

February 2025 Board Highlights

Division 1, Career Technical Education (CTE)

Division 1, CTE Center, Ruger Road

Electronics and Instrumentation Program

Liz Peters, a CTEC Instructor for the Electronics and Instrumentation program, continues to elevate Yavapai College as a leader in education. Her exceptional work and dedication to making her program the best in the state is featured in the latest issue of Prescott Woman Magazine.

Liz is highly regarded within the YC community, not only for her impactful teaching but also for her leadership as Chair of the Curriculum Committee, where she has guided significant changes and additions to YC programs. Known as "a teacher's teacher," Liz has earned the respect and admiration of both her peers and students.



Liz Peters in the YC Electronics and Instrumentation lab

We are proud to celebrate Liz's continued contributions to Yavapai College.

You can read the full article, "Wired to Achieve," online at <https://online.fliphtml5.com/ebse/lfik/#p=34>

Division 1, CTE Chino Valley

Here's what's cooking at Prescott Culinary at YC!

Exciting things are happening in the culinary program!

After spending the last eight weeks of their first semester at NoCo Community Kitchen, students are finally settling into their brand-new culinary classroom. They've been busy unpacking, cleaning, and getting acclimated to the beautiful new space. This marks an exciting milestone for the program, paving the way for continued growth, innovative collaborations, and engaging community events.

Mark your calendars! The Beautiful Bites Student Showcase is set for March 5th, and an Open House will be announced in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!



Prescott Culinary Classroom



Prescott Culinary Classroom Students

BEAUTIFUL BITES

*Student
Showcase*

MARCH 5, 2025

Come check out our new
culinary kitchen. Sample
and savor the edible
showcase of student work!



PRESCOTT CULINARY
AT YC

2:00 PM- 4:00 PM

YAVAPAI COLLEGE
BLDG 4 ROOM 219

Beautiful Bites Flyer

Hydroponic Tomato Operation Upgrades

Significant upgrades have been made to the hydroponic tomato growing operation, enhancing efficiency, cleanliness, and student learning experiences:

- The installation of new gutters has improved facility efficiency, made cleaning easier, and reduced the risk of disease, creating a healthier growing environment.
- A completely revamped micro drip irrigation system, now suspended above the crops, improves water management, reduces ground-level clutter, and enhances student accessibility.
- Fall harvesting classes successfully completed the semester's crop harvest, while horticulture students prepared the facility for the new crop, planting 240 seedlings that are now thriving at nearly 3 feet tall.
- These upgrades were made possible in part by a generous donation from the Antelope Garden Club, which helped offset project costs and allowed the improvements to proceed smoothly.
- The project was expertly overseen by part-time greenhouse assistant Rich Peterson, whose leadership ensured its success.

These enhancements not only support better crop health and growing capabilities but also provide students with a cleaner, more efficient environment to develop their skills and knowledge. We look forward to future harvests and continued success in our operations.



New gutters and irrigation upgrades at YC's hydroponic tomato operation



Newly planted hydroponic tomato seedlings thriving at nearly 3 feet tall

Division 1, CTE Verde Valley

Verde Valley Skilled Trades Center

FrameTec™ Facility Tour (11/8/24)

Instructors, students from the Verde Valley Campus CBT 104 Framing I class, and AVP of Division 1, John Morgan, toured the new FrameTec™ facility in Camp Verde. FrameTec™ is revolutionizing the construction industry with its innovative use of robotics, AI, and sustainability-focused practices. During the visit, attendees gained insight into FrameTec's patented human-in-the-loop automation process, which expertly manufactures and assembles roof trusses, floor trusses, and wall panels. The facility showcased how its vertically integrated process, combining automated manufacturing and on-site framing services, can complete structures in days rather than weeks, improving efficiency and quality compared to traditional methods. The trip highlighted cutting-edge advancements in construction technology and provided students with a firsthand look at the future of framing.



FrameTec™ Facility Tour

Building Science Workshop (12/13/24):

Twenty CBT 104 Framing I students and industry professionals attended a workshop focused on the building science behind air sealing and thermal strategies for durable and energy-efficient wall assemblies. The session covered essential topics like moisture management, drainage efficiency, product comparisons for wall components, and installation best practices tailored to Arizona's climate. Participants gained tools and insights to enhance construction performance, reduce moisture risks, and meet air-tightness goals. Led by experts Jose Gastelum and Juan Ventura of Weatherization Partners, Ltd., the workshop empowered attendees with practical knowledge to create high-performing, sustainable building enclosures.

o **Register** at www.yc.edu/BST
o Registration Fee: \$20 per person
o Questions? **Email** vvstc@yc.edu



Friday, December 13
From 1:00 - 3:00 pm
601 Black Hills Dr.
Skilled Trades Center, BLDG D
Clarkdale, AZ 86324
www.yc.edu

o **Note:** Capacity is limited and registration is required. Six (6) seats are available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

BUILDING SCIENCE TRAINING



This workshop allows participants an opportunity to learn about the building science behind Air Sealing and Thermal Strategies as they relate to the building enclosure.

The session will address building specific climate zone enclosure elements so that builders and contractors can make informed decisions for material choices, methods and details that perform well in Arizona climate to contribute to a high performance, energy efficient, durable wall system.

SESSION TOPICS:

- Applied Building Science of today's building enclosure
- The "4 D's" of Moisture Management in Wall Assemblies
- Drainage Efficiency of water-resistive barriers as they pertain to updated building codes
- Product Comparisons of Mechanically Fastened WRBs, Coated Sheathings, and Exterior Insulation
- Integrated WRB system and installation best practices
- Air Sealing and Thermal Strategies as they relate to exterior insulation

WHAT YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH:

- Learn the tools, techniques and products that will help eliminate moisture concerns and callbacks
- Experience the options to discover the best ways to meet your air tightness goals
- Ask questions about high performance building products, techniques and strategies that can improve building enclosures.
- Use building science to create a decision path to avoid your biggest risks and and the best opportunities for improved performance.
- Understand how Weatherization Partners and RMS work together to produce durable, efficient wall assemblies.

Meet the Instructors

**Jose
Gastelum**



Team Lead - Risk Management
Risk Management Solutions

**Juan
Ventura**



Sr Certified DuPont
Building Specialist

presented by: **WeatherizationPartners.com** **RMSolutions.pro**

register:



Building Science Workshop Flyer

HVAC Industry Training Workshop (1/6/25):

From 4-7pm, HVAC Faculty Instructor James Morales and the Verde Valley Skilled Trades Center hosted an HVAC industry training workshop facilitated by three representatives from Rheem. The event, which was advertised using a dedicated flyer, brought together over 40 technicians and company owners who attended the workshop, which covered updates on new refrigerants, equipment, and the upcoming changes to meet Global Warming Potential (GWP) requirements starting in 2025. This training provided valuable insights into the evolving HVAC industry and prepared attendees for the transition to the latest standards.



HVAC Industry Training Workshop

Southwest Wine Center & Culinary Academic

Cottonwood Chamber Mixer (1/16/25)

The Southwest Wine Center hosted the Cottonwood Chamber Mixer, welcoming over 100 guests to its stunning facility. Attendees enjoyed a selection of premium wines crafted by students in the Viticulture and Enology program that paired perfectly with an array of delicious appetizers prepared by VACTE Culinary students under the guidance of Chef Carl Miller. The event provided a warm and engaging atmosphere for networking while showcasing the talents of YC students.



SWC Chamber Mixer



SWC Chamber Mixer-CUL VACTE Students

Division 2, Health Sciences and Public Services

Division 2, Administration of Justice (AJS), Public Services

A Month of Growth: Engaging Minds, Building Connections

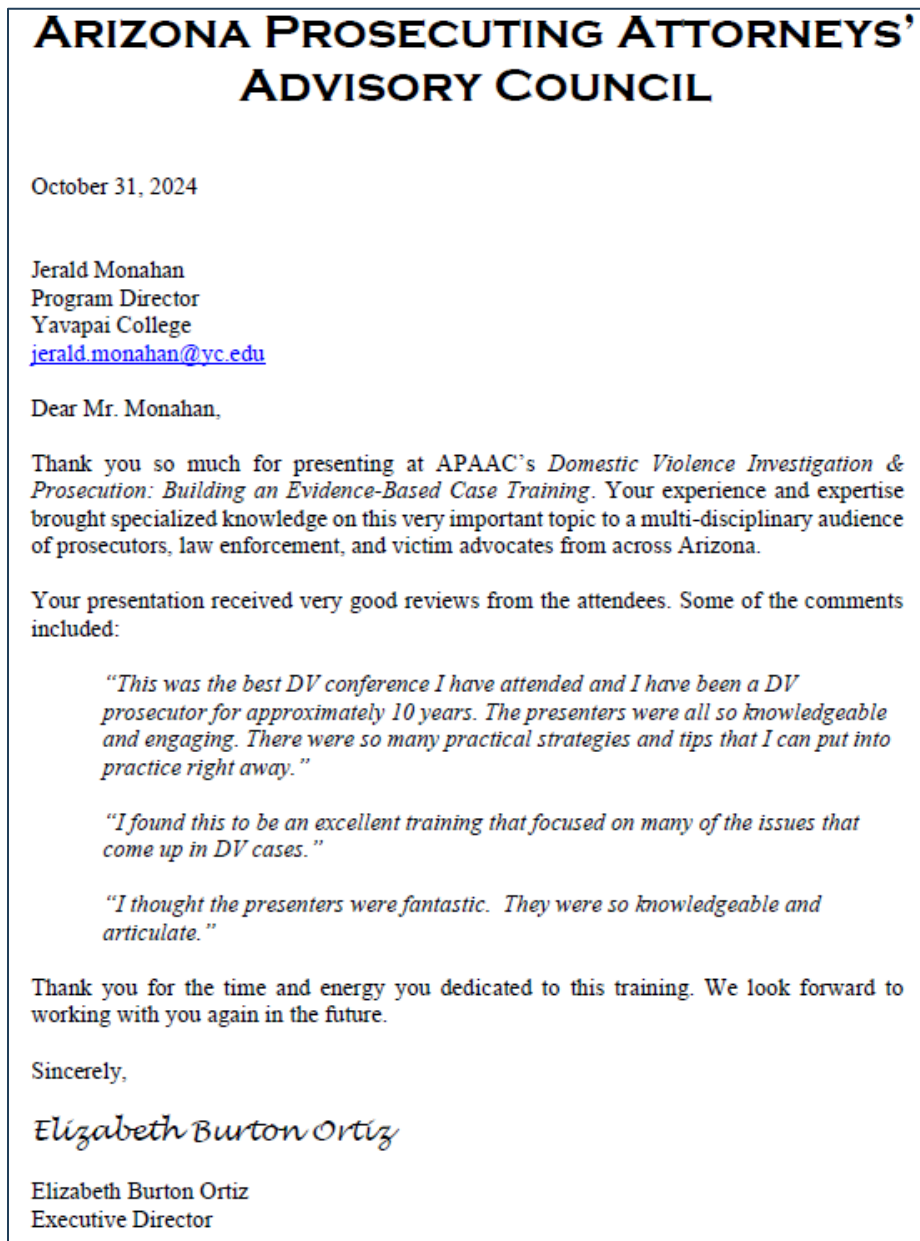
The Administration of Justice (AJS) and Public Services programs in Division 2 had an eventful October, with a series of Justice Institute events offering impactful experiences for students and community members alike:

- **October 8:** Bestselling author Bobby Kipper provided a four-hour training on First Responder wellness at the Prescott Campus. The event was attended by First Responders statewide and 9 AJS students, who participated for extra credit.
- **October 9:** Bobby Kipper returned to present a workshop on Bullying Awareness and Prevention, attended by representatives from 15 school districts, school resource officers, and YC Early Childhood Development students.
- **October 11:** Kipper conducted a leadership workshop, *Performance Driven Thinking*, for students from the Business Club and SOL. Each student received a textbook and journal, thanks to a generous sponsor.
- **October 14-15:** The Justice Institute partnered with Arizona State University's Family Violence Center to host an International Conference on Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Development. Attendees included representatives from seven countries and multiple U.S. states, with YC AmeriCorps interns serving as ambassadors.
- **October 24:** In collaboration with the Provost's Office, the Justice Institute hosted a Democracy in Action event at the Prescott Campus, featuring election officials discussing

These events highlighted YC's commitment to providing students with enriching educational opportunities and fostering community engagement.

Highlighting Excellence: A Grateful Acknowledgment

Jerald Monahan, Program Director of YC's Administration of Justice program, received a heartfelt thank-you letter from APAAC Executive Director Elizabeth Burton Ortiz for his impactful presentation at the *Domestic Violence Investigation & Prosecution: Building an Evidence-Based Case Training* on October 18, 2024. His expertise earned high praise from attendees, reflecting his significant contributions to professional education and community impact. Please find the full letter shared below.



Jerald Monahan's thank-you letter from APAAC Executive Director Elizabeth Burton Ortiz

Division 2, Allied Health, Health Sciences

Advancing Community Partnerships Through Allied Health

In November, Allied Health hosted its second cohort of the Phlebotomy for Law Enforcement course in partnership with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS).

- 19 law enforcement officers and dispatchers from four Northern Arizona agencies participated in the training.
- With the help of over 160 volunteers from local agencies and the community, each participant successfully completed 50 live, in-person blood draws.

This innovative program continues to strengthen partnerships between Yavapai College and local law enforcement agencies. Plans are already underway for additional classes in 2025!



Advancing Community Partnerships through Allied Health

Division 2, Radiology, Health Sciences

Rebecca Turner, a first-year student in the Radiologic Technology AAS program, has been honored as one of only two students in Arizona selected for the prestigious *American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Student Leadership Development Program*.

This competitive three-year program provides participants with opportunities to take leadership courses, attend ASRT business meetings, and work closely with a leadership mentor from the state society. Through this experience, Rebecca will develop strong advocacy and leadership skills that will empower her to excel in her career after graduation.

Rebecca's selection highlights the caliber of students in Yavapai College's Radiologic Technology program and reflects the program's dedication to fostering excellence and professional growth.



Rebecca Turner, Radiologic Technology student

Division 3 – Performing Arts

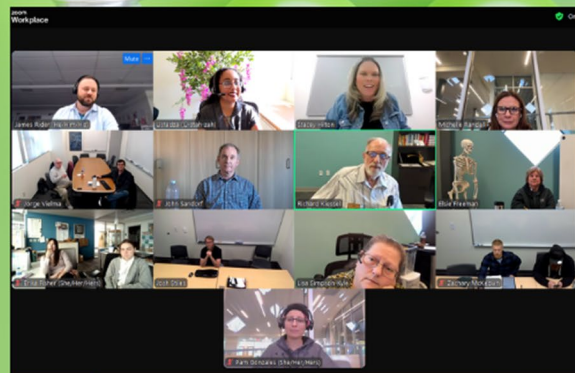
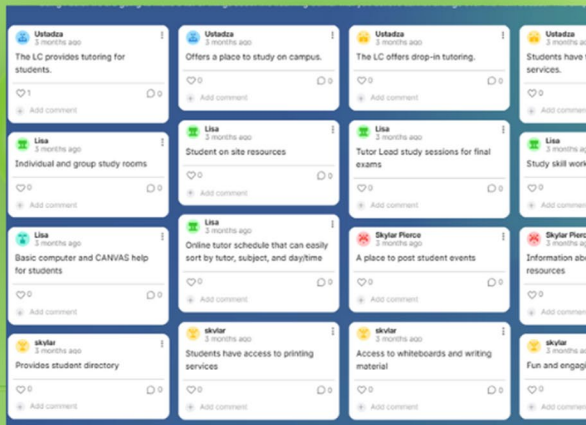
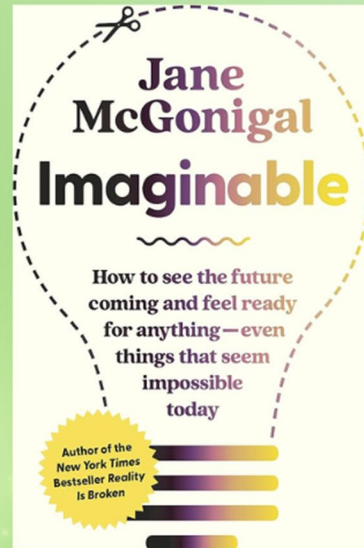
The YC Prescott Art Gallery worked with the YC Performing Arts Dept. and the J&LLPAC for six months to conceive, plan, and install *Behind the Scenes: The Artistry of the YC Performing Arts Department*, an exhibition of props, costumes, and stage-design drawings from recent YC productions. The exhibition, which opened Jan. 17 and runs until February 14, has garnered media attention, public praise, and big crowds — during a J&LLPAC event on Saturday, Jan. 25, nearly 300 people visited the gallery. This collaboration went very well and has inspired deeper connections between the visual and performing arts departments.



Instructional Support

FUTURE FORECASTING

Tutoring Services is actively engaging in Future Forecasting activities to reimagine its role and services in alignment with student needs and emerging trends. The Library is next in line to explore this process, and TeLS has also shown interest in participating.



www.yc.edu/tutoring

AI TUTOR S.O.P.H.I.E

Tutoring Services developed an AI Tutor called S.O.P.H.I.E. She is being piloted in several classes this spring. Unlike other chatbots, S.O.P.H.I.E. points students to YC resources like tutors, librarians, and other support.



www.yc.edu/tutoring



SOPHIE: AI Math Tutor

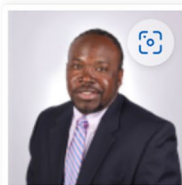
Hi there! I'm your AI tutor, here to help you navigate your course and tackle any questions you might have. Let's work together to make learning easier and more enjoyable. How can I assist you today?

Ask me anything



Library

The Library recently held another Distinguished Guest Lecture Series with **Professor Philip Reid** of the Computer Science Department:



Distinguished Guest Lecture Series: Demystifying and Innovating with Artificial Intelligence



In-Person

Description

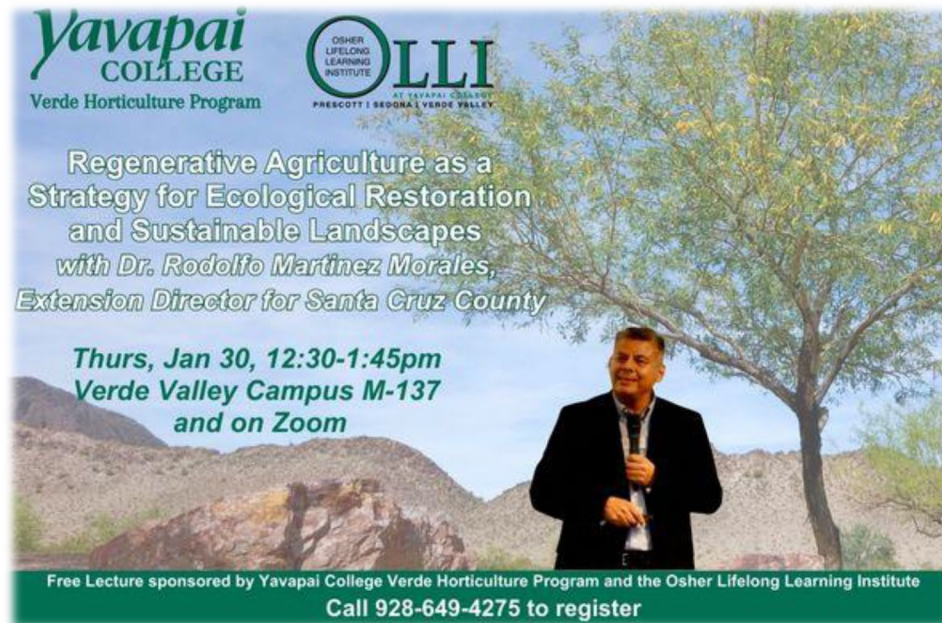
Learn how embracing AI can drive positive change and open new opportunities. In this lecture, we will dispel common fears and misconceptions about Artificial Intelligence while exploring the exciting possibilities and innovative applications of AI technology.



The Library continues to meet their Key Performance Indicators in percentage of courses offering free textbook costs. As they strive toward meeting the goal, they have begun to expand from only Open Educational Resources (OER) to broader Open Community including Open Access, Creative Commons License and Open Pedagogy. The library offers instruction specific to Creative Commons Licenses for students and has included two Open Access databases to their robust collection.

Division 4, Lifelong Learning/OLLI/Community Education

OLLI teamed up with the Verde Horticulture program to welcome Dr. Rodolfo Martinez Morales on Regenerative Agriculture on January 30th.



Yavapai COLLEGE
Verde Horticulture Program

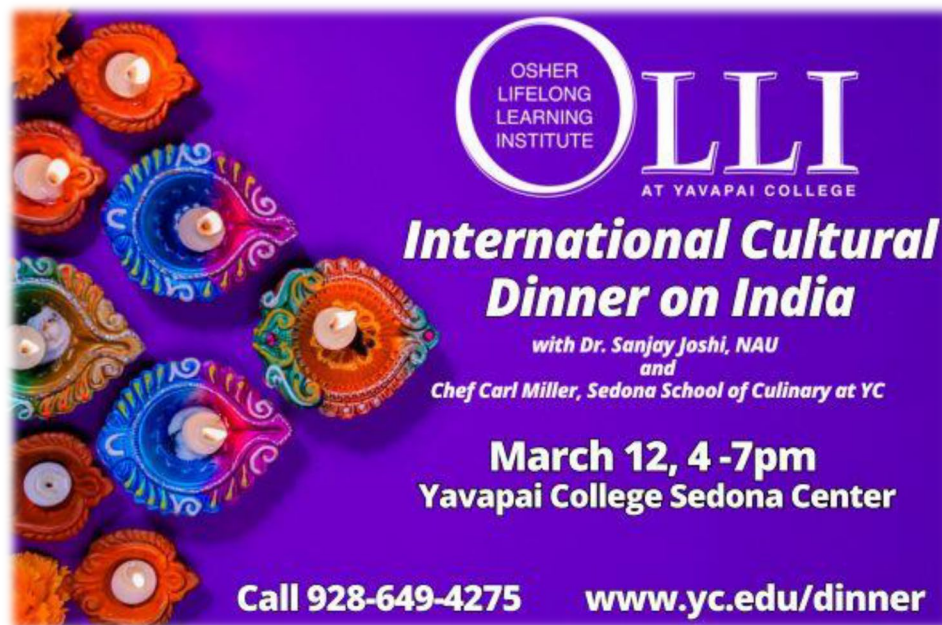
OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
OLLI
AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE
PRESCOTT | SEDONA | VERDE VALLEY

Regenerative Agriculture as a Strategy for Ecological Restoration and Sustainable Landscapes
with Dr. Rodolfo Martinez Morales, Extension Director for Santa Cruz County

Thurs, Jan 30, 12:30-1:45pm
Verde Valley Campus M-137 and on Zoom

Free Lecture sponsored by Yavapai College Verde Horticulture Program and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Call 928-649-4275 to register

OLLI is also collaborating with the YC Sedona School of Culinary to host a cultural dinner on India, featuring NAU Professor Dr. Sanjay Joshi on March 12.



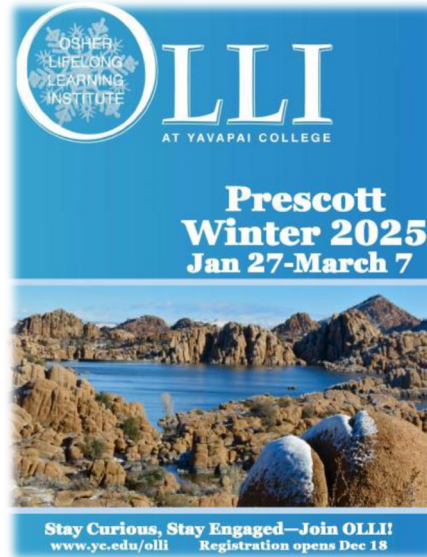
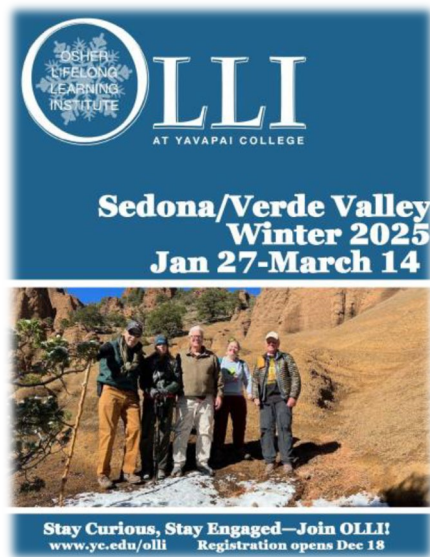
OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
OLLI
AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE

International Cultural Dinner on India
with Dr. Sanjay Joshi, NAU and Chef Carl Miller, Sedona School of Culinary at YC

March 12, 4-7pm
Yavapai College Sedona Center

Call 928-649-4275 www.yc.edu/dinner

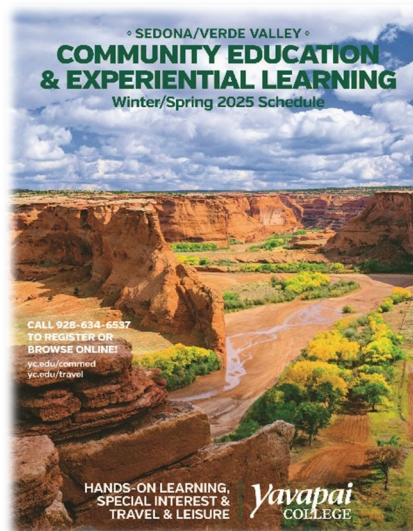
OLLI Winter Term classes began on January 27 in Prescott, Sedona and Verde Valley. OLLI membership allows students to enjoy classes at all locations without paying any additional cost.



Community Education

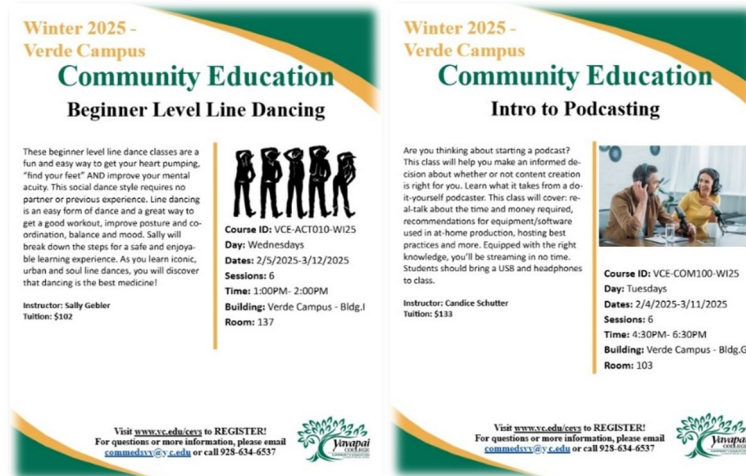


Verde Valley & Sedona Winter '25 classes began February 3.



New course offerings include:

- Intro to Podcasting
 - Students will have the opportunity to use the Media Production room in the Center for Learning and Innovation
- Beginner Level Line Dancing



- Experiential Learning Trips
 - Trips are filled with wait lists for Winter '25 offerings
 - Experiential Learning Trips beginning Winter Spring '25 are included in the Verde/Sedona catalog
 - Student interest and registrations from Verde/Sedona students are



- Community Education Winter '25 classes started February 3. Enrollment is healthy.
 - Languages - especially Spanish & German - and Drawing & Painting are the top sellers.



- College for Kids (C4K) accepting course proposals for June and July programs.
 - JW Kieckhefer Foundation is again donating 7K to YC's College for Kids program this summer.



Lifelong Learning Associate Dean Retires Effective February 28



For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Six years ago on January 22, I started a new chapter in my life by moving to beautiful Arizona. My relocation from Montana to Yavapai County was prompted by the opportunity to oversee OLLI and Community Education programs in Sedona and the Verde Valley for Yavapai College. Over the years, my duties have expanded to administer the Lifelong Learning programs in Prescott as well.

As we all know, change is a part of life, and I have decided to make a change. Effective February 28, I will conclude my career here at Yavapai College. I am fortunate to have had a long and successful career in higher education and nonprofit organizations. It has been a privilege to serve life learning students and collaborate with so many talented colleagues.

Life is a gift, and it has been one of my greatest gifts in life to have a career in education.

Division 5, Science

A collaboration between Information Technology and Systems (ITS), Teaching and E-Learning (TeLs), Division 5 faculty, and Labster virtual labs has demonstrated a statistically significant 16% increase in completion rates in online BIO 205 courses. The courses compared were taught in the summer and fall semesters of 2024. Science courses are the foundation for general education and nursing programs. This result is an exemplary demonstration of cross departmental efforts that improve student outcomes. The results have been submitted for publication in the International Journal of E-Learning.

Students in BIO196: Directed Research Experience in Microbiology are studying antimicrobial resistance in Arizona waters. They are surveilling the environmental antibiotic resistance of microbes that are in the Prescott area landscape. In particular, students have been mapping the movement of antibiotic resistance genes before and after area monsoons. This project will be continuing through Summer 2025 and has recently also been accepted as student presentation at the ASM Microbe 2025 Annual Conference. ASM Microbe is one of the largest gatherings of the microbiology community.

YC Microbiology students are simulating Plants Growing on the Moon. Directed Research students at YC have simulated how to grow kale in soil found on the moon. The group received a grant from Arizona Space Grant Consortium to conduct this project. Under the direction of **Dana Kirkwood-Watts**, Associate Professor, Microbiology, students combined lunar simulants, soils with a composition similar to soil on the moon, with various amounts of hydrogel and fertilizer to test the growth of kale. This project is part of ongoing research that includes study of the effects of microgravity and other abiotic stressors on microbial metabolism.



Division 5, Computer Science

YC Computer Science students competed in the Sandia National Labs TracerFire CTF Cybersecurity Competition and placed #6 out of 34 teams. TracerFire is a Capture the Flag (CTF) cybersecurity competition developed by Sandia National Laboratories and hosted by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU). The event focused on providing hands-on, team-based challenges in areas such as network traffic analysis, reverse engineering, cryptography, and forensic investigation. Designed to simulate real-world cybersecurity scenarios, TracerFire aimed to enhance participants' critical thinking and technical skills while fostering collaboration in detecting and mitigating cyber threats.

Verde Valley Campus

The "Pizza and Ping Pong with the Provost, **Doug Berry**" event, which garnered significant enthusiasm and engagement last Spring semester, made a highly anticipated return this Fall. To enhance the experience and foster even greater community interaction, the event was expanded to include an exciting new element—Ping Pong—providing students and staff with an enjoyable opportunity to connect with the Provost in a relaxed and interactive setting.

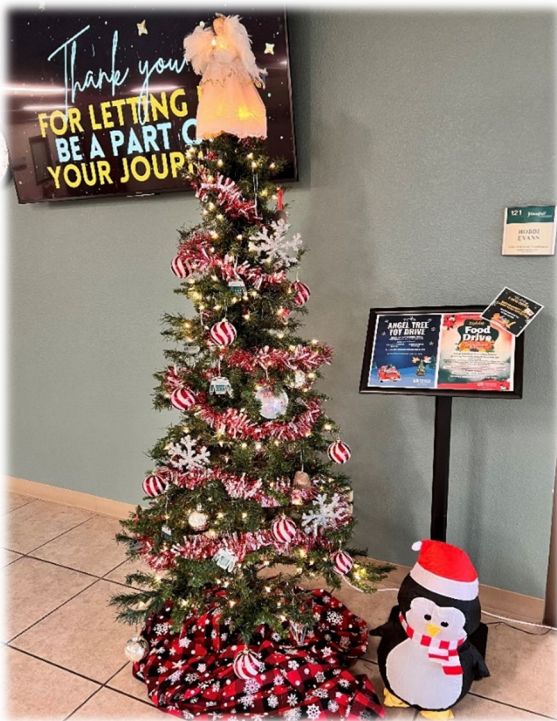


The Winter Celebration Food Drive/Angel Tree Project was a resounding success this year, thanks to the generosity and support of our staff and faculty. The Verde Valley Campus and Sedona Center provided holiday gifts for 28 children and holiday food boxes to 6 families in need.

Total YC Contributions:

- 65 Food Boxes Distributed
- 83 Family Members Supported
- 45 Children Served
- 270 Gifts Donated

Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute contributed over \$2,300 to fund grocery gift cards to complement the holiday food boxes, while YC family and friends made Christmas special by fulfilling the holiday wishes of our students' children and local school district children through the angel tree program.



The annual Yavapai College Winter Celebration brought together 47 employees, including staff, faculty and members of the Executive Leadership Team, at Strada in Old Town Cottonwood. Attendees enjoyed a festive evening highlighted by a spirited game of Winter Trivia. Winners took home vibrant poinsettia plants, thoughtfully grown by the horticulture students at the Chino Valley Greenhouse.



To kick off the Spring semester, **President Rhine** hosted a special breakfast event, *Pancakes with the President*, at the Verde Valley Campus. Organized as part of Faculty Activities Week, this event featured an exceptional breakfast spread provided by The Eatery Catering, in collaboration with the Office of the President.

Faculty and staff were warmly welcomed by members of the Executive Leadership Team, who were on-site to connect, share insights, and foster a sense of community among employees. The event provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships across departments while celebrating the start of a new academic term.



Returning once again this year to the Verde Valley Campus, the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Future Health Professionals Competition was proudly co-hosted by Yavapai College Allied Health and the Valley Academy for Career and Technology Education (VACTE). This prestigious event brought together aspiring future health professionals from across Arizona to demonstrate their expertise in Allied Health knowledge and skills through rigorous competition. The top-performing students were recognized for their exceptional achievements and will advance to represent their region at the upcoming state and national competitions.



Regional Economic Development Center (REDC)

Career Services

Career Services continues to support student success with innovative programs and resources:

The REDC, led by Craig Lefever, was commissioned by the County Supervisors and Workforce Development Board to author the 2025–2028 Countywide Workforce Plan. The plan was approved by the Workforce Development Board on December 5, after a public comment period from November 20–27, and received final approval from the County Supervisors on December 18. It is currently under review by AZ@Work leadership.



Cover of the 2025–2028 Yavapai County Workforce Development Plan

Hosted a free resume and LinkedIn profile workshop to help students enhance their professional presence.

FBLA
Collegiate

JAN 21-28, 2025
VIRTUAL
RESUME & LINKEDIN
WORKSHOP

To obtain employment as a...
Highlights
• 9 years IT development experience
• Friendly, flexible, and pro-active manner
• Successful at customer facing work
• Fair, creative and efficient
• Extensive knowledge of intranet development

Employment History
Software Developer, Computer Company, February 2001 - Present
I am a key member in the software team responsible for the development of internet search technology. I have developed several major projects covering all stages of the software development cycle. I am responsible for project management and customer support on all projects.

Accomplishments
Produced state-of-the-art image recognition software
Developed several web-based applications using
Successfully project managed applications using
to installation
Delivered bespoke solutions to meet specific
ported software applications to meet specific
developed of various platforms
all development intranet
new company

YC's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is teaming up with Career Services to help students create or build a better resume and create a professional LinkedIn profile.

Contact Katherine Anderson, Career Services Manager, and let her know what you would like assistance with!
katherine.anderson@yc.edu

Yavapai College Career Services supports students and community members through career exploration, helping them identify interests and potential career paths. We provide career readiness resources, including resume assistance, interview preparation, and professional development workshops. Additionally, we connect individuals to employers through career fairs and networking opportunities.

Promotional flyer for YC's Virtual Resume and LinkedIn Workshop

Launched a free virtual career development program in partnership with Indeed to assist students in excelling during their job search. Students can access this resource through the Job Search Academy.



Link: <https://go.indeed.com/JobSearchAcademy-YavapaiCollege>

These initiatives reflect Yavapai College's commitment to equipping students and the community with tools for career and workforce success.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Fostering Innovation and Economic Growth

The SBDC continues to make a significant impact in supporting entrepreneurs and fostering economic growth throughout the region. From launching new training programs to helping clients achieve impressive milestones, SBDC's efforts are driving innovation and opportunity.

- 26 individuals registered for the inaugural *DreamBuilder Cohort*, an in-person entrepreneurial training series launching in February.
- Confirmed *Moonshot Rural Pitch Tour* events for Wickenburg (April 17), Quad Cities (April 24), and Verde Valley (May 15), with \$5,000 in local sponsorships secured to support prize packages and program materials.
- Three SBDC team members will attend the *AAED Beginners Economic Development Course (BEDC)* next week, an intensive four-day training focused on economic development best practices and case studies.
- Supported clients, achieving over \$2.2 million in new sales growth, \$2.8 million in new capital investments, 26 new business starts, and the creation of 68 new jobs.
- Launched a new partnership with the City of Cottonwood and the Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce, kicking off the new year with a four-part training series, including *10 Steps to Starting a Business in Arizona*.

The SBDC remains dedicated to empowering businesses and strengthening communities across the region.