District Governing Board Highlights

September 2026

Social Services

Building Healthy Teams

September brought lively conversations and friendly competition as approximately 160 student-athletes across all YC athletic teams completed alcohol education. Through trivia games and team challenges, students explored protective and risk factors related to alcohol and marijuana use, consent, and wellbeing—building skills to support themselves and their teammates.



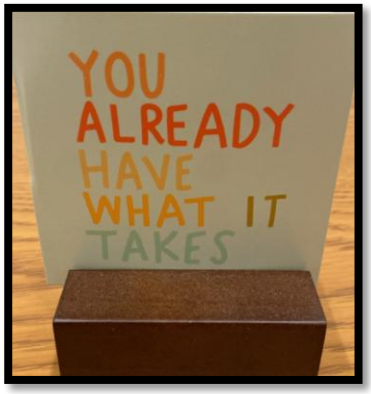
Photo: Women's volleyball and soccer student-athletes participating in September's alcohol education.

Celebrating the YC Level Up Challenge

Students and employees spent three weeks embracing healthy habits and making time for physical activity, nutrition, mental wellbeing, and social connection. Congratulations to student winners Kendra Sullivan, Alyson Carr, and Desiree Lewis, and employee winners John Olivas and Ashley Burkhardt, who tied for first place, with Brooke Hickman earning runner-up recognition!







Photos: The YC Level Up Challenge in action! Photos submitted by students and staff as they completed challenge activities.

Connecting Students with Support

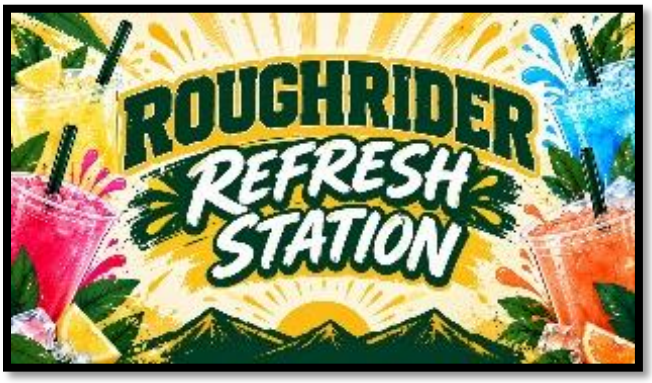
Our Basic Needs Manager, Theresa Scott, has managed more than 100 student support cases since the start of the 2026–27 fiscal year, averaging approximately eight new cases each week. Financial challenges and food insecurity are the most common concerns, with students also seeking help navigating a range of other basic needs. By connecting students with available resources across YC and through community partners, we offer encouragement, caring support, and practical help to keep them moving toward their educational goals.



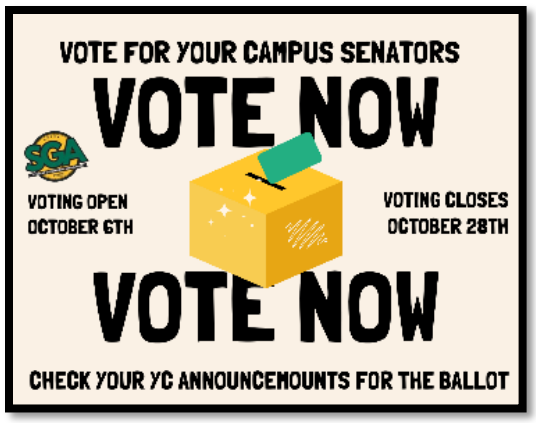
Photo: Our Social Services team (Theresa Scott and Kellie Porter) connecting with students at the Involvement Expo on September2nd and 3rd.

Student Engagement and Leadership (SEL)

Roughrider Ambassadors



Roughrider Ambassadors supported the Week 7 Featured Event, “Do not Get Spooked! By Registration or the Dark,” by hosting a Refresh Station and serving more than 40 FREE drinks to students during the event. The Yavapai Experience event combined Spring 2027 registration preparation with drop-in advising, Rider Read discussions featuring chilling stories from *Never Whistle at Night*, and opportunities for students to connect with the YC community. The Ambassadors helped create a welcoming and engaging atmosphere while encouraging students to prepare for registration, connect with resources, and stay engaged at Yavapai College.



Student Government Association (SGA)

Senate Elections

Voting for the 2026–2027 SGA Senate Elections began on October 6. Eight students are running for four Senator positions, providing students with the opportunity to select their representatives and have a voice in student government. The newly elected Senate Representatives will be announced during the first week of November, followed by SGA Senate Orientation to welcome and prepare the new Senators for their leadership roles.

SGA on the GO – Prescott Valley Center

The SGA Leadership Team took SGA on the GO to the Prescott Valley Center on November 6, connecting with students over donuts and conversation. This outreach provided an opportunity for SGA leaders to increase their visibility, hear directly from students, and strengthen connections with students beyond the Prescott Campus.



Finals Fest

SGA sponsored FREE Finals Fest bags the week of October 5 to support and encourage students during finals week. The bags provided students with helpful items and a little extra motivation as they prepared for exams and completed their end-of-semester coursework. Finals Fest is another way SGA demonstrates its commitment to supporting student success and creating a positive student experience at Yavapai College.

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.

In the month of September, the Leadership Odyssey program focused on increasing student awareness through a series of informational student mixers. Janice Soutee, Director of Student Engagement and Leadership, and Meagan Johnson, AmeriCorps VISTA, Leadership Odyssey Coordinator, hosted and presented at six mixers on September 10, 11, 24 (two sessions), 29, and 30. These events provided students with an opportunity to learn more about Leadership Odyssey, connect with program leadership, ask questions, and explore ways to become involved. The September outreach helped build visibility and momentum for the program while laying the foundation for continued student recruitment, leadership development, and campus engagement.



Preliminary data for the Leadership Odyssey program as of September 30 indicates encouraging early adoption. Over the course of the month, 41 students engaged in informational networking mixers, with 19 subsequently finalizing their pathway selections. This meaningful progression from inquiry to active participation lays a highly positive groundwork for ongoing student recruitment, community building, and leadership pedagogy in the upcoming terms.

Leadership Odyssey Launches First Leadership Sessions

Leadership Odyssey officially launched its first two leadership development sessions in October. On October 22, Christina Goldsmith, TLS Specialist, Instructional Designer, Microcredentials, led the Leadership Pathway Kickoff: Microcredentials Session, introducing students to how microcredentials can help them unlock their potential, accelerate their career development, stand out from others, gain a competitive edge, and advance toward their educational and professional goals. On October 23, Janet Nix, Ed.D., Chief Human Resources Officer, facilitated an engaging personality type session that encouraged students to explore their individual personality types, gain insight into how others perceive and process information, and develop strategies for navigating different communication and collaboration styles. Together, these sessions provided a strong start to Leadership Odyssey by connecting self-awareness, leadership development, and career readiness.





Early College

This month, the Early College team had the opportunity to support the Fall Pathways to Careers event at the Verde Valley campus. We helped lead groups of middle and high school students through campus, where they explored a variety of career and technical education programs, including EMS, Nursing, Phlebotomy, Law Enforcement, Cosmetology, Fire Science, HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, and Construction. It was a great opportunity to help students learn more about the programs available to them and discover potential career pathways.

We also partnered with Academic Advising to host our "Don't Get Spooked" event, providing students with an opportunity to stop by for drop-in advising. This collaboration encouraged students to connect with resources and support as they plan their academic paths.



Recruitment

High School Visits

In September 2026, YC's Recruitment Team participated in 21 Arizona high school college fairs and college-readiness events, connecting with prospective students across the state. Participating schools and events included West Point HS, Tolleson Union HS, Sierra Linda HS, Estrella Foothills HS, Buckeye Union HS, La Joya HS, Agua Fria HS, Westview HS, Flagstaff HS, Coconino HS, BASIS Flagstaff, Mingus Union HS, Camp Verde HS, Prescott HS, Bradshaw Mountain HS, Tri-City HS, Raymond S. Kellis HS, the Arizona College and Career Showcase, the Native American 2nd Annual College Fair, the Tolleson Union District Fair, and the Peoria District @ ASU West. These outreach efforts generated 310 prospective student leads for YC in September, creating new opportunities for the Recruitment Team to build relationships, nurture interest, and move students toward application and enrollment.





Recruitment Team Members Tanner Campbell and Amanda Oswald attending the Desert Edge High School, Prescott High School and Tri-City Prep College Fairs.





YC Tours and Visits

The Recruitment Team coordinated and supported campus tours and visits across all six YC campuses and centers, connecting with 74 prospective students in September 2026. Tour and visit opportunities included:

- Individual and family campus visits
- YC Volleyball, Early College, and New Student Orientation groups
- Organized high school group tours
- Fall Pathways to Careers event at the Verde Campus



These visits provided prospective students with opportunities to experience YC firsthand, explore programs and campus resources, and connect directly with Recruitment staff and the YC community.

YC Internal & External Community Events

The Recruitment Team also represented YC through presentations, outreach, and engagement at a variety of internal college and community events throughout September, including:

- Northern Arizona Next Gen Cyber Summit

- YC Major and Career Week
- Matt Force Recovery Day
- Arizona National Guard Kickball Tournament/Family Day
- Verde Pathway to Career Fall Event
- Hope Fest 2026
- PTK Coolidge Conference



These events allowed the Recruitment Team to strengthen relationships with prospective students, families, community partners, and YC students while increasing awareness of YC programs, services, and educational opportunities.

Photos: *Leuppe High School Group Tour and Mayer 7th Grade Fire Science Group Tour*

Tim Petarra attended the MATFORCE Recovery Day Celebration and joined Jay Lene Long at Hope Fest 2026. Todd Hay, Tim Petarra, and Amanda Oswald represented YC at the Tolleson Union High School District College Fair at State Farm Stadium, while Velma Dearing, Amanda Oswald, and Tim Petarra connected with prospective students at the Multi-District College Fair at ASU West. Wendy Present also represented the team at the PTK Arizona Region Conference. Each event creates opportunities to answer questions, make personal connections, and help future students picture themselves at YC.



