

District Governing Board Highlights

August 2026

Student Engagement and Leadership (SEL)

Welcome Week

During the week of August 18, the Roughrider Ambassadors helped welcome students back to campus and supported those beginning their Yavapai College experience for the first time and those who returned for continued learning and growth.



Throughout Welcome Week, Ambassadors greeted students at the Welcome tents, answered questions, provided directions, and gave out YC swag and helped create a friendly and supportive start to the semester.

Their presence helped make campus feel more approachable and welcoming while giving students a familiar point of contact as they settled into classes and campus life. From helping students find their way to simply offering a warm welcome, the Ambassadors played an important role in starting the semester on a positive note.

Club Rush

During the week of August 31, the Roughrider Ambassadors helped bring energy and excitement to Club Rush, giving students the opportunity to discover new and existing clubs, organizations, and ways to get involved at Yavapai College, including the new YC Leadership Odyssey.

Despite rain requiring the first day to move indoors to the Student Lounge, participation remained strong and the event saw an impressive turnout. Students were encouraged to explore participating clubs by completing a Club Rush Passport and collecting stamps along the way. Those who earned five stamps received a free flavored lemonade from the Ambassador-hosted Sweet Spot Pop-Up.

Over the course of the two-day event, the Ambassadors served more than 180 flavored lemonades, Celsius energy drinks, and waters to students. The Sweet Spot Pop-Up added

a fun and welcoming element to Club Rush while encouraging students to connect, explore campus involvement opportunities, and engage with participating clubs.

The strong turnout and enthusiastic participation helped make Club Rush a successful and engaging start to the semester.



Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) is excited to welcome its new Executive Leadership Team for the academic year.

The new SGA Executive Leadership Team includes Samuel Ogunrinu, President; Angela Rogel, Vice President; Layla Lefrell, Treasurer; and Victoria Adams, Secretary.

Throughout the year, the team will focus on advocating for students and strengthening communication between students and the college. As a leadership team they plan to build a campus experience where students feel represented and supported.



YC Leadership Odyssey

The YC Leadership Odyssey is a new, grant-funded student leadership development program designed to help Yavapai College students build the skills, confidence, character, and experiences needed to grow as leaders in college and beyond.

Yavapai College received a Capacity-Building Grant from the Educating Character Initiative, a project of Wake Forest University's Program for Leadership and Character. The Educating Character Initiative is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. This funding supports the development of the Leadership Odyssey and expanded opportunities for students to engage in meaningful leadership experiences.

The program offers four flexible pathways:

- Students of Leadership

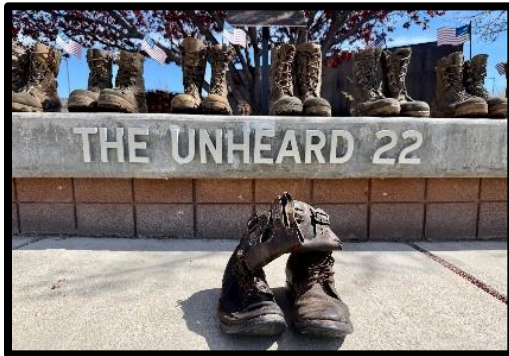
- Mentorship
- Virtual Edge
- Leadership Fusion

This gives students the ability to choose an experience that fits their goals, interests, and schedules. Built around Explore, Learn, Lead, Transform, the Odyssey encourages students to discover their strengths, develop career-ready skills, connect with mentors and campus leaders, and apply what they learn through real-world experiences.

Students can learn more about the program at the upcoming YC Leadership Odyssey Student Mixers, where Beats earbuds will be given as door prizes at each mixer. An official Yavapai College news release will also be distributed to highlight the grant funding and the opportunities it will provide for student leadership development.



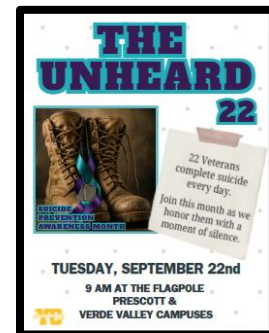
Unheard 22



Over the summer, the Unheard 22 boots display was carefully taken down and refreshed in preparation for the new academic year. The boots were cleaned, reorganized, and prepared to return to campus with a renewed presentation while preserving the boots for inclement weather.

The refreshed installation continues to serve as a powerful

visual reminder of the lives represented and the importance of awareness, remembrance, and support. By maintaining and caring for the display, Yavapai College helps ensure its message remains visible, respectful, and impactful for students, employees, and visitors throughout the year.



The next Unheard 22 gathering will take place on September 22 at 9:00 a.m. at the flagpoles on both the Prescott and Verde Valley campuses.

Recruitment

High School Visits

YC's Recruitment Team participated in **25** Arizona high school college fairs in August. These fairs included: Desert Hills HS, Gilbert HS, Highland HS, Gilbert Classical Academy, Combs HS, Queen Creek HS, Crismon HS, Perry HS, AZ College Prep, Willams Field HS, Castell HS, ALA Ironwood HS, Basha HS, Hamilton HS, Cactus HS, Thunderbird HS, Willow Canyon HS, Valley Vista HS, ALA West Foothills HS, Wickenburg HS, Dysart HS, Ironwood HS, Verrado HS, Canyon View HS, and Desert Edge HS.

These efforts generated 301 prospective student leads for August 2026.

Casteel High School - Amanda Oswald



Basha High School



Desert Edge High School Tim Petara and Amanda Oswald



YC Tours and Visits

The Recruitment Team coordinated and supported campus tours across all six YC campuses and centers, serving **95 prospective students** in August 2026.

Tours included:

- Individual and family visits
- YC Volleyball visits
- Early College visits
- New Student Orientation
- Organized high school group tours

Yavapai Apache Nation Verde Valley Campus Group Tour



Hopi Community Health Verde Group Tour



YC Internal / External Community Events

Recruitment staff delivered presentations and outreach at several internal and local community events, including:

- Town of PV Annual Health and Safety Fair for Town Employees
- PTSD Awareness Walk and BBQ
- MEB Soldiers Past Deployment Events
- Veterans Town Hall
- New Student Orientations Prescott & Verde

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs

The month of August saw the Social Services team hit the ground running! Between Eric and Theresa, the team was able to attend every New Student Orientation event, connecting with students and spreading the word about the incredible resources and support available to the Yavapai College.

Kellie and Eric are also bringing The Buzz Alcohol Education Training to the student-athletes and RAs. The Buzz is a fun, game-oriented educational program designed to help facilitate important and sometimes tough conversations about alcohol, substance use, and consent. It gives students an engaging way to learn, ask questions, and build the skills they need to make informed decisions.



Eric spent time at Club Rush, where he helped students get connected with the Health & Wellness Club and the Level-Up Challenge. The Level-Up Challenge is a three-week, holistic health and wellness experience that encourages students to step outside their comfort zones and begin building healthy, success-driven habits into their everyday lives. The challenge focuses on physical, mental, nutritional, and social wellness, while incorporating a prevention component to help students build a strong foundation for a healthy and successful college experience.



Residence Life

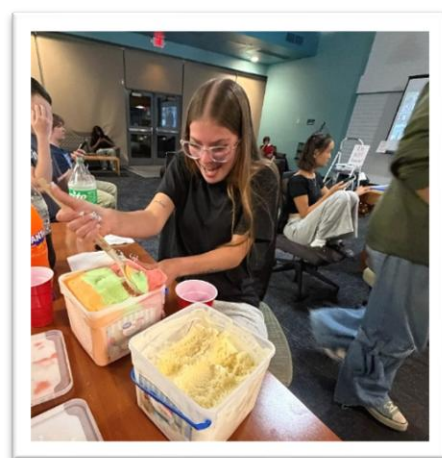
Move-In Day is our favorite day of the year in housing and it's not even close. There's nothing quite like watching our students arrive on campus and officially become part of our community. For so many, this is their first time living away from family. For some, they're the first in their family to go to college.

But what really makes this our favorite time of year is everything that comes after moving in. We get to watch students grow up in our halls, learn how to talk through conflict with a roommate, show up for a hall program, and figure out who they are outside of their hometown. That growth doesn't happen in a single day, but it all starts with Move-In-Day.

Housing & Residence Life welcomed 213 students to Kachina & Marapai Halls between Early Athlete Move-In on Friday July 31st and our general Move-In on Saturday, August 15th.



After welcoming students home, Housing and Residence Life hosted a full week of activities designed to help residents connect with one another and staff. Events saw record attendance and included banner signing, game night, and more. The week concluded with our Friday Fair, presented in partnership with the Eatery, featuring dinner from the food truck on the Kachina Lawn, an inflatable obstacle course, and outdoor games.



Early College August Events 2026

Eric Hall shared a couple of positive developments with their dual enrollment efforts in the School of Business: “We onboarded a new dual enrollment instructor at Prescott High School, continuing to maintain our presence after a recent turnover. Mrs. Rhonda Caballero Putes recently joined the Prescott High School Team and has her Yavapai College Credentials.



We have expanded our dual enrollment footprint into two new areas this year. We are now offering leadership courses through the Bradshaw Mountain High School JROTC program, with Mr. Wayne Dahl (LtCol, USA, Ret.) serving as the dual enrollment instructor. I think this is a particularly nice example of connecting JROTC leadership development with college-level coursework and giving students an earlier pathway into higher education.

Additionally, we are now offering a dual enrollment business program at Ridgeline Academy in Phoenix, led by Makenna Guidice, further expanding access to business coursework for high school students. “

Areli Moon was invited to speak at Verde Christian’s first-ever Senior Night! They’re a small school, but they’re really working to connect their Verde Valley students with YC Early College. It was a fun evening with local vendors, VACTE, and even GCU was there to share information about higher education and local opportunities.

Areli set up a table, talked with students and parents about Early College. It was a fun way to connect with the community and get the word out about Early College programs. This was a different kind of event during Dual Enrollment time, so it was a nice break from the usual and a fun way to change things up!



Employee Spotlight

Meghan Paquette, Director of Early College & Strategic Enrollment Programs, recently earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration.



Dr. Meghan Paquette's quantitative dissertation, titled "A Causal-Comparative Study of Career Maturity in Young Adults and Early College Students in Career and Technical Education Programs," examined how early college CTE programming impacts students' psychosocial readiness to enter the workforce.

The study compared high school CTED students to young adult CTE students across the developmental constructs of career maturity and the subcategories concern, curiosity, confidence, and consultation.

Her findings showed that high school students achieved overall career maturity scores statistically identical to their older counterparts, demonstrating that early college technical pathways successfully bridge the developmental age gap. This research fills a vital gap in educational literature and provides a clear justification for expanding equitable access to structured technical pipelines that support student self-efficacy and long-term career planning.