

March 2025 Board Highlights

Aviation, Division 1

- **YC Aviation New Leadership and Training Opportunities**

Big things are happening for Yavapai College Aviation, with new leadership, expanded training, and exciting partnerships designed to enhance their flight education!

Leadership with YC Roots – **Scott Ritchie**, the new Director of Aviation, and **Zack Chamberlin**, the new Aviation Specialist, are both YC alumni who are bringing their expertise and passion back to support the next generation of pilots.

- **Scott Ritchie – From YC NARTA Training to Director of Aviation**

Scott Ritchie joins YC as the new Director of Aviation, bringing with him a wealth of experience in both aviation and education. His extensive career includes earning FAA Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor Certificates with Airplane, Multi-Engine, and Instrument ratings, as well as 20+ years of experience training pilots in both manned and unmanned aircraft.

But Scott's YC connection goes beyond aviation. He also completed the Northern Arizona Regional Training Academy (NARTA) in 2007 at YC to become a certified peace officer with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office. This rigorous law enforcement training prepared him for service as a patrol deputy in the Eastern and Northern Area Commands, where he developed invaluable leadership, safety training, and operational skills, all of which he now brings back to his role as Director of Aviation at YC.

Now, Scott has come full circle, returning to YC to lead and grow a program that is shaping the next generation of aviation professionals. He's looking forward to working with students and faculty to support the continued growth of the YC Aviation program and help students develop the skills they need for the industry.



- **Zack Chamberlin – From YC Aviation Student to Aviation Specialist**

Zack's Journey from YC Student to Aviation Leader – Zack has been actively involved in aviation since 2012, earning his Rotorcraft Flight Instructor Certification with an Instrument



Rating after learning to fly in Hawaii. In 2019, he enrolled in YC's UAS Program, earning his Associate of Applied Science in Aerospace Science in 2021.

During his time at CTEC, Zack was dedicated to student success, working in the TRIO Program under Carol Beard and later as a math proctor under Dr. Baker. His hard work and academic excellence earned him the prestigious All-Arizona Scholarship. Zack went on to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he graduated with honors in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics.

Now, Zack's journey has come full circle as he returns to YC as the new Aviation Specialist. Passionate about giving back, he hopes to inspire and support future aviators, sharing his knowledge and experience with students following a similar path.

- **Aviation: New Flight Training Partnership**

YC has partnered with Leighnor Aircraft LLC., owned by Lance and Debbie Leighnor, to provide students with top-tier flight instruction and seamless training experience.

- **Aviation Expanding Simulator Training**

Students will now train on a new state-of-the-art flight simulator from True Course Simulators, a local Prescott-based company. This investment will enhance hands-on learning opportunities, helping students build confidence and advance their training faster.

With these exciting additions, YC Aviation students are gaining access to the tools, mentorship, and technology they need to succeed in the skies. The future of aviation at YC is taking off—stay tuned for more updates!

CTE Chino Valley, Division 1

- **YC Horticulture Students Cultivate Success for Upcoming Plant Sale May 10th**

Yavapai College Spring Production Horticulture students are putting their skills into action, preparing for the much-anticipated Student Plant Sale on May 10! Each week, they are launching new crops and expanding their expertise in plant cultivation.

So far, students have successfully:

- 🌱 Seeded perennials
- 🌿 Designed and planted hanging baskets
- 🍎 Started rooting their first fruit propagations

Looking ahead, they will be expanding their offerings with a diverse selection of flowers, vegetables, and herbs, as well as honing their skills in grafting custom apple trees. All of this hands-on learning happens while they continue to plant, maintain, and harvest essential fruit and vegetable crops, gaining real-world experience that prepares them for careers in horticulture.

Join us in celebrating their hard work and don't miss the **Student Plant Sale on May 10!**



YC Horticulture students

- **CTE Chino Valley: Chino Valley Middle Schoolers Get Hands-On with YC Mini Classes**

Local 7th and 8th graders recently got a firsthand look at Career & Technical Education through the first-ever YC Mini Class in Chino Valley! Designed to introduce students to various career pathways, this exciting program kicked off with a hands-on horticulture experience.

Over the past month, students explored plant science and completed engaging activities, including:

- 🌱 Germinating seeds through asexual propagation
- 🌿 Cloning plants and learning about soil health
- 🪴 Building their own mini worm farms
- 🐟 Exploring aquaculture with visits to the hatchery

With the horticulture section now complete, students are gearing up for their next challenge—building their own birdhouses in the upcoming course!

These hands-on learning experiences are sparking curiosity, creativity, and career exploration among young students, helping them discover their passions early on.



Chino Valley Middle Schoolers



YC Mini Classes

- **CTE Chino Valley: YC Agriculture Students Lead the Way in Community Outreach**

As the Production Horticulture and Agriculture Program continues to grow, students are stepping up in a big way, taking the lead in outreach efforts across Yavapai County! With a strong focus on engaging local youth, YC students are actively participating in tours, industry summits, and speaking engagements, YC students are actively engaging with the community, inspiring the next generation to explore careers in agriculture.

Recently, student leaders played a key role in major events, including:

- 🚜 8th-Grade Promotion Day at the Farm – Introducing students to hands-on agriculture
- 🌱 7th and 8th-Grade Mini Classes – Sharing knowledge on plant science and sustainability
- 🔧 CTE Day at CTEC – Showcasing career pathways in technical education
- 🌿 Seed Mania Event – Engaging with the community through interactive activities

By taking on these leadership roles, YC Agriculture students are not only enhancing their own skills and industry connections but also helping faculty and staff expand the program's impact. A huge kudos to our student team for their dedication and hard work!



Photos by Agriculture student Kelly Cruz

- **CTE Chino Valley: YC Lineworker Students Gain Hands-On Training with APS**

YC Lineworker students are taking their education beyond the classroom with real-world training in substation maintenance—thanks to the ongoing partnership between Yavapai College and Arizona Public Service (APS).

🔧 During a recent session, students received expert instruction from an APS supervisor, learning firsthand how to maintain and operate electrical substations—a critical skill in the power industry.

👷 This collaboration between APS and YC provides students with valuable industry exposure, mentorship, and career-building opportunities. By working directly with professionals in the field, students are not only developing technical skills but also gaining connections that can lead to future employment.

⚡ YC is proud to support students in pursuing careers in the energy sector, and partnerships like this ensure they are job-ready on day one. The future is bright for YC Lineworker students!



YC Lineworker Students

- **CTE Chino Valley: YC CDL Students Gain More Driving Experience with New Training Model**

Yavapai College CDL students are hitting the road with expanded hands-on training, thanks to a newly piloted 4-hour driving session.

📍 Training on the Open Road – Students are practicing their skills at key locations across Seligman, Bellmont, and the scenic overlook above Camp Verde on I-17, ensuring they gain experience in varied driving conditions.

⌚ More Drive Time, More Confidence – This new format replaces the previous two-hour, twice-a-week sessions and allows students who travel from as far as Heber and Phoenix—or those with work restrictions—to train in longer, focused sessions without missing additional workdays.

🚚 Building Safer, More Skilled Drivers – By spending more time behind the wheel, students are developing stronger skills, increased confidence, and greater safety awareness—all critical for success in the commercial driving industry.

This innovative approach is already proving to be a win for students, helping them become better-prepared, safer, and more confident drivers as they work toward earning their Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The road to success starts here at YC!



CDL Training

CTEC Ruger Rd, Division 1

- **YC Students Showcase Their Skills at SkillsUSA Competitions**

YC students are putting their talents to the test today as they compete in SkillsUSA competitions, demonstrating the expertise they've gained in their programs.

🔧 **Hands-On Challenges** – Students are competing in industry-specific contests, showcasing their skills in technical trades, leadership, and problem-solving.

🎯 **Building Career-Ready Skills** – These competitions provide students with real-world experience, confidence, and networking opportunities, helping them stand out in their future careers.

📅 **A Two-Day Event** – It's a big event, with the first days' competitions leading into the second day's leadership skills portion, which will take place during the first half of the day.

A big shoutout to all competitors for representing YC with dedication and skill! Here are some highlights from today's events as students put their knowledge into practice!







SkillsUSA

Paralegal Studies, Division 2

- YC Legal Paraprofessional Student Engages in Statewide Summit



*Left: Stacia Wenckus, Legal Paraprofessional student
Right: Dr. Tiffany Kragnes, Program Director of Paralegal Studies*

Yavapai College Legal Paraprofessional student **Stacia Wenckus** joined industry professionals at the Legal Paraprofessional Summit on February 7, 2025, at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. Accompanied by **Dr. Tiffany Kragnes**, Program Director of Paralegal Studies, Stacia had the opportunity to network, collaborate, and gain insights from some of the most respected figures in Arizona's legal community.

The summit featured keynote addresses from Chief Justice Ann Timmer, Justice Maria Elena Cruz, and Justice Brian Furuya, offering students like Stacia a firsthand look at the evolving role of legal paraprofessionals in expanding access to justice.

Yavapai College is committed to providing students with enriching experiences that bridge education and career success. We are proud to see YC students actively engaging in opportunities that shape the future of their profession.

- **Paralegal Studies: YC Student Shines at Prestigious Family Law Trial College**

Yavapai College Legal Paraprofessional student **Stacia Wenckus** took a bold step in her legal education by participating in the highly selective Family Law Trial College, hosted by the Maricopa County Bar Association on February 21st. This exclusive program accepts only 12 participants and provides hands-on trial experience under the guidance of experienced Family Law Attorneys, Paraprofessionals, and Judges.

Given a mock family law case, complete with exhibits and live witnesses, Stacia faced the challenge head-on—despite feeling "absolutely terrified" at first. With encouragement and guidance from **Paralegal Program Director Dr. Tiffany Kragnes**, she successfully completed the "trial," earning praise from participants for her outstanding performance.

Inspired by Stacia's experience and recommendation, the Paralegal Program now plans to send one outstanding Legal Paraprofessional student each year to this prestigious program, ensuring that more YC students gain invaluable real-world experience.

Stacia, who is hearing impaired, continues to excel in legal education, showcasing resilience and dedication in her pursuit of excellence. She is currently applying for her Master of Laws (LL.M.) at the University of Arizona, further demonstrating her dedication to the field.

We are incredibly proud of Stacia's achievement and the way she represents Yavapai College students at the highest levels of legal education.



Stacia Wenckus, standing second from the right



Stacia Wenckus and the presiding Judge

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

• YC Law and Justice Students Take Learning Beyond the Classroom

Yavapai College Law and Justice Club members are making the most of Spring 2025 by actively engaging in hands-on experiences that bring their studies to life.

Kicking off the semester, students participated in Club Rush on February 5th and 6th, connecting with peers and sharing opportunities to explore careers in law enforcement and the justice system. On February 10th, students gathered for their first club meeting, where they had the opportunity to hear from **Chief Tyran Payne**, who shared real-world insights into law enforcement and public service.

This semester, club members will take their learning even further with exciting trips and immersive experiences, including:

- ◆ Visiting FBI Headquarters in Phoenix to learn about federal investigations
- ◆ Touring the Arizona DPS Crime Lab to explore forensic science in action
- ◆ Observing a local court hearing for firsthand insight into the legal process
- ◆ Experiencing the VIRTRA simulator at the NARTA building, gaining practical law enforcement training

By participating in these activities, YC students expand their knowledge, build connections, and prepare for future careers in law and justice.

**JOIN
THE LAW & JUSTICE CLUB!**

OUR GOALS FOR THIS YEAR
INCLUDE:

CLUB ACTIVITIES

- POLICE OFFICER RIDE ALONGS
- VIRTRA POLICE OFFICER VIRTUAL TRAINING EXPERIENCE
- Q&A SPEAKERS OF YOUR CHOICE!

PLUS FIELD TRIPS TO:

- FBI HEADQUARTERS IN PHOENIX
- DPS FORENSIC LAB
- COURT HEARINGS

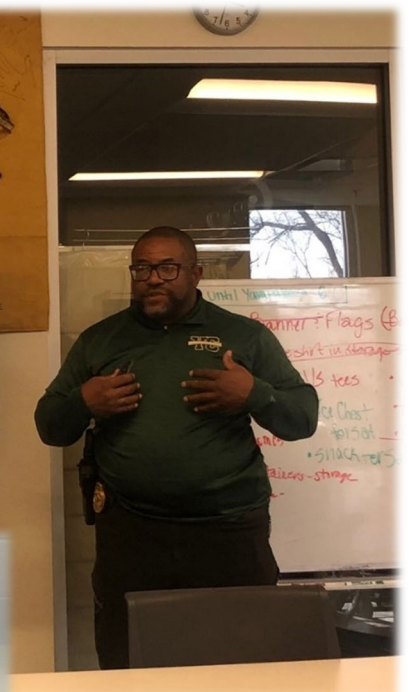
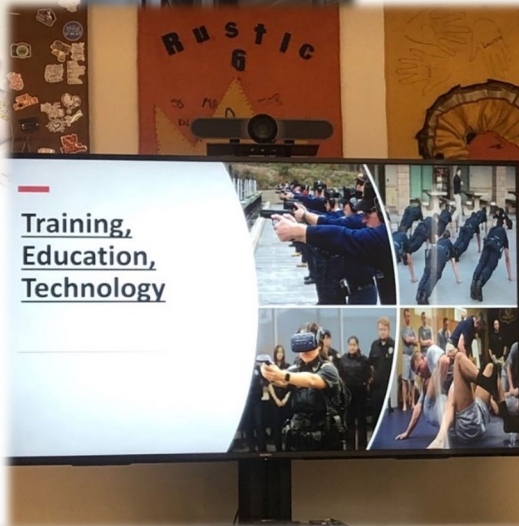
AND MORE!

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
JERALD MONAHAN (CLUB ADVISOR): JERALD.MONAHAN@YC.EDU
ATHENA A. (CLUB SECRETARY): AALVARIZ@YC.EDU

CLUB MEETING DATES AND LOCATION WILL BE DECIDED AT FIRST MEETING!

*CLUB MEETING ATTENDANCE IS
MANDATORY FOR FIELD TRIPS*
*POSSIBLE CLUB ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS
ARE PENDING, NOT GUARANTEED*





- **AJS: YC Student Awarded Scholarship to Explore Women's Impact in U.S. History**

Athena Alvarez, an AmeriCorps student intern in the Administration of Justice Studies program, has been awarded a \$500 scholarship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). This scholarship will support her upcoming Spring Break trip to Philadelphia, where she will explore the vital role women played in the nation's founding and the Revolutionary War.

This opportunity allows Athena to deepen her understanding of history while representing Yavapai College in an immersive learning experience.

We are proud of Athena's achievement and look forward to the insights she will bring back to share with the YC community!



Athena Alvarez

- **AJS: YC Students Gather for Black History Month Movie Night**

As part of Black History Month, Yavapai College students participated in a special movie night hosted by the YC Justice Institute and YC Respect Campaign on February 25.

🏠 A Story of Dedication and Justice – Students watched *Just Mercy*; a film based on the true story of a Harvard Law graduate who dedicated his career to providing free legal representation to those on death row who lacked proper defense.

🎓 Student Participation and Engagement – The event brought together 24 students from various courses, along with members of the community, offering an opportunity to learn about historical legal challenges and the role of advocacy in the justice system.

💬 A Meaningful Evening – Movie nights like this provide students with a chance to engage with different perspectives, reflect on historical events, and discuss the real-world impact of law and justice.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to this educational and thought-provoking evening!



- **AJS: YC Justice Institute Supports Positive Police-Community Engagement**

The Yavapai College Justice Institute continues its efforts to strengthen police and community relations through the Peace Officer Project. On March 5th and 6th, **Chief Tyran Payne** and **Jerald Monahan** provided comprehensive training to the entire Chino Valley Police Department, equipping officers and staff with tools to enhance engagement and collaboration within Yavapai County.

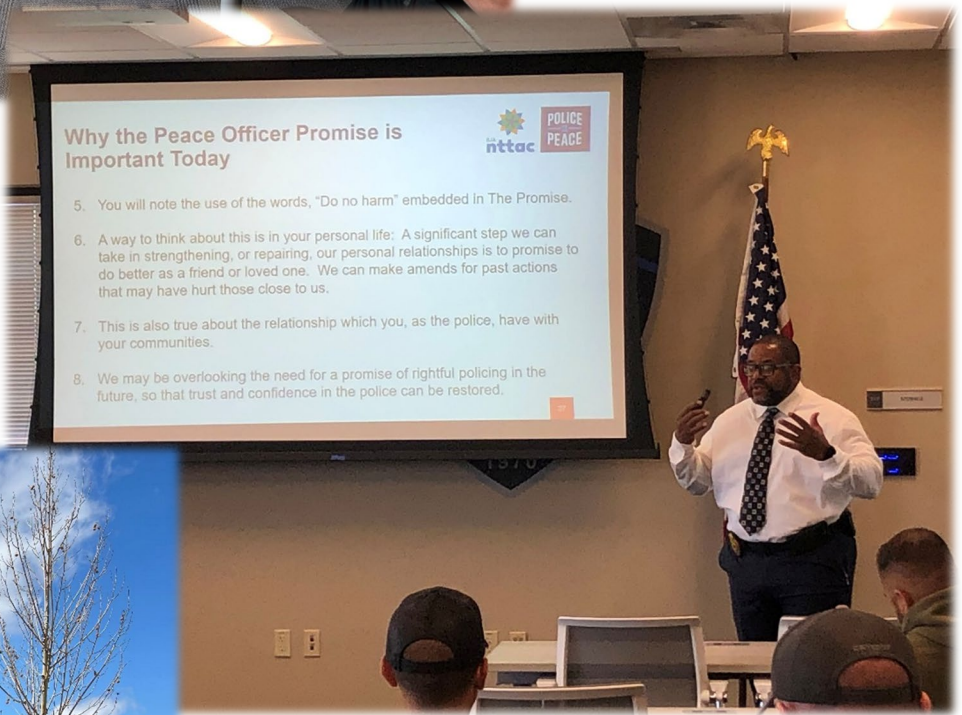
🎓 Encouraging Higher Education – As part of the training, Chief Payne and Monahan emphasized the value of continuing education, encouraging department employees to complete their Administration of Justice (AJS) AAS degrees at YC.

A Multi-Level Training Approach – The two-day training included:

- March 5: Leadership-focused training for police supervisors
- March 5 (Evening): Presentation to City Council members and the Town Manager
- March 6: Training for police officers and civilian staff
- March 6 (Afternoon): "Train the Trainer" session, allowing Chino Valley PD to sustain the program internally

This initiative reflects YC's commitment to professional development and community partnership, ensuring law enforcement agencies have the resources to foster positive engagement and long-term impact.

Side Note: Chief Payne's son is currently training at NARTA as a Chino Valley police recruit, continuing the family's dedication to public service.



Fire Sciences, Division 2

Fire Academy Update

- Transition to the Main campus is a huge success
- Equipment in Building 23 makes it more convenient to run the academy



Non Credit Classes – Fire Instructor

- Yavapai College leads the industry with the only fully online offering of Certified Fire Instructor.
- In the past 12 months we have certified over 150 fire service professionals as Instructors to include a national certification



Extrication Equipment Grant

- Yavapai College recently received a grant totaling over \$18,000 for the “Jaws of life” extrication tool.
- This state-of-the-art hydraulic tool allows for industry leading training at our fire academy



Recent Partnerships

- The Fire Science program has partnered with the Arizona Chapter of Arson Investigators to be their sole source for Fire Investigation – Level 1 training – Online.



Fire Instructor classes for Metro Valley Departments

- Yavapai College Fire Science has partnered with Gilbert Fire Department and Queen Creek Fire Department
- Yavapai College now provides Fire Instructor Certification Training for all GFD and QCFD Recruit Training Officer (RTO) staff.



Special Thank you to the Yavapai College ELT for their support. We deeply appreciate their time and dedication to help us educate current and future fire service professionals.

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

- **YC ABE Department Secures \$70,000 in Grant Funding for VESL CDL Students**

Exciting news for YC students training for careers in commercial driving! YC's Adult Basic Education (ABE) department has been awarded a \$70,000 IEL/CE+T (*Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education + Training*) supplemental grant through WIOA Title II Section 243 funds to support additional VESL (*Vocational English as a Second Language*) CDL students.

📈 Expanding Opportunities – Despite receiving less than the initial request, This funding will allow **40 additional students** to receive **English language support alongside CDL training**, providing critical training and language support to help them succeed in the trucking industry.

📊 Planning for Student Success – A revised annual budget is already in the works to ensure the funding directly benefits students and is used effectively.

This grant is another step toward helping YC students gain job-ready skills, complete their training, and move into high-demand careers. It strengthens YC's ability to support non-native English speakers in earning their CDL and accessing new career opportunities.



CDL Truck with CDL Instructors

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

- **Supporting Small Business Growth Across Yavapai County**

The Yavapai College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) continues to expand its efforts to empower entrepreneurs and support local businesses throughout the county. Recent initiatives highlight the impact of SBDC programs in fostering business success:

-  **New Business Growth:** Since October 1 (Federal Fiscal Year), SBDC has worked with clients to launch 32 new businesses and create 79 new jobs for Yavapai County residents.
-  **Showcasing Success:** A newly updated SBDC website now features a dedicated Success Stories page, highlighting entrepreneurs who have benefited from SBDC services.
-  **Entrepreneurial Training:** The first-ever DreamBuilder Cohort launched with over 20 registrations and 15 dedicated participants attending weekly to develop business plans, explore growth opportunities, and connect with additional support services.
-  **Access to Capital:** This month, SBDC is hosting Access to Capital Workshops in Wickenburg and Sedona, in partnership with Arizona Capital Source, to help small business owners navigate funding opportunities.

Through these initiatives, SBDC remains committed to strengthening Yavapai County's business community, offering guidance, resources, and training to help entrepreneurs thrive.

Regional Economic Development Center (REDC)



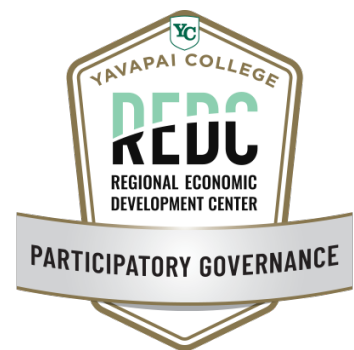
Highlights

REDC continues supporting new business development and economic leadership with education, workforce training, and job connections.

- **Micro-credentials**
Participatory Governance at Yavapai College

Yavapai College has officially launched its first-ever micro credential! Participants who completed the [REDC Participatory Governance](#) training were awarded a digital badge, marking a historic step in the college's commitment to professional development. Within just 12 hours of being awarded, analytics show that each badge was shared on at least two different social networks, expanding the reach and impact of this achievement across professional communities.

[Participatory Governance at Yavapai College - Yavapai College](#)



Career Services

Launch Pad Teen Center



<https://thelaunchpadteencenter.org/>

A two-part presentation project covering resume writing and mock interviews.

- **Prescott Valley Health Sciences Career Expo**

A successful Prescott Valley Health Sciences Career Expo! 14 registered businesses offering a total of 482 open positions in healthcare.



Prescott Valley Health Sciences Career Expo

- **Chino Valley Job Fair**

The Chino Valley Job Fair was a success! 34 businesses offering over 800 positions, with approximately 120 job seekers in attendance.

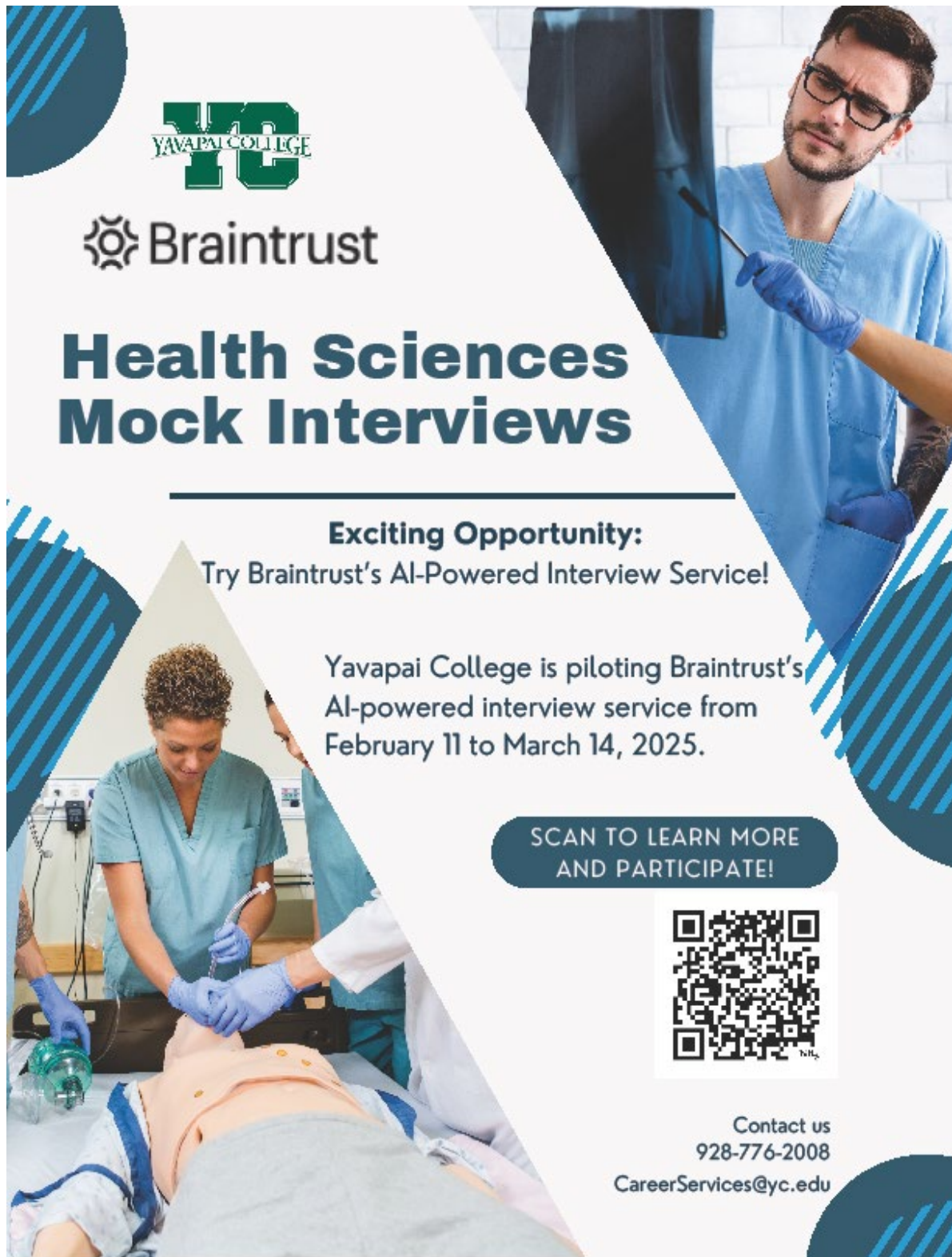


A representative from Congressman Crane's office visited with all employers, and County Supervisor Kuknyo served as our secret Best Practices judge.




Representative from Congressman Crane's Office and County Supervisor Kuknyo

- **Yavapai College and Braintrust Partnership**
Launched Test Pilot for AI Interview ChatBot to enhance student interview prep



YC
YAVAPAI COLLEGE


 **Braintrust**

Health Sciences Mock Interviews

Exciting Opportunity:
Try Braintrust's AI-Powered Interview Service!

Yavapai College is piloting Braintrust's AI-powered interview service from February 11 to March 14, 2025.

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
AND PARTICIPATE!**



Contact us
928-776-2008
CareerServices@yc.edu



REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

— at Yavapai College

Impact

YEAR TO DATE

2-2025

BY THE NUMBERS

FY 2025

CAREER
SERVICES

5

RECRUITMENT
EVENTS

687

JOB
SEEKERS

3,882

JOB
OPPORTUNITIES

GRANTS

\$3.8M

PROPOSALS

\$1.4M

AWARDS

WORKFORCE
TRAINING

20

TRAINING
SESSIONS

210

LEARNERS

QUEST
GRANT

153

SCHOLARSHIPS

312K

AMOUNT

79

COURSERA LICENSES

<https://www.ycredc.com/>

Division 4, Education, English, Humanities & Social Sciences

- **Tara O'Neill**, Professor of Education was selected as the administrator "2024-2025 League Excellence Award" recipient by Yavapai College's Executive Leadership Team. The Excellence Awards were created by the League for Innovation in the Community



College to celebrate outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff. Dr. O'Neill was nominated based on the following criteria:

- Contribution to the advancement of innovation and creativity in achieving college priorities (Belonging, Living Wage, Adult Learners and/or Delivery)
- Providing leadership through respectful and collegial participation in collegewide initiatives
- Exhibiting a spirit of innovation that goes 'above and beyond' what is expected
- Recognizing that our students are amazing and demonstrate a commitment to helping them reach their full potential
- Making a significant contribution to creating the right conditions to support learning at Yavapai College.

The Executive Leadership Team found Dr. O'Neill to have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to implementing Yavapai College's Strategic Plan through outstanding effort and leadership. The awards ceremony will take place at the League of Innovation Conference March 9-12, 2025, in San Antonio, TX.

- **An Pfister** and **Christina Goldsmith**, Adjunct English Faculty, are currently partnering with YC's library staff to complete the "Certificate in Open Pedagogy" through the University of Minnesota's Open Education Network. This program focuses on using open educational resources (OER) and open pedagogy practices to promote student agency, accessibility, and social justice in education.



Open Education Network
Center for Open Education
University of Minnesota
330 Wulling Hall
86 Pleasant Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN
55455

612-626-9252
open@umn.edu

- **Laura Cline**, Department Chair and Professor of English, completed the OER fundamentals course through OERizona. She also hosted the annual YC "Riders Read" program on February 21 and introduced visiting author, Sarah Gailey, who provided a YC student writing workshop and Prescott community presentation. Professor Cline also has an essay featured in *Becoming Real* from Regal House Publishing and was featured in an author reading and community workshop at Peregrine Books in Prescott.

- **Nichole Guzzo**, Department Chair and Professor of Psychology, was honored at YC's basketball home season finale games Saturday, February 22. She was called to center court and presented with a certificate of appreciation and a fancy YC basketball t-shirt. Nichole is pictured here with **Rodney Jenkins**, VP of Community Relations and Student Development and **Chelsea Lucas**, YC Volleyball Coach.



Division 5, Business



- Congratulations to Yavapai College's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter on their successful Winter Leadership Conference. On Saturday, February 15th, the students headed down to Phoenix College to compete in different events that included written tests, team events, and job interviews. We are so proud of all their work this year to make our chapter successful! Pictured below are winners of the 1st Place Job Interview, 3rd Place Foundations of Communication, 2nd Place Foundations of Economics, 1st Place Project Management, 1st Place Business Ethics and 1st Place Emerging Business Issue.



Library and Instructional Support

- Carrie Meakins-Farnsworth**, YC Open Educational Resources (OER) Librarian, was awarded the Curator of Open Discovery Award at the 2025 OERizona conference, for Open Education. This award recognizes Carrie's dedication to supporting OER initiatives and enhancing resource discovery, and the impact of her efforts have had on advancing open education, student affordability and equitable learning opportunities. Carrie serves faculty by locating OER for curriculum, serves pm the College OER Committee, and is a copyright first responder.
- On February 27th, the YC Library Immersive Learning, and the Respect Campaign presented Talk to Rosa Parts AI VR Experience in honor of Black History Month.

The YC Library,
Immersive Learning,
and the Respect
Campaign present:

Talk to Rosa Parks AI VR Experience

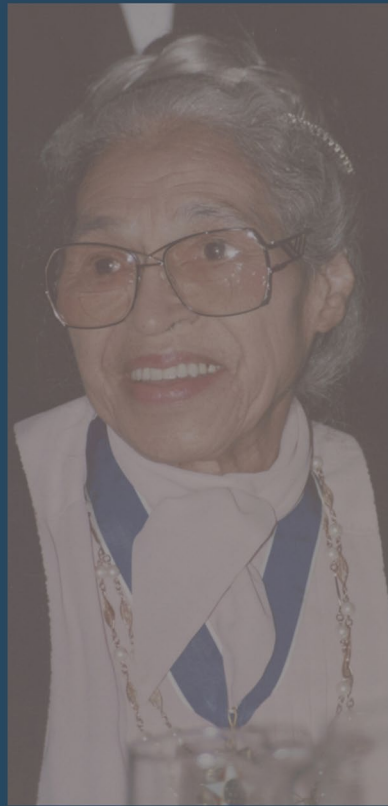
In honor of
Black History Month



February 27th

**Building 1, Room 207 X
Tutoring Services**

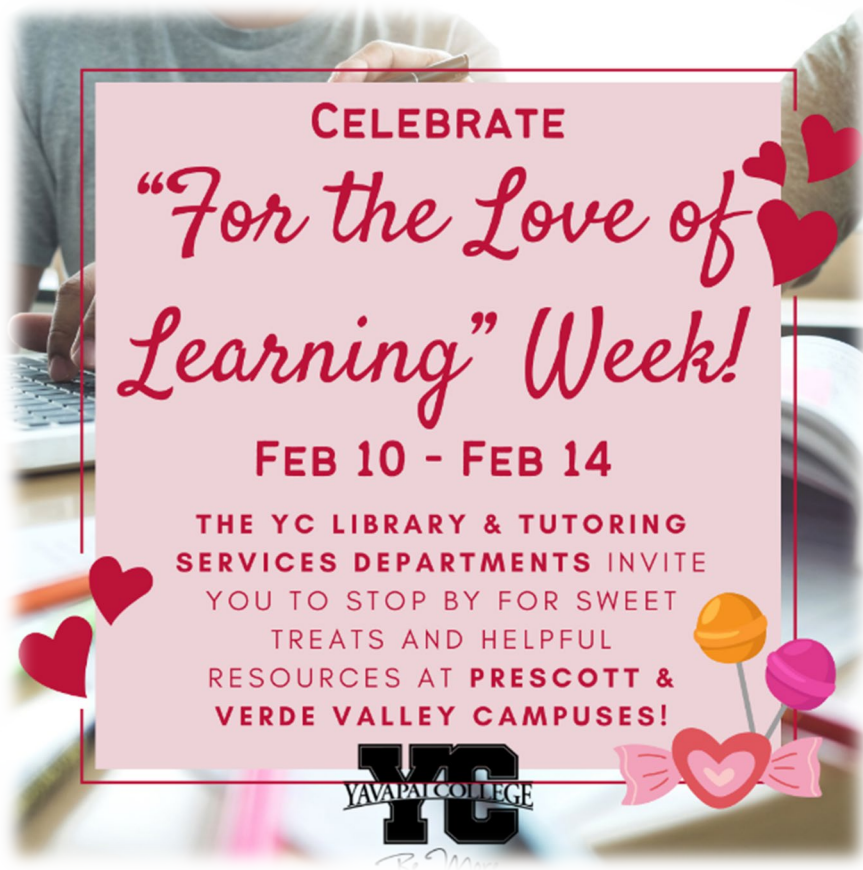
**Drop by anytime
between 10 am - 11 am**



Yavapai **LIBRARY**
COLLEGE
Prescott Campus & Verde Valley Campus

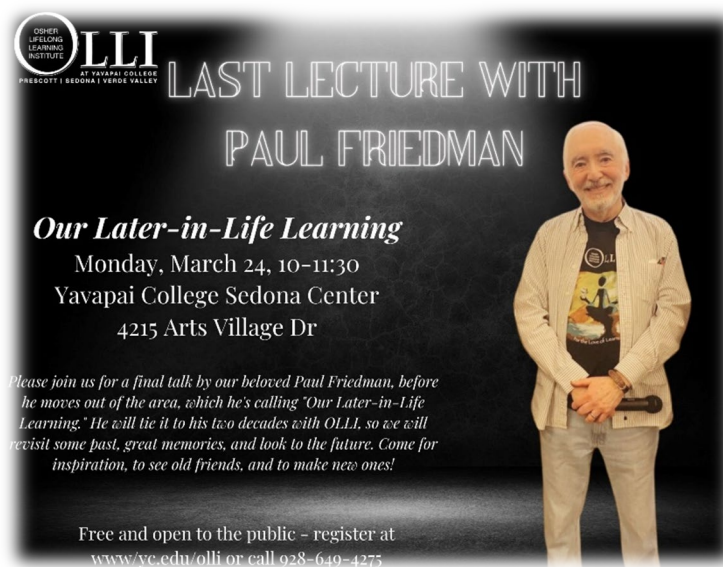
- Biology class from the Verde Valley used Virtual Reality to learn more about the structures of skin. Most students used headsets, but those with balance issues were able to use their laptops to participate.







- OLLI has a tradition of honoring retiring/moving away, long-time facilitators with inviting them to do a “Last Lecture.”



- OLLI is hosting a social event in Sedona with a local performance for Arvel Bird, who performs a blend of both Native American and Celtic music.



- OLLI podcast! Director **Tricia Berlowe** was interviewed by Marketing Specialist, **Cadu Medina**.



Welcome to the YC and You Podcast!
Join us each week for engaging
conversations with campus leaders,
students, faculty, staff, alumni, and...
[Show More](#)

YC & YOU - A Yavapai College Podcast

YCNU #0019: Exploring Lifelong Learning with Tricia Berlowe – The OLLI Program at Yavapai College

February 25, 2025 • Cast 11

[Share](#)



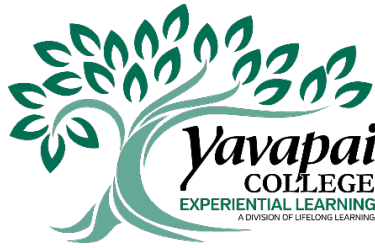
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[Show Notes](#)

- Spring Session OLLI Classes begin on April 7 in Prescott, Sedona, and the Verde Valley.



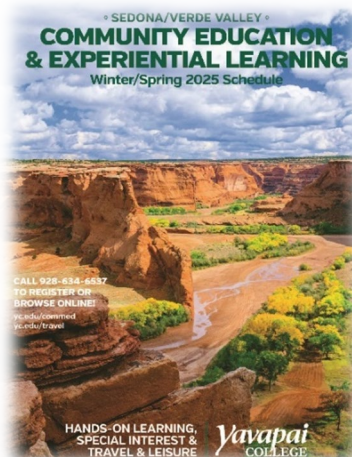


Community Education, College for Kids (C4K) & Experiential Learning Trips

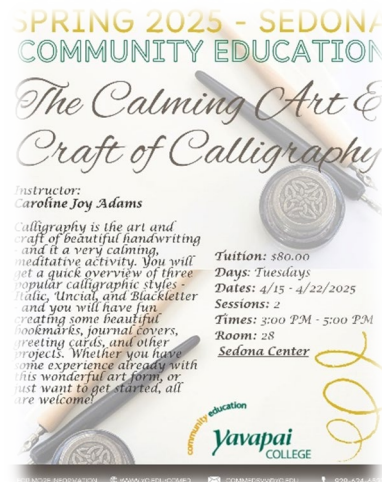
- Following in OLLI's footsteps, **Haley Green** and **Kathleen Freed** met with **Cadu Medina** in March to do an interview for the Yavapai College Podcast to represent Community Education, Experiential Learning-Trips & College for Kids.



- **Community Ed – Verde Valley & Sedona Spring '25 classes begin March 31.**
 - Building classes for Summer '25



- New Spring '25 course offerings include:
 - Intro to Mountain Biking
 - Students will have the opportunity to ride on the trails behind the Verde Campus with instructors who are well-recognized members of the cycling community in Cottonwood.
 - The Calming Art of Calligraphy



- Attended the annual Cottonwood Rec Center Expo event Saturday, March 8.
- Attending the Sedona Chamber of Commerce Annual Partner meeting with **Associate Dean Moghtader**.
- **Experiential Learning**
 - Trips are filled with wait lists for Winter/Spring '25 offerings.
 - Meeting with campus and areas partners to look at possibilities for expanding the current program.
 - The Experiential Learning Manager joined the March 1 trip to Diamond Creek along with participants from the Prescott and Verde Valley.

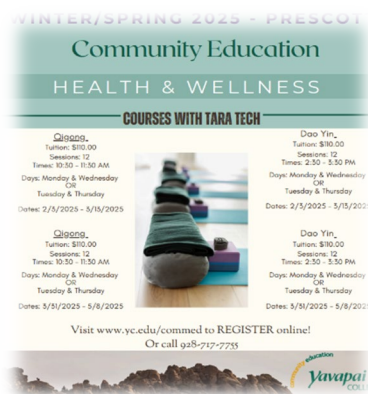


Community Education & College for Kids (C4K) - Prescott

- Community Education - Prescott Spring '25 classes begin March 31.



- This Spring '25, Qigong and Basics of Estate Planning are top sellers.



- College for Kids (C4K) - Prescott classes are built for this summer's June and July programs.
 - C4K online registration opens on April 7!



- Lifelong Learning Associate Dean Retires Effective February 28



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

Message from **Linda Shook, Associate Dean Lifelong Learning, Community Education, and Sedona Center**: 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 March 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.

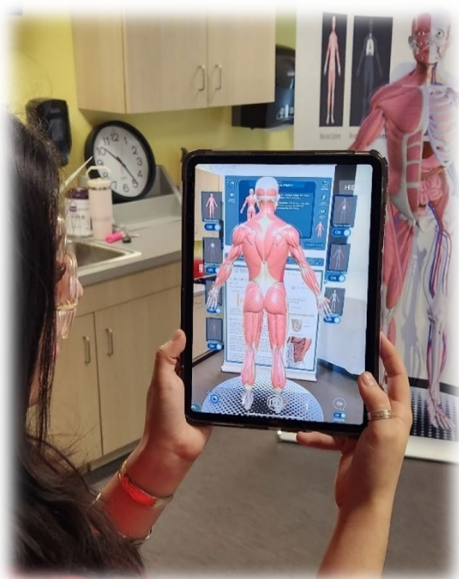
Verde Valley Campus

The bi-annual Pathways to Careers Exploratory Day event continues to grow in popularity, offering students a valuable opportunity to explore diverse career pathways. Held once each semester, the event evolves with each iteration to enhance the experience for attendees.



This semester, industry professionals were introduced in the Pavilion and at most tour stops, providing students with valuable insights and the opportunity to ask questions. Additionally, participation from local organizations increased, with representatives from ACF regional

leadership, the Yavapai County School Superintendent, Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Center for the Future of Arizona, Cottonwood Rotary and various scholarship committees in attendance.





2025 31st Sedona International Film Festival –
“Named one of the 25 coolest film festivals in the world 2024, by MovieMaker Magazine.”

The 31st Sedona International Film Festival, taking place in 2025, continues its legacy as a premier cinematic event, recently recognized by *MovieMaker Magazine* as one of the "25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World" for 2024. For the fifth consecutive year, Yavapai College will host the festival's exclusive VIP Lounge at the Sedona Center, offering a wonderful retreat for filmmakers, industry professionals, and special guests. Attendees can indulge in gourmet lunches crafted by local chefs, as well as evening wine tastings paired with exquisite tapas from regional wineries and restaurants. The festival also features engaging

film workshops, providing invaluable insights for aspiring and seasoned filmmakers alike, along with a dedicated media room for live-streamed interviews with producers, screenwriters, actors and other key figures in the industry. Beyond the film screenings and networking opportunities, the festival serves as a prime platform for showcasing in the form of advertising Yavapai College's programs, the Verde Valley Campus and Sedona Center, further strengthening its connection with the vibrant arts community.





The Verde Valley Wine Consortium curates a rotating selection of local wineries, allowing festival guests to experience the region's finest wines throughout the event. Complementing the wine tastings, a rotation of local caterers and restaurants take advantage of the Sedona Center's state-of-the-art commercial kitchen to craft and present their signature culinary bites, adding a flavorful touch to the festival's VIP experience.

