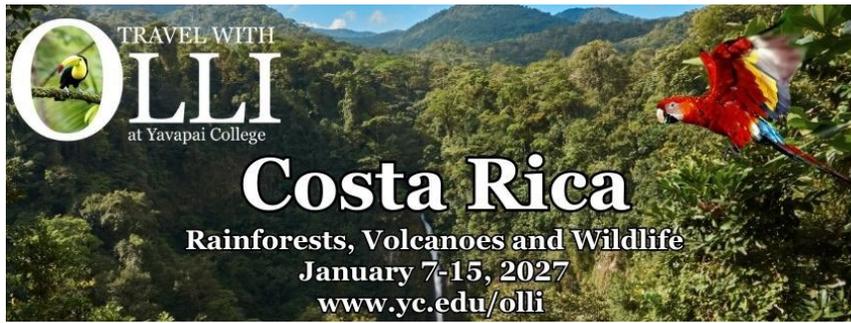
Technology Resources

Date & Location

## Division Four, Division of Lifelong Learning

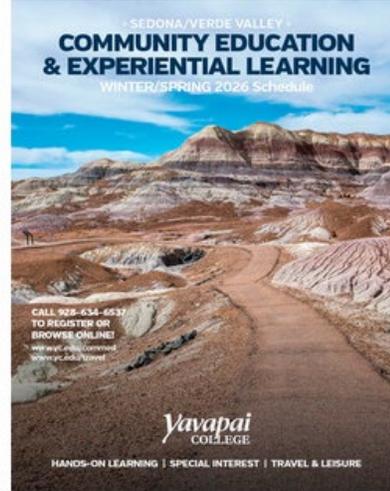
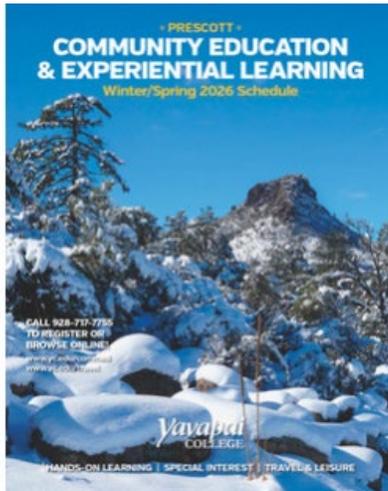
### OLLI at Yavapai College in Prescott, Prescott Valley, Sedona, and the Verde Valley

- Travel with OLLI:** Our latest expansion, international travel with OLLI, has been a resounding success. Our first trip, to Nova Scotia, in September of 2025 has led to our next plans: Ireland in May of 2026, Northern Italy in September of 2026, and Costa Rica in January of 2027. In anticipating each trip, OLLI offers classes and workshops on local history, geography, and culture.



- **OLLI is working on re-generating participation in the Sedona/Verde Valley area:** OLLI has struggled to regain momentum post-2020 in the Sedona/Verde Valley region. We are investing in local marketing, moving staff to the Clarkdale Campus, and featuring a “Verde Summer” to appeal to the retirees in the Clarkdale/Cottonwood/Camp Verde area.

### Community Education, Experiential Learning & College for Kids (C4K)



- **Winter/Spring 2026 Community Education & Experiential Learning:** Winter classes are wrapping up, with Spring classes starting March 30. Enrollment numbers are up for Community Ed – Prescott and Verde!

## Experiential Learning - Prescott & Verde/Sedona

- **Experiential Learning**



### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - TRAVEL

WINTER/SPRING 2026

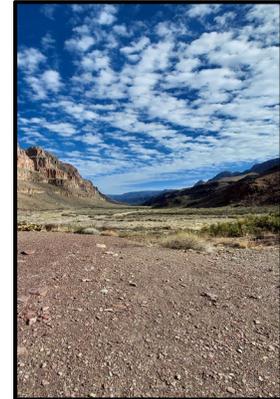
**Grand Canyon & Beyond Trips**  
 The Grand Canyon with its beauty, has the potential that most of the canyon is not included in the national park but is the land of several Native American tribes. Choose from one of several possible trips. Remember that Arizona and four other states have the opportunity to be recognized as the birthplace of the Grand Canyon.

- Hiking Grand Canyon: Diamond Creek  
Saturday - February 21 • ELO20204
- Drive To The Bottom Of The Grand Canyon  
Wednesday - March 4 • ELO20205
- Hiking Grand Canyon: Black Rock Canyon  
Saturday - February 28 • ELO20206
- Hiking Grand Canyon: Fort Huachuca  
Friday - March 13 • ELO20207
- Canyon de Chelly Overnight Adventure  
Wednesday & Thursday - May 6, 7 • ELO20208
- Hiking Grand Canyon: Prescott & Oak Flat  
Wednesday - February 25 • ELO20209
- The Hotter Road: "Get Your Kicks On Route 66"  
Thursday - April 28 • ELO20210

**Experiential Learning - Travel**  
 In Experiential Learning, our students are eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the central local history, fascinating culture, and stunning natural features when you travel with us.

**For more information:**  
 YC.EDU/TRAVEL  
 (928) 717-7765  
 EXPL@LEARNING@YC.EDU

Yavapai COLLEGE



- Registration is open for Spring; several Grand Canyon trips are full and have waitlists.
  - Enrollments and revenue continue to be up from Winter/Spring '25.
  - New trips are being built for future terms.

## Community Education - Verde/Sedona

- Enrollments are up from Winter/Spring '25 by 29%. Revenue is up by 17%.
- The first collaborative Yoga at the Southwest Wine Center class will be held Saturday, March 14, and enrollment is nearly full.
- The Community Education manager attended the Cottonwood Rec Center Expo Saturday, March 7, and received quite a lot of interest in DLL classes being offered in Spring '26.

## REG EXPO

Saturday  
March 7  
10am - 1pm  
P.O. Box 200

JOIN US AT THE COTTONWOOD RECREATION CENTER FOR AN INFORMATIVE EXPO ON ALL THINGS PARKS & RECREATION. GET FREE REC SWAG & HEAR ALL ABOUT WHAT WE PROVIDE FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

VISIT WITH SEVERAL LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND LEARN ABOUT THE SERVICES THEY OFFER!

THERE WILL BE LOTS TO SEE, LEARN, AND DO!

Employment  
Info

Membership  
Info

Becoming  
Camp Info

REC Swap  
Giveaways

Park & Trail  
Info/Maps





yoga at the  
SOUTHWEST  
WINE CENTER  
AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE

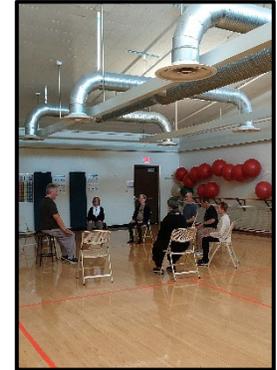
**UNWIND, STRETCH, AND SIP YOUR WAY TO SERENITY.**  
Our Angel teacher will guide you through a gentle flow of yoga poses designed to release tension, reduce ailments, and optimize your health – all while surrounded by the calming presence of our vineyard, stunning mountain and hot rock views, and subtle notes of fine wine.

After a relaxing yoga session, enjoy a glass of our award-winning wine to complement the calming effects of your practice. Expect a welcoming environment, a focus on mindful movements, and plenty of time to savor your body, mind, and palate.

**11am to 12pm**

**\$30 PER PERSON.** Includes yoga class (mat rental available if needed), one glass of wine (gratuity not included).

For more info, or to register:  
YVAPAI COLLEGE SOUTHWEST WINE CENTER  
928-634-6537  
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED



## Community Education – Prescott



- **Multiple Spring classes** are nearly full!
  - Billiards | Baking Breads | Travel More; Spend Less | Qigong | Watercolors | The Lazy Gardener: Native Plants | Painting & Drawing Arizona | Secure a Lasting Legacy | And many more!
- **Enrollments and Revenue** are up from last Winter/Spring by 20%!

## College for Kids (C4K) – Prescott



- **Summer 2026** registration opens April 10: <https://www.yc.edu/v6/lifelong-learning/c4k.html>
- **Good News about Scholarships!** The YC Foundation has confirmed that C4Ks have 10K (3K more than 2025) in scholarship money for low-income families for Summer 2026.

## **Division Five, Business, Science, Computer Science and Math**

### **Science**

- Science department lead instructors will be meeting with adjunct faculty after spring break to ensure preparedness for 8-week classes next year.
- We will implement an 8-week success module that will be available to all science faculty to use in their Canvas shells next year. The module is designed to help prepare students with tips for success in 8-week lab science classes.
- Our department continues to play an important role in the planning of the upcoming student research symposium as well as participation in the new undergraduate research committee.

### **Accounting**

Dr. Aderemi Adedokun, Accounting Professor at Yavapai College, will be presenting at the 2026 Forensic Accounting Section Research Conference hosted by the American Accounting Association in Montclair, New Jersey, March 13–14, 2026. During the conference, he will respond to and provide expert commentary on a research presentation about expanded audit reporting and its role in improving transparency and fraud detection in financial reporting. His participation contributes to the professional discussion among accounting researchers and practitioners.

### **FBLA**

Students from Yavapai College's Collegiate FBLA chapter will compete in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference April 6–8, 2026. Students will participate in both challenge exams and performance-based competitions and will also collaborate with high school and middle school FBLA chapters during the event. The team has been preparing with support from mentors, employers, and faculty advisors Brenda Lee and Deanna Baker. The conference provides an opportunity for students to apply their business knowledge, strengthen professional skills, and represent Yavapai College at the state level.

## **CLI – Library & Tutoring Services**

### **CLI to CLI Portal**

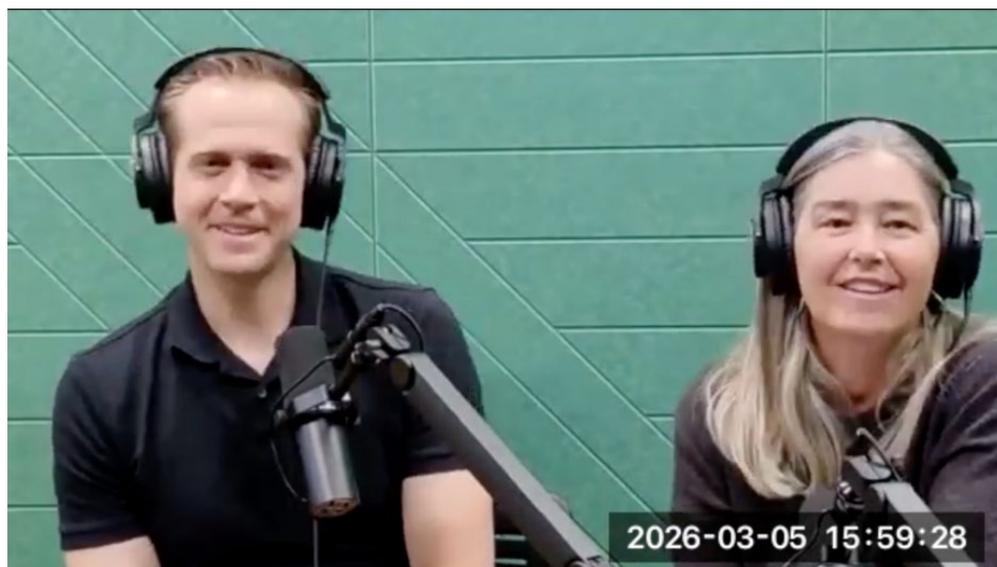
The CLI to CLI Portal links the Center for Learning and Innovation at Prescott with our Verde Valley campus through a live video connection, designed to spark spontaneous moments: a wave, a conversation, a reminder that we are all part of the same Yavapai College community. It went live the afternoon of March 10. By that evening, Lynn had already connected with three Prescott students across two separate groups who reached out through the portal. She explained they

were looking at the Center for Learning and Innovation in Verde. In its first hours, the portal was already connecting students and expanding their awareness of what Yavapai College has to offer.



### **First Official Recording in the Voice Capture Studio**

On March 5, 2026, the CLI – Prescott hosted our first official recording in the Voice Capture Studio. Language faculty Curtis Kleinman and Beth Van Oss ‘upgraded’ their podcast series. These innovative and caring instructors have moved the production of their Spanish Podcast to our Voice Capture Studio. The instructors were introduced to the studio and received some training on the how tos of the space. It was a fun and easy production.



## Finals Fest

As students worked through midterms for 16-week classes and finals for 8-week classes, Library and Tutoring staff at the Center for Learning and Innovation on both campuses organized events to help them finish strong and reduce some of the season's stress. In-person students enjoyed pizza lunches, donuts, chair massages, and thrive bags, and were encouraged to connect with tutors and librarians. Online students were supported through promoted access to study music, mindfulness meditations, and remote tutoring and library services.



## Open Education Week

Members of the Open Education Committee, Carrie Meakins-Farnsworth (OER Librarian), Thatcher Bohrman (Director of TLS), Megan Crossfield (Director of Academic Initiatives), and Shelly Gilliam (Library Public Services Manager), celebrated Open Education Week with free flavored popcorn and pizza for YC students while sharing information about OER (Open Educational Resources). Students stopped by the table for snacks, swag, and to learn how to find and register for classes that offer free OER textbooks. Many completed a short survey about how OER has impacted their academic experience and added notes to the OER Wall in the Eatery, sharing how they plan to use the money they save—supporting family members, caring for children or parents, saving for future education, or simply paying bills. Their stories highlighted the real financial challenges students face and how OER courses can make a meaningful difference.

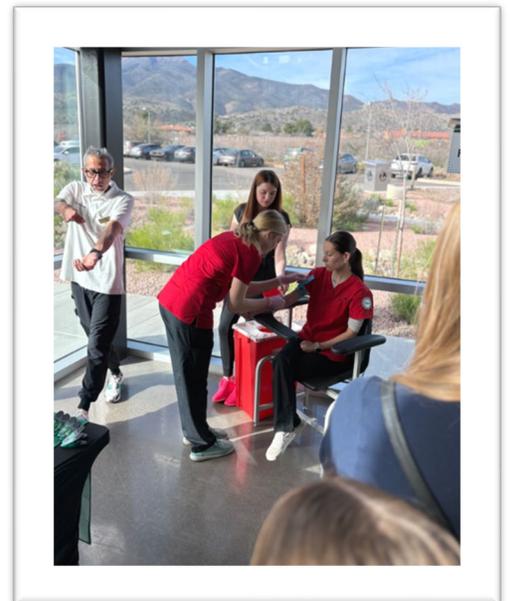


## Verde Valley Campus

### Events

#### Pathways to Careers Exploratory Day

Hosted by the Arizona Community Foundation in partnership with Yavapai College and VACTE, this dynamic and free community event brought together middle school students, high school students, adults, and families for an engaging opportunity to connect directly with local scholarship providers. Attendees enjoyed lunch while exploring exciting career and technical education pathways, learning about potential earnings, and discovering valuable scholarship opportunities.



A highlight of this year's event was hearing directly from current students, who led program demonstrations and shared firsthand experiences about the career programs they are enrolled in, offering authentic insight and inspiration to future students.



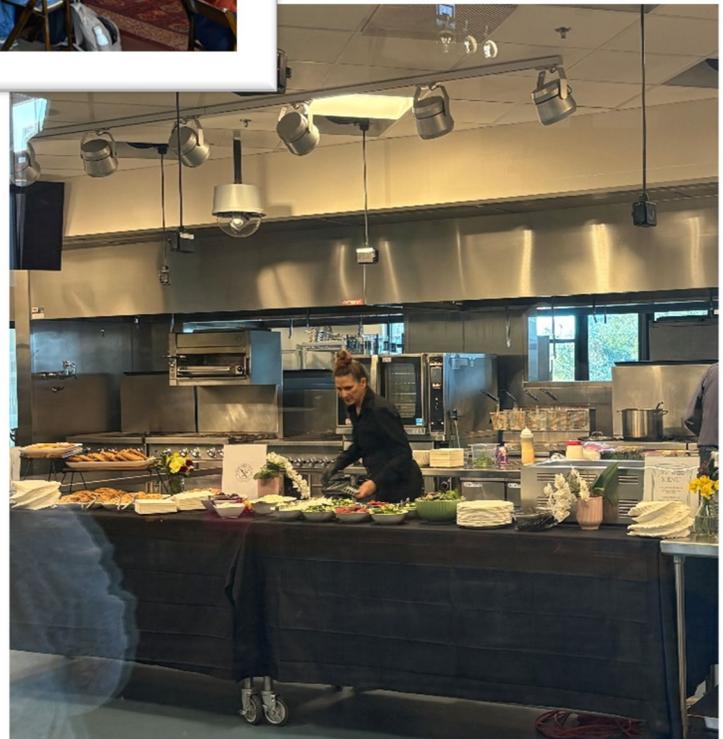
### **Greater Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce February Mixer**

The Greater Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce hosted its February Mixer at the Southwest Wine Center, bringing together local business leaders, community members, and regional partners for an evening of networking and connection. Guests enjoyed wine and hospitality while learning more about Yavapai College's Viticulture and Enology program and the role the Wine Center plays in supporting Arizona's growing wine industry. The mixer provided a welcoming setting for strengthening relationships, sharing ideas, and celebrating collaboration within the Verde Valley business community.



## Sedona International Film Festival at the Sedona Center

The Sedona International Film Festival once again brought filmmakers, industry professionals, and film enthusiasts from around the world to Sedona for nine days of cinema, workshops, and special events. Yavapai College proudly hosted the festival's exclusive VIP Lounge at the Yavapai College Sedona Center, providing a welcoming retreat for filmmakers and special guests throughout the event. The lounge served as a hub for networking, daily gourmet lunches, and evening wine tastings with tapas, creating a vibrant space for collaboration and conversation among the festival's creative community.



## Patty McMullen-Mikles Art Gallery Reception

The Opening Reception for *A Space for Freedom* was held at the Patty McMullen-Mikles Art Gallery, showcasing a juried exhibition exploring the concept of freedom. We were honored to have Tai Lipan from Northern Arizona University's Beasley Gallery serve as the juror. The exhibition featured portraits examining the people and identities connected to freedom, along with three-dimensional works that explored how freedom takes shape within space. An international postcard project also invited mailed artwork from artists around the world, each reflecting on the meaning of freedom. Presented in celebration of America 250, *A Space for Freedom* encouraged visitors to pause, reflect, and consider the many ways freedom can be expressed and experienced.

