November 2026 Board Highlights

Division 1, Career and Technical Education, Verde Valley Campus

Horticulture

Second Annual Horticulture Symposium Connects Students and Community

On October 7, 2026, Yavapai College, in collaboration with the University of Arizona Yavapai County Cooperative Extension and the Yavapai County Master Gardeners, presented the second annual Horticulture Symposium at the Verde Valley Campus.

Approximately 50 students and community members attended the successful event, which featured six guest speakers presenting on a variety of horticulture topics. Attendees gained practical information, explored new ideas, and connected with local experts and fellow gardening enthusiasts. The symposium highlighted Yavapai College's commitment to horticulture education, community engagement, and partnerships that support learning throughout the Verde Valley.

AGS 250 Students Explore Nursery Operations at Verde River Growers

On October 20, 2026, students enrolled in AGS 250 – Horticulture Fall Production course, on the Verde Valley campus, visited Verde River Growers for a behind-the-scenes tour of its nursery operations. Beginning in the seed house, students followed the progression of plants through the nursery and concluded their visit in the sales area.

The tour gave students a real-world understanding of how a nursery operates—from plant production and care to preparing products for customers—and demonstrated how the concepts and learning outcomes covered in AGS 250 are applied within the horticulture industry.

Photo caption: AGS 250 students tour Verde River Growers on October 20, 2026, to learn about nursery production, operations, and sales.







Basic Carpentry

Framing II Students Apply Math to Truss Construction

In CBT 104 - Framing II, Instructor Brian Pearson teaches students how to use a framing square and complete the mathematical calculations required to lay out and build roof trusses. Students learn how to translate measurements and calculations into accurate framing layouts.

These skills are essential in construction careers, where accurate measurements, proper tool use, and an understanding of roof-framing geometry directly affect a structure's safety and quality. The instruction aligns with the course learning outcomes by helping students apply construction mathematics, use framing tools correctly, and develop practical workplace skills.

Photo caption: Instructor Brian Pearson demonstrating to a student how to use a framing square and apply construction mathematics during their October 24, 2025, Framing II class meeting.



HVAC Installation and Maintenance

HVAC Students Practice Essential Refrigeration Service Skills

During their October 24 class lab, HVA 110 Introduction to HVAC II students received hands-on instruction from Instructor James Morales on properly evacuating refrigeration units. Students learned how to use evacuation equipment and follow the procedures and safety practices required to remove air, moisture, and other contaminants from a refrigeration system.

System evacuation is an essential skill for HVAC technicians because trapped air or moisture can reduce equipment efficiency, cause operational problems, and damage system components. This hands-on lab prepares students to perform an important step in the installation and servicing of real-world air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment.

Photo caption: Instructor James Morales guides HVA 110 students through refrigeration-system evacuation during their October 24, 2026, class lab.







Electrician Technician

Residential Wiring Students Install Light Switches and Three-Way Circuits

During the week of October 26th, students in CBT 115 Residential Wiring Techniques gained hands-on experience installing light switches and three-way switching circuits. Students practiced making proper wiring connections and applying safe installation procedures while learning how three-way circuits allow a light fixture to be controlled from two locations.

These skills are commonly used in residential construction and electrical service work. The activity supports the course learning outcomes by helping students interpret wiring configurations, install residential electrical components correctly, troubleshoot circuits, and develop practical skills needed for entry-level electrical careers.

Photo caption: CBT 115 students install light switches and three-way circuits during class the week of October 26, 2026.









Division 1, Chino Valley Campus

Campus Event

Harvest Fest 2026

Harvest Fest 2026 was a tremendous success, bringing together thousands of community members for a celebration filled with fun, connection, and fall festivities! This annual community event offered something for everyone, with activities and experiences designed for all ages.

Attendees enjoyed live music, games, interactive experiences, and a variety of food trucks, creating a lively atmosphere throughout the event. One of the highlights was the first annual Scarecrow Contest, where this year's winning entry, **the "Scare-horse,"** captured the golden pumpkin award.

Contest Winner- The Scare-Horse"



An event of this size and success takes a tremendous team effort. We are grateful to the dedicated volunteers, staff, and community partners who generously contributed their time, energy, and enthusiasm to make Harvest Fest possible.

Division 2, Health Sciences

Radiology

Prescott Valley Spooktacular

October 24, 2026 | 4pm-6pm

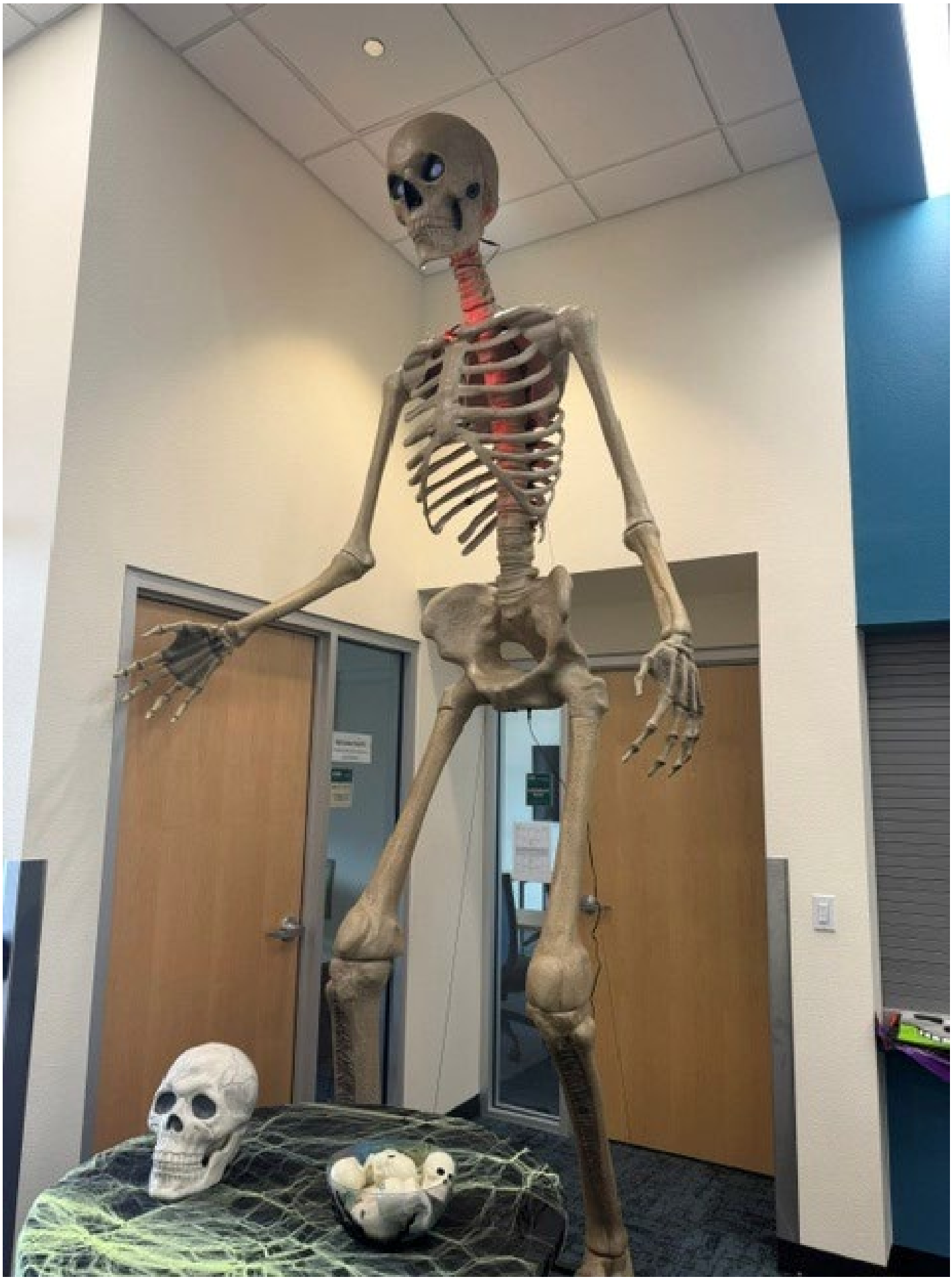
The Radiology Roentgen Ray Student Organization participated in Prescott Valley's annual Spooktacular by hosting a concession stand and craft table. The concession and craft stand provided a fun and practical way for students to participate while raising money for their ACERT 2027 experience. Affordable food options, including $3 hot dogs, $1 drinks, and $1 chips, gave attendees convenient options. Students gained hands-on experience with teamwork, food preparation, sales, and customer service. The event provided positive visibility for the Radiology program and the Roentgen Ray Student Organization.This was a great opportunity for students to get involved, work together, serve the community, and raise funds to help support students attending ACERT 2027 in Las Vegas, February 3–6, 2027.

ACERT (Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology) is a professional organization dedicated to advancing radiologic technology education. Its annual conference brings together radiologic science educators and students to learn, network, share ideas, and explore developments in the field. Fundraising through events like Spooktacular helps make it possible for our students to participate in this valuable educational and professional development opportunity.

A huge thank-you to the Radiology Roentgen Ray Student Organization, Allied Health Club, and Student Nurses Association (SNA) for their participation and support! We would also like to recognize EMS, Radiology, Allied Health, HPER, Recruitment, and Adult Basic Education (ABE) for coming together and contributing to such a wonderful event.

The enthusiasm, teamwork, creativity, and willingness to participate from each group helped make this year's Spooktacular a truly amazing event for our campus and community. We are so grateful to everyone who volunteered their time, shared their talents, and helped create a fun and memorable experience for all who attended. It truly takes a team, and we couldn't have done it without everyone!

With well over 600 attendees joining us this year, Spooktacular was truly a success! We are looking forward to continuing this wonderful tradition and making next year's event an even greater success. Thank you again to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and enthusiasm to make it all possible!



Division 3, Visual and Performing Arts

Prescott Art Gallery

One Gallery/Two Exhibitions 2026

The YC Prescott Art Gallery kicked off the Fall 2026 semester with a highly successful *One Gallery/Two Exhibitions 2026*, featuring work by YC student and staff member Scott Heide and Sedona artist Joann Tomsche. Both artists shared insights into their work during well-attended presentations hosted by the Prescott Art Docents. The exhibitions attracted hundreds of art lovers to campus, strengthened community engagement, and resulted in 14 artwork sales.



Film & Media Arts

Students Film for Rider's Read

FMA students, faculty, and volunteers came together this month to film the Rider's Read promotion! Students got hands-on experience working alongside professional director/cinematographer and YC instructor Gulliver Parascandolo. Helen Stephenson served as the producer and co-writer for the project!





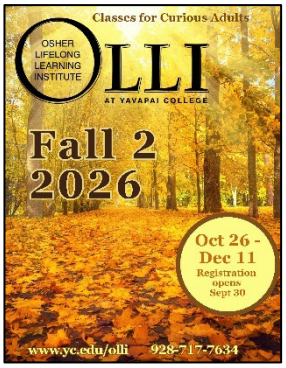
Division 4: From Lifelong Learning

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

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is collaborating with the Community Library Sedona to offer some of our classes in their meeting spaces. This gives excellent exposure to our offerings to the broader public.



OLLI's Fall 2 session began on October 27, with more than 100 offerings across the county.

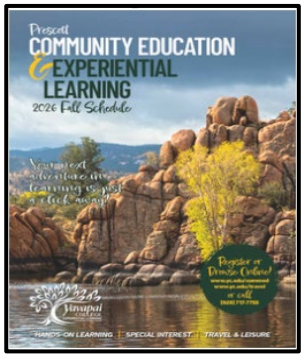


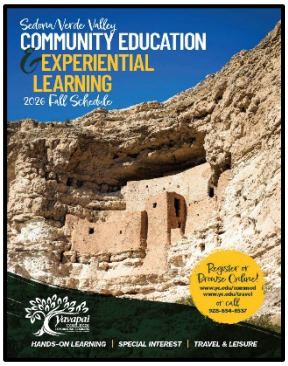


Community Education, Experiential Learning at Yavapai College in Prescott's Quad-Cities, Sedona, and the Verde Valley

Fall 2026 Community Education & Experiential Learning: Classes are underway, and the team is now working on building the Winter / Spring 2027 course schedule.

Fall 2026 Community Education attendance is strong with students reporting positive experiences with their classes and instructors.





Experiential Learning continues to take students on weekly educational trips around Central and Northern Arizona. A recent trip included a drive on Route 66 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the historic road.



Division 5, Math, Sciences, Business, and Technology/Prescott

Mathematics Department

Math Education Research

Doctoral candidate Mandy Atherton and her dissertation chair, Dr. Miriam Sanders, presented a brief research report at the Annual Meeting of the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME-NA) in October 2026. The presentation "Bridging Collaboration and Community: Team-Based Learning Fosters Belonging" highlights how fostering belonging requires attention to individual positioning within collaborative structures and ongoing negotiation of participatory norms. It further discusses how student belonging can be fostered when students engage in collaborative mathematics.





Workforce Development / Prescott Valley American Job Center at Yavapai College

Prescott Valley Job Fair

The September 9, 2026 Prescott Valley Job Fair at the Findlay Toyota Event Center was a strong success, connecting **435 job seekers** with **61 exhibitors**. Participating employers conducted **131 interviews** and reported **18 hires**, demonstrating meaningful results for both job seekers and local businesses. Attendance increased 52.6% compared with the 2025 fair, and exhibitor participation grew 22.0%. The event also reached 72 Yavapai College students and 19 veterans, highlighting the value of community partnerships and direct access to employment opportunities.

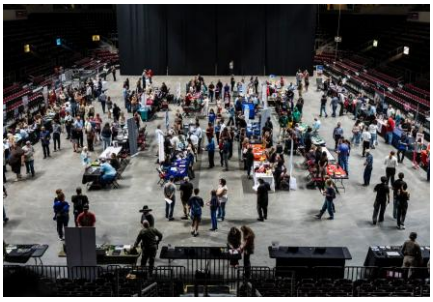


Strong attendance across the event floor.



Job seekers connect directly with exhibitors.

The fair brought together employers, workforce partners, Yavapai College representatives, and public-service organizations in one accessible setting. Conversations at the tables, the visible activity throughout the arena, and the variety of participating organizations reflected a well-attended event focused on careers, businesses, and the community.



Employer and job-seeker conversations.



Yavapai Works community partners.



Public-safety career presence.

2026 JOB FAIR IMPACT SNAPSHOT

PRESCOTT VALLEY JOB FAIR

FINDLAY TOYOTA EVENT CENTER • PRESCOTT VALLEY

americanjobcenter AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE

435 JOB SEEKERS. REAL CONNECTIONS. MEASURABLE RESULTS.

435 JOB SEEKERS
52.6% growth vs. 2025 Job Fair

61 EXHIBITORS
22.0% growth vs. 2025 Job Fair

131 INTERVIEWS
Across participating exhibitors

18 HIRES
Across participating exhibitors

GROWTH COMPARED WITH THE 2025 JOB FAIR

JOB SEEKERS	EXHIBITORS	SPONSORS
285 → 435	50 → 61	10 → 11
52.6% GROWTH	22.0% GROWTH	10.0% GROWTH

WHO WE REACHED

72 YC STUDENTS
16.6% of attendees

19 VETERANS
4.4% of attendees

69.9% ADULTS AGE 25+

PARTNERSHIP

Yavaline Regional Transit provides free rides to and from future Quad City job fairs.

COMING UP JOB FAIRS

- SEDONA
  December 17, 2026
- CHINO VALLEY
  February 26, 2027

Workforce development through connection, access and opportunity

Small Business Development Center

SCALE Grant Award to Strengthen Local Manufacturing

Yavapai College's Small Business Development Center has been awarded a U.S. Small Business Administration SCALE grant to launch the Yavapai County Supplier Readiness Initiative. The two-year project, beginning September 28, 2026, will help 25 manufacturing supplier candidates prepare to compete for larger commercial and government contracts.

Participating businesses will receive on-site readiness assessments, individualized improvement plans, and assistance addressing certifications, cybersecurity, production capacity documentation, and capital readiness. Collaboration with APEX and Manufacturing Extension Partnership partners will provide specialized support and connections to potential buyers, including those in the Phoenix market.

The initiative will help rural manufacturers pursue new business opportunities and strengthen Yavapai County's manufacturing economy, advancing the College's commitment to regional economic development.



The Yavapai College Small Business Development Center team.

Verde Valley Campus Events

The Patty McMullen-Mikles Gallery:

The Patty McMullen-Mikles Art Gallery on the Verde Valley Campus exhibiting the HeART of America, a juried exhibition exploring the symbols, stories and iconography that have shaped the United States of America. From Old Flory and the Statue of Liberty to historic landmarks and everyday objects that characterize our daily lives, HeART of America's 30 contributing artists examine the country's identity from many compelling and contrasting viewpoints.

Juror: Clarkdale Mayor, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer



Vitalant Blood Drive:

The Yavapai College Verde Valley Campus blood drive collected 25 lifesaving blood units, exceeding its goal and potentially helping up to 41 Arizona patients. Hosted in partnership with Vitalant, the event welcomed 23 registered donors and completed 20 donations.

Out of the 20 procedures that were completed, we had **16 donors that gave whole blood, 3 donors who were able to donate power red cells, and 1 who gave red cells and plasma** which resulted in a total of **25 life-saving blood units being collected**. This was **1 unit above the plan target for this event**!!!

Special thanks to everyone who donated and supported the drive, including Lisa Simpson-Kyle for promoting the event through social media and campus flyers!



YC Honors/Psychology Department - Prescott

YC Honors, PTK, and Psychology Participate in the 27th Annual TeenMaze

October 20–23, YC Honors, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), and the Psychology Department participated in the 27th annual TeenMaze, sponsored by Northstar Partnership. This annual event helps young people navigate the "maze of life" through interactive booths that provide information and encourage informed, healthy choices. This year, TeenMaze welcomed approximately 900 students in grades 7–9 over three days of programming.

YC Honors developed and presented a booth focused on the brain and how it remains "under construction" during adolescence. With the assistance of Psychology Professor Dr. Guzzo, participants had the opportunity to view and examine real brains, bringing their learning about brain structure and development to life.

Students also explored perception through inversion goggles, experiencing firsthand how changes in visual input can alter the way the brain interprets reality. These hands-on activities encouraged curiosity and helped participants connect brain development and perception with everyday decision-making.



YC.Honor.Students.introduce.Inversion.Goggles.to.participants





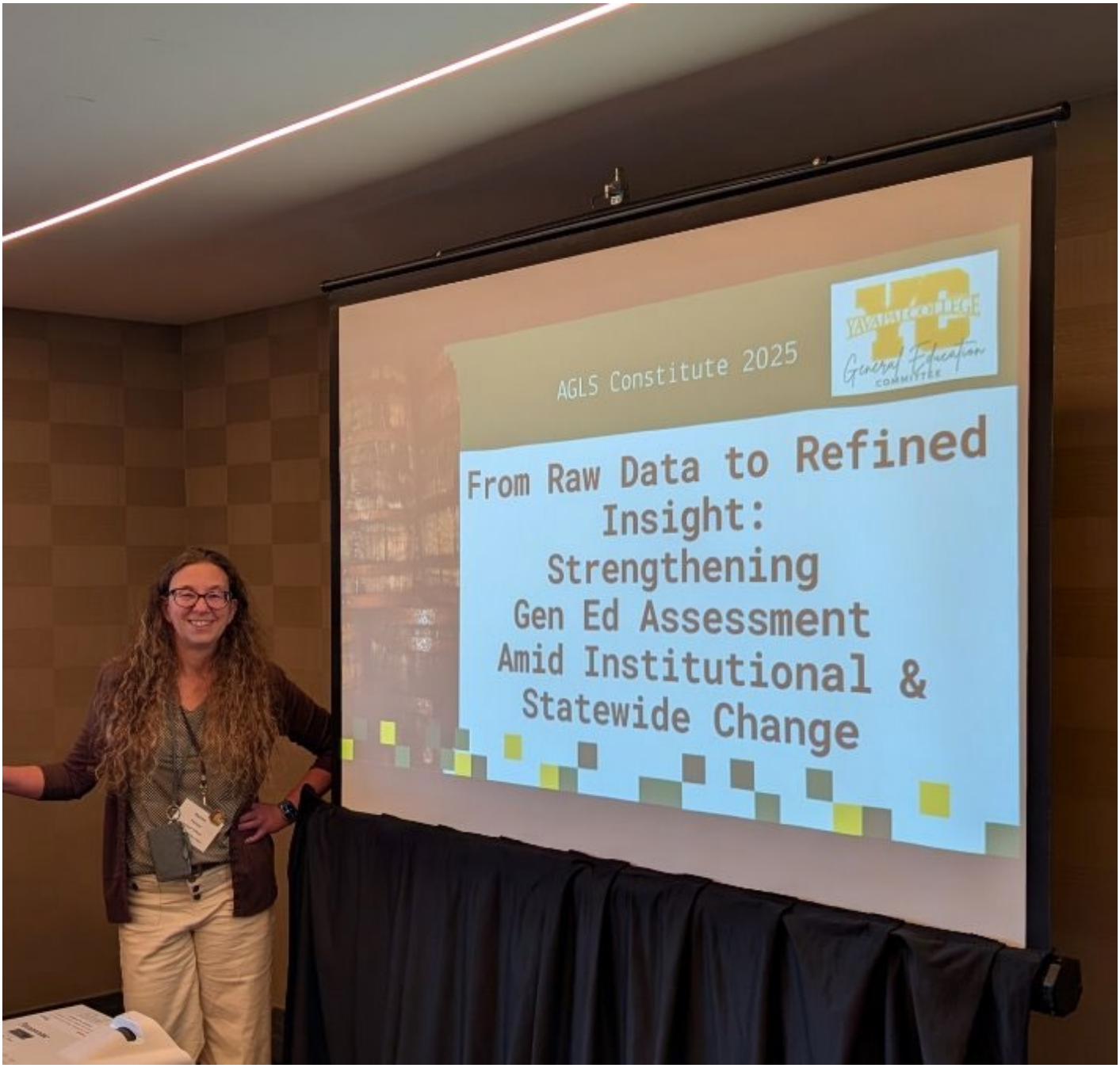
YC.Honor.Students.-Dr¡Guzzo.introduces.the.brain



General Education Committee

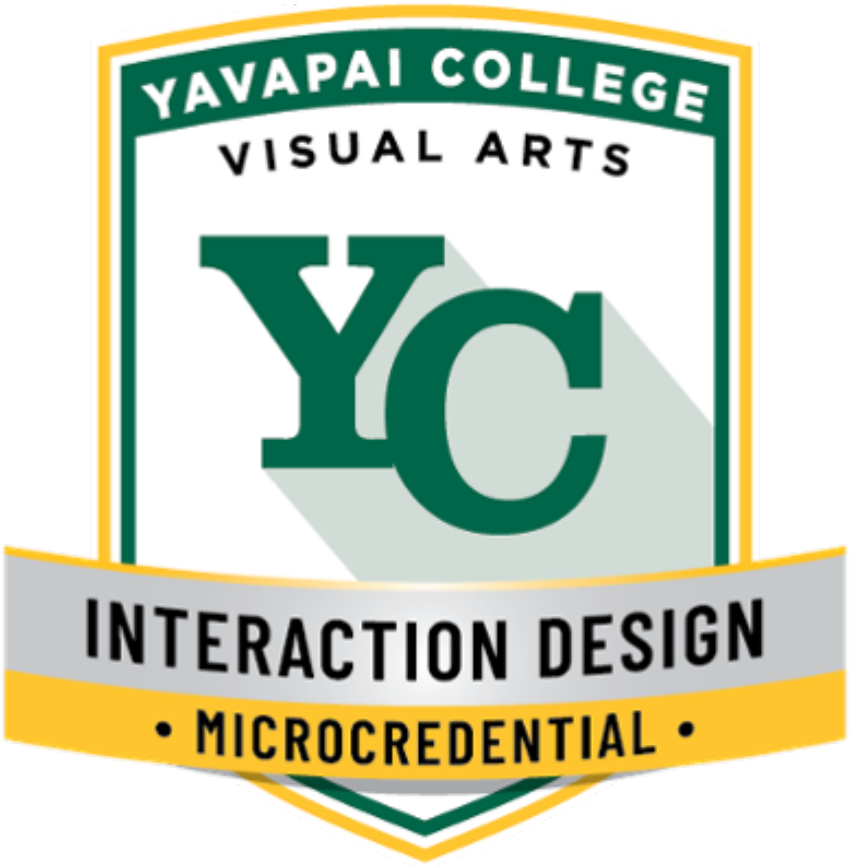
Dr. Karen Palmer selected as Council Member for AGLS

Dr. Karen Palmer has been selected for inclusion on the AGLS (Association of General and Liberal Studies) Council as an ad hoc member. This is a national organization that she has participated in for several years as part of her Gen Ed Committee Chair and Program Director roles. YC is a member of AGLS, which allows all YC employees to attend two virtual conferences sponsored by Purdue Global each year at no cost, as well as providing a significant discount on registration for the annual Conference.



Center for Learning & Innovation – December Highlights

Teaching & Learning Services



Visual Design Stackable Microcredentials

TLS supported the design and development of the Visual Design program's five stackable microcredential pathways—Digital Design Tools, Design Foundations, Design Production, Commercial Illustration, and Interactive Design—which give students opportunities to build and demonstrate focused skills as they progress toward larger academic credentials. These badges make student learning visible and provide verifiable recognition of skills that can be shared with employers and on professional platforms. During PoT 81, 99 students earned 107 digital badges through the Bachelor of Design in Visual Design program.

Prescott Valley Center

3rd Annual Spooktacular – A Growing Community Tradition!

The 3rd Annual Spooktacular at the Yavapai College Prescott Valley Center was a tremendous success, welcoming **over 600 community members!** Since its first year, attendance has grown by more than 200 participants annually, demonstrating the community's growing enthusiasm and support for this event.

Spooktacular has become a highly anticipated, family-friendly tradition that brings students, families, community partners, and Yavapai College faculty and staff together in a fun, welcoming, and safe environment.

This year's event featured a petting zoo, face painting, a haunted house, plenty of candy, and festive Halloween decorations throughout the Center. Programs went above and beyond to transform their spaces, creating an exciting and memorable experience for visitors of all ages.



Beyond the festivities, Spooktacular serves several important purposes:

- **Community Engagement:** Strengthens Yavapai College's relationships with local families and community partners while reinforcing the College's commitment to serving the community.
- **Campus Awareness:** Provides an informal open house where visitors can explore the Prescott Valley Center, discover available programs, and interact directly with students, faculty, and staff.
- **Career Exploration:** Introduces families to public safety programs and helps inspire interest in future educational and career opportunities.
- **Student and Program Involvement:** Encourages collaboration, creativity, and participation across programs while allowing students to connect with the community they serve.
- **A Safe, Family-Friendly Tradition:** Provides a welcoming environment where families can celebrate Halloween together and develop lasting connections with Yavapai College.



The continued growth of Spooktacular highlights the important role the Prescott Valley Center plays in the community. Events like this help establish the Center as more than an educational facility—it becomes a gathering place where relationships are built, community pride grows, and residents experience firsthand what Yavapai College has to offer.





Looking Ahead to 2027

Planning is already underway for the **4th Annual Spooktacular, scheduled for October 30, 2027!** Building on three successful years, the goal is to continue enhancing the event with additional decorations, activities, and engaging experiences that encourage even greater community participation.

With attendance increasing each year, Spooktacular has demonstrated its value as an annual community engagement initiative and an opportunity to strengthen connections between Yavapai College and the communities it serves.

A special thank-you to the students, faculty, staff, programs, and community partners whose dedication, creativity, and collaboration have made this event such a success. Their efforts are helping establish a lasting Prescott Valley Center tradition that families can look forward to year after year.

