

# May 2025 Board Highlights

## CTEC Ruger Rd, Division 1

### Liz Peters Wins National Faculty Innovation Award




Yavapai College's own Elizabeth "Liz" Peters has been nationally recognized for her exceptional contributions to teaching and innovation—earning the 2025 **Faculty Innovation Award** from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Liz accepted this prestigious award at the AACC Awards of Excellence Gala on April 15 in Nashville, TN, recognizing her groundbreaking, hands-on teaching methods that put students at the center of real-world, tech-forward learning.

 Under her leadership, CTEC students are benefiting from:

- Virtual twins (digital copies) of lab trainers to enhance electronics training
- An expanded robotics lab for applied learning
- Restructuring degree pathways to align with Arizona universities and industry needs

 "When I brainstorm new ideas, I'm not thinking about innovation—I'm thinking about how to help my students succeed," Liz shared.

Since joining YC in 2014, Liz has served in numerous leadership roles—from chairing advisory boards and the Curriculum Committee to mentoring faculty and leading community STEM events. Her dedication is shaping programs that not only meet industry needs but also open exciting doors for YC students' futures.

🎓 “Liz epitomizes the student-centered faculty member,” said YC President Dr. Lisa Rhine. “It was an honor to be in Nashville to see her receive this well-deserved national recognition.”

## CTE Chino Valley, Division 1

### 🌱 **Rooted in Resilience: YC Horticulture Students Grow Against the Odds**

At The YC Chino Valley Center, horticulture students are cultivating more than crops—they're growing resilience, skill, and pride through years of hands-on learning in Arizona's high desert climate.

🍏 Student-grafted apple trees, originally planted in 2014 and grafted as early as 2012, have survived:

- Gopher damage and wildlife browsing
- A full year without irrigation
- The test of time—and are now blooming!



*October 5, 2014: First student plantings established in Horticulture Class. Trees grafted in 2012*



🌳 Though modest in size, these hardy trees represent years of dedication by students who grafted, planted, and continue to care for them as part of their education. Each bloom is a reminder of their hard work and a sign of fruit to come.



*Seed-grown rootstocks awaiting field planting and grafting by the follow-up classes*



*April 2025 One of the original trees, thriving and robust*



*Horticulture Class Annual orchard clean-up and work night!*



*Successful student grafts ready for field planting or sale*



*Water Management Students Repairing and extending orchard irrigation lines*





## Prescott Culinary Students Serve Up Skills, Showcases, and Local Partnerships

It's been a sizzling first semester in the brand-new kitchen at Prescott Culinary—and YC students are making the most of every opportunity to grow, create, and connect.

 Students impressed guests at two major spring events:

- Beautiful Bites Showcase (March)
  - Open House (May)
- At both, they prepared and served food while fielding questions from parents, faculty, admin, and community members—shining in both culinary skill and hospitality.

 Students also helped facilitate two off-site CTE Days for over 400 visiting students, sharing their passion and giving others a taste of the YC experience.

 Collaboration is heating up!

- CUL 102 students prepared fish sourced from the Chino Valley campus, with plans to incorporate student-grown produce this fall.
- CUL 104 students explored downtown Prescott during a culinary field trip, connecting with local chefs at Farm Provisions, Essence, and other Prescott Collective restaurants—many of whom are offering jobs and internships for YC students.
- Plans are also underway for student-led prep and production work supporting The Eatery this fall.

Prescott Culinary is off to a flavorful start—and after a well-earned summer break, even more delicious opportunities await!



### **Highlights from Prescott Culinary**

*From Beautiful Bites and CTE Days to our festive Open House, YC culinary students brought their skills to life—crafting stunning fruit tarts, elegant pâte à choux, and sweet treats for Valentine's Day*





### ***From Farm to Fork: Tilapia at Prescott Culinary***

*Students in CUL 102 got hands-on experience with tilapia sourced from the YC Chino Valley campus—learning to fillet fresh fish and prepare it for a beautiful whole-roasted presentation. A perfect example of campus collaboration and real-world skill building!*



## CTE Verde Valley, Division 1

### **Viticulture, Enology, and the Southwest Wine Center**

Yavapai College has named **Ryan Avery Follensbee** as the new Program Director of Viticulture & Enology Program and the Southwest Wine Center. A graduate of Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and a certified sommelier, Ryan brings a strong academic foundation and extensive industry experience to the role. He began his formal wine education in 2013 at Walla Walla Community College in Washington and has since worked across key wine regions in the U.S., including Sonoma, Ithaca, Eastern Washington, and Grand Junction, Colorado. His career includes research and supervisory positions in the Sonoma Valley, where he worked with Frei Brothers and Ernest & Julio Gallo wineries. He also taught Viticulture and Enology at Colorado Mesa University and has participated in multiple harvests across the country, combining fieldwork, production, and teaching expertise. Ryan joined the YC team in January 2025 as an Adjunct Faculty Instructor, teaching the Science of Winemaking II class, and will begin his new position as Program Director in June 2025.



*Ryan Avery Follensbee*

## Verde Valley Skilled Trades Center

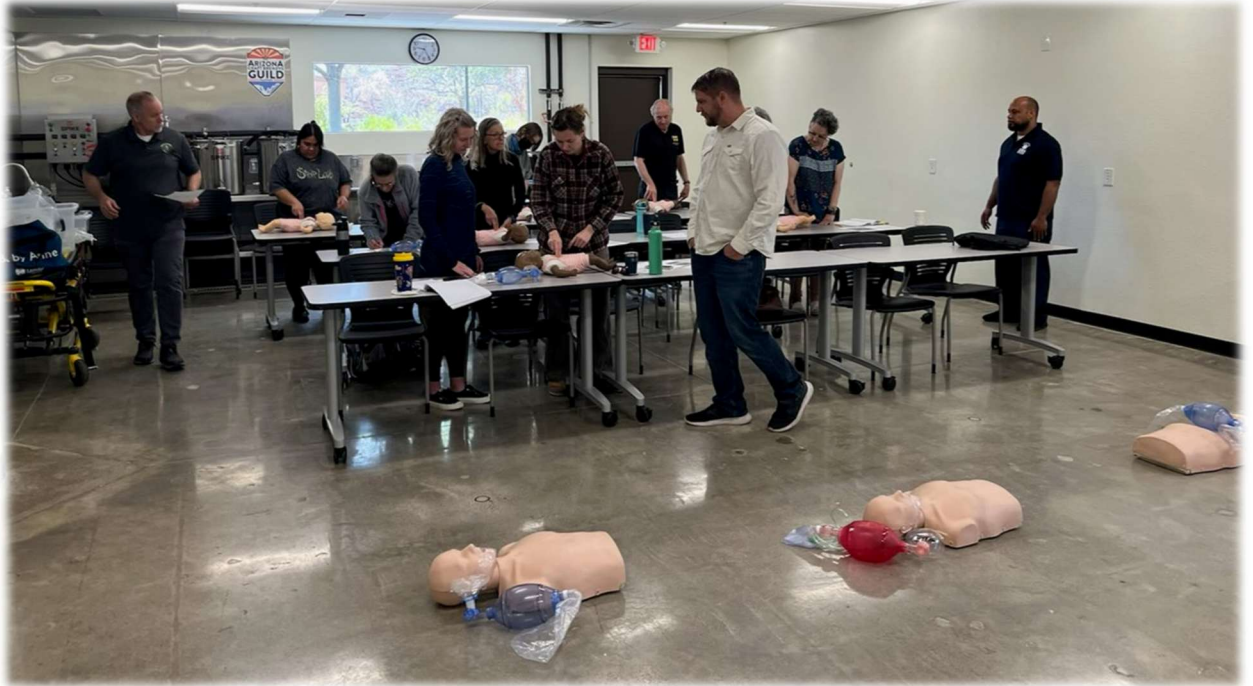
In Yavapai College's HVAC Mini Class, 7th and 8th grade students dove into the world of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning with expert instruction from our expert HVAC Faculty Instructor, James Morales. Through fun, hands-on activities, students explored real-world HVAC concepts in an engaging and approachable way. This class is part of YC's Mini Class Program, designed to spark career curiosity and provide an exciting glimpse into Career & Technology fields!





## CPR & AED Training at the Verde Valley Campus

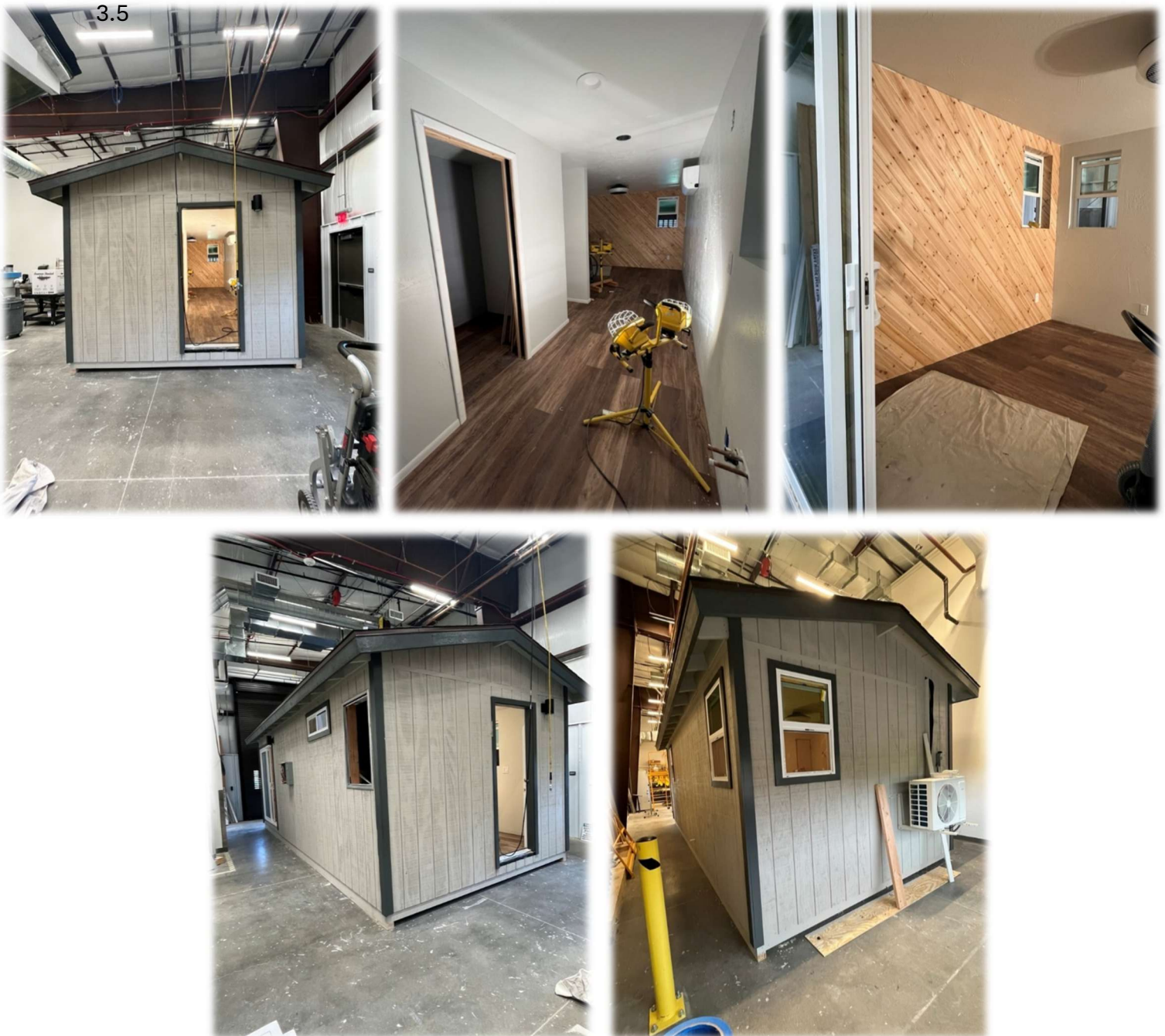
On April 8, 2025, Yavapai College EMS instructors led a hands-on CPR and AED Training class at the Verde Valley Campus, welcoming both community members and YC employees. The session emphasized the life-saving importance of knowing how to properly administer CPR and use an AED in emergency situations. Participants engaged in practical training and skill-building exercises designed to boost confidence and preparedness. Those who successfully completed the course will be awarded official certification, equipping them to respond effectively in critical moments.






## Tiny House Construction

Tiny House Construction: Students are now wrapping up their work on this year's tiny house build, marking the culmination of a hands-on project that began in the fall. Throughout the academic year, Carpentry students led the construction process, with Residential Electric, Plumbing, and HVAC students contributing their expertise at each stage—applying what they've learned directly to the build. A project like this equips students with the real-world skills and abilities needed in today's skilled trades workforce. These classes prepare students for high-demand careers, whether they are just entering the industry, already working in the field, or building on their skills to advance professionally.



## Culinary

The Sedona School of Culinary hosted another sold-out, smash-hit Artisan Bread Making – Sourdough class on March 29, 2025, led by the talented Chef Gabe Gardner. In this engaging recreational class, participants embraced the art of slow, intentional baking—from nurturing a living sourdough starter to shaping flavorful, hand-crafted loaves—while savoring a delicious chef-made mid-class meal paired with a glass of Southwest Wine Center wine, produced by Yavapai College’s Viticulture & Enology students. Each attendee left inspired, taking home both the bread they made during class and their own sourdough starter kit to continue the craft at home.

 On the academic side of the Culinary Program, students in the CUL 103 - Culinary Fundamentals: Breakfast & Garde Manger classes have been diving into the art of sandwich making. Led by our expert Adjunct Faculty Instructor, Chef Michael Merilli, students are mastering every element of sandwich preparation and accompaniments, from breads and spreads to fillings and garnishes. In culinary education, garde manger refers to the station and chef responsible for crafting cold dishes—such as sandwiches, salads, hors d’oeuvres, and cold appetizers—while focusing on key techniques like mise en place, presentation, and proper storage. Sandwiches, both hot and cold, play a central role in this foundational area of culinary training.











## Highlights

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

## Training Programs from REDC

The **Regional Economic Development Center (REDC)** is excited to announce a series of **low-cost trainings** designed to empower people with real-world skills that make a difference.

**REDC** REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
— at Yavapai College

### Enhance Your Skills

**Project Management: PMBOK 6th Edition**

Master the essentials of project management with practical tools and insights from the PMBOK® Guide - 6th Edition. Learn how to lead projects efficiently, avoid common pitfalls, and drive results.

- Scope** - Define and control what's included in the project. ✓
- Schedule** - Plan timelines and keep your project on track. ✓
- Risk** - Identify and manage potential issues before they happen. ✓

**> Enroll Now!**

For More Information  
[www.redc.com](http://www.redc.com)

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**REDC** REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
— at Yavapai College

### Managing Personal Finances

Take Control of Your Finances! Tired of living paycheck to paycheck? Drowning in debt? It's time for a change. Join our free course and get the tools to reduce debt, build a budget that works, and create real financial stability.

- Set clear financial goals
- Cut unnecessary expenses
- Build and stick to a realistic budget

Simple steps. Real results. Let's get your money working for you!

**REGISTER NOW!**

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**REDC** REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
— at Yavapai College

### Leadership & Influence

*Lead with clarity. Inspire with confidence.*

Great leaders aren't born—they emerge through intention, action, and growth. Discover the mindset and skills that elevate everyday influence into lasting impact.

Learn to:

- Identify your unique leadership style
- Influence with purpose
- Grow with a clear action plan

Step forward. Take the lead.

**Register Now!**

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[www.ycredc.com](http://www.ycredc.com)

**REDC** REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
— at Yavapai College

## CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING

**SERVE BETTER, SUCCEED TOGETHER**

Customer service is essential in every role, whether you're directly interacting with customers or supporting those who do. This course will equip you with key skills to improve service, handle challenges, and build lasting relationships.

**Training Highlights:**

- Understand customer service for both internal and external customers
- Develop effective communication techniques for in-person, phone, and online interactions
- Learn to manage difficult customers and turn service into repeat business



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**REDC** REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
— at Yavapai College



## CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING

Conflict is inevitable, but how we handle it can make all the difference. This course will teach you a proven conflict resolution process and essential skills for managing anger, building solutions, and finding common ground.

- Learn a step-by-step process for resolving conflicts
- Understand the five conflict resolution styles
- Use effective communication tools like the Agreement Frame



*Scan me*

**REGISTER NOW!**

# Katherine Anderson Named AAED Workforce Practitioner of the Year

Katherine Anderson, Career Services Manager at Yavapai College's REDC, has been honored as *Workforce Practitioner of the Year* by AAED for her outstanding impact in workforce development. She also serves as Vice Chair of AAED's Arizona North Committee, leads the Yavapai County Economic Resource Alliance, and is State Co-Chair for the Arizona Women in Higher Education Association.

REDC is proud of Katherine and the difference she's making across our region and state.





# Career Services

## Prescott Job Fair – April 2025

"The Prescott Job Fair was a major success, bringing together nearly 300 job seekers and 55 employers from across the region. With over 2,000 jobs available, the event served as a meaningful bridge for professional growth, community connection, and local economic development—all in one impactful day."

"A representative from Congressman Crane's office attended the event to meet with constituents and learn about additional services that may be needed. Corey Christians, Director and County Librarian, served as our secret Best Practices judge. We also appreciated the presence of staff from the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Economic Security, members of the Workforce Development Board, and leadership, faculty, and staff from Yavapai College—all supporting the goals of this initiative. Employers expressed appreciation for the event, and we observed strong engagement between businesses and job seekers throughout the day. In the coming weeks, we'll follow up with both groups to gather data on potential job offers and identify ways to better serve our community."



Prescott Job Fair-April 2025

# The Sedona Center at Yavapai College presents the first-ever Creative and Healing Art Festival!

Join us for a vibrant celebration of self-expression, creativity, and wellness through the arts. This unique event—one of its kind—features local artists, interactive workshops, and inspiring talks focused on the healing power of creativity. Whether you're an artist, a healer, or simply curious, come connect, explore, and be inspired.

**SEDONA CENTER AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE**  
**PRESENTS THE**  
*Creative and Healing Arts Festival*

**Date:** May 21st, 2025  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Yavapai College Sedona Center  
4215 Arts Village Dr, Sedona

**Celebrate Our Region's  
Health, Wellness, and Creative Arts!**  
Explore a vibrant gathering of over 20 vendors and local businesses dedicated to supporting your well-being and creativity.  
At the event, you can:

- ✓ **Discover** and shop wellness-inspired products
- ✓ **Experience** hands-on demonstrations and services
- ✓ **Connect** with local experts in health, fitness, and the arts
- ✓ **Enjoy** a fun, community-centered atmosphere

Limited Number of Vendor Spaces Still Available:  
**Register to Showcase Today:** [bit.ly/SedonaCenter](https://bit.ly/SedonaCenter)  
**Questions?**  
**Contact:**  
[katherine.anderson@yc.edu](mailto:katherine.anderson@yc.edu)  
928-776-2008









# May 2025 Board Highlights

## Evening of the S.T.A.R.s Honors Yavapai College's Best and Brightest

– Reported By JJ McCormack, Marketing Assistant III

Prescott, Arizona (April 24, 2025) – Yavapai College is awash with star students who bring their A-game to class. They show up, push through adversity, and defy mediocrity to prove to themselves and others they can be more.

But like the stars that blanket the night sky, there are students at the YC Prescott and Verde Valley campuses who outshine even their most stellar classmates. Those extraordinary students were feted during the Evening of STARS on April 22. The awards ceremony honoring the best and brightest across academic disciplines drew twenty-eight honorees and their biggest fans to the Jim and Lee Performing Art Center. The ceremony was emceed with a potent mix of laugh-out-loud levity, unabashed YC marketing and high esteem for the star students by YC Spanish **Professor Dr. Curtis Kleinman**.

“Achievements recognized tonight required students to reach in deep, sacrifice and commit to excellence in their work... Your tremendous potential is very clearly reflected in your accomplishments. We are so fortunate that Yavapai College has been part of your journey and personal story,” said **YC President Dr. Lisa Rhine**, welcoming the star students and their well-wishers.

Dr. Rhine returned to the stage for the finale, the presentation of the college's highest academic honor, the President's Award, to business bachelor's degree student **Nicholas “Nic” Clower**.



An award-winning member and vice president of the YC Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter and a valuable member of the Roughrider Ambassadors, Nic was singled out by not one, but five YC faculty and staff members for, among other things, earning straight As, for his leadership and professionalism, for exceeding expectations “in every way,” for lifting up fellow students, and for “fostering a sense of community and connection on campus.”

Nic said later that the President’s Award means a lot to him, “especially considering that it originated from many of the amazing people who I have gotten the privilege of working with in some way since I’ve been at Yavapai College. I have never been this involved or felt this welcomed by a community before, and I am going to miss it when I go on to university at the end of the year.”

After finishing his business bachelor’s degree at YC in the fall, Nic plans to pursue a master’s degree and become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). His career goal is to own his own accounting firm.

The next highest academic honor presented at the Evening of STARS, the Provost’s Award, and delivered by **YC Provost Dr. Doug Berry**, went to aspiring teacher **Tessa Classen-Pierce**. An education student at YC, **Education Program Director Dr. Tara O’Neill** and **Education Professor Heather Leavitt** nominated Tessa. They said of Tessa: “We have been consistently impressed by her dedication, leadership and commitment to both her academic and extracurricular endeavors... Tessa is always willing to ask questions, collaborate with peers and take the lead on projects.”





Like Nic, Tessa is a valuable member of the Roughrider Ambassadors. She is also President of the Future Teachers Club, secretary of the student Food Pantry, and is active in the YC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa college honor society.

Tessa said receiving the provost award filled her with “immeasurable gratitude.” She credited O’Neill and Leavitt for fostering her academic success and thanked Dr. Berry for his mentorship while both were members of the Students of Leadership cohort. After graduating from YC this spring, Tessa plans to continue her education studies at Northern Arizona University. While she aims to spend part of her career in a classroom, Tessa said she is keen to one day work in higher education in a student engagement role.

In his remarks during the Evening of STARS, Dr. Berry said, “Let’s go forward tonight inspired by the remarkable achievements of our STARS, emboldened by their discipline, persistence and focus, and empowered to live with purpose and compassion in all that we do.”



### Division three, Film and Media Arts

- **Helen Stephenson**, Director of the Film and Media Arts (FMA) program, is proud to report two Film and Media Arts (FMA) students were hired to work on their first feature film in April. The movie was *Goblins II*. The director was thrilled with the students' work ethic and knowledge. **Dr. Marylou Mercado** granted permission to film on a Sunday at the Prescott Valley Center hospital setting which is the most difficult location to access, as you can imagine! The students gave us permission to share a few photos.





## Division four, Osher Lifelong Learning (OLLI), Community Education and Experiential Learning Trips Prescott, Verde, and Sedona



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

- Director **Tricia Berlowe** presented at the Osher National Conference in Washington DC in April. Charlie Blum, Vice Chair of the Sedona Leadership Council, also attended. Pictured below, Tricia got a photo with philanthropist Bernard Osher, who is 97 years young!



- OLLI's first International Travel to the Canadian Maritimes, is sold out for Oct 3-11, 2025. They are launching our second trip, to Ireland, with an informational meeting on May 22. OLLI is fortunate to have a long-time member, **Deb Dillon**, who has moved to Ireland with her husband. She helped plan our custom trip to Ireland for May 2026.

**OLL I**  
Travel With OLL I

## Ireland: Traditions of the Emerald Isle

**May 23 - June 1, 2026**

Your tour package includes: 8 nights in handpicked hotels, 8 breakfasts, 4 dinners, 1 liquor tasting, 7 sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights:  
St. Patrick's Cathedral, The EPIC Museum, Kilkenny Castle, Rock of Cashel, Cobh Heritage Centre, Cork, Blarney Castle, Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, The Burren, Teeling Whiskey Distillery

Specially curated, custom tour by our own Deb Dillon, who will be accompanying us on the tour! We are calling this "Travel with Tricia to Destination Deb!" Two-day extension to Belfast is also offered.

Map of Ireland showing the tour route: Dublin, Galway, Cliffs of Moher & The Burren, Ring of Kerry, County Kerry, Blarney Castle, County Cork, Muckross Castle, Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny, and Belfast Extension.

- Summer Session classes for OLLI begin on June 9 in Prescott, and June 23 Sedona, and the Verde Valley.

**OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE**

**OLL I**  
AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE

## PRESCOTT SUMMER 2025

Classes for Curious Adults!

**June 9 - July 24**

Registration opens May 14

[www.yc.edu/olli](http://www.yc.edu/olli)

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## SEDONA VERDE VALLEY SUMMER 2025

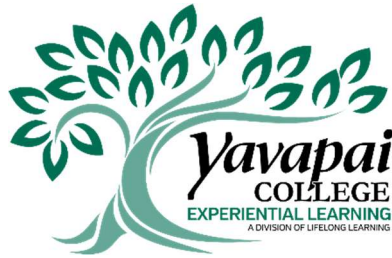
Classes for Curious Adults!

**June 23 - July 28**

Registration opens May 14

[www.yc.edu/olli](http://www.yc.edu/olli)





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

- **Our first official podcast!** Program Leads, Kathleen Freed and Haley Green, were interviewed by the fantastic **Cadu Medina** of the **YC & You Podcast**.



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](#)

### YCN#0028: Lifelong Learning and Community Connections with Haley Green and Kathleen Freed

April 09, 2025 • Cast 11

[Share](#)



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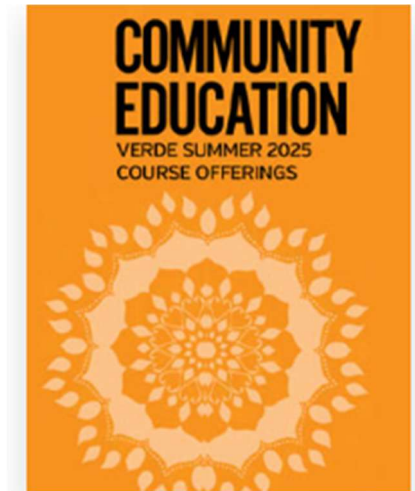
[Show Notes](#)



- Program leads met with Printing Services to explore the possibility of sending a yearly postcard to households in the Prescott and Verde Valley areas to increase enrollment.

## **Community Education - Verde/Sedona**

- Community Ed – Verde Valley & Sedona Spring 2025 ended May 10.
  - Summer 2025 registration opened April 8
  - Experiential Learning Manager completed CPR / AED training for the Community Ed and Experiential Learning programs.
  - Outreach:
    - Attended April 17 Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce mixer.
    - Attended May 14 Volunteer Expo in Sedona



## **Experiential Learning Trips - Prescott & Verde/Sedona**

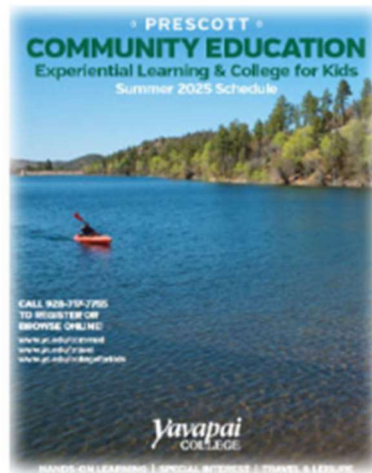
- Experiential Learning
  - 77% of Winter / Spring '25 trips offered ran.
  - The Canyon de Chelly overnight trip on May 7 & 8 was a success.
    - The next trip to Canyon de Chelly scheduled for September is almost full.
  - Hiring new instructors and building more programming for Fall '25
  - Meeting with Camp Way to investigate the possibility of adding programming at Prescott Pines.





## Community Education - Prescott

- Community Education - Prescott Spring '25 classes ended May 20. Summer '25 registration opened April 8.



## College 4 Kids - Prescott

- College for Kids (C4K) - Prescott online registration opened on April 7
  - 178 student enrollments to date; with most classes full
  - 4K Scholarships awarded; with 3K pending.



### **Division of Lifelong Learning News**

- OLLI, Community Ed/C4Ks, and Experiential Learning all participated in this year's Yavapalooza w/Bubbles & Bocce. (And it snowed in April!)







(



- Division members toured Prescott Pines on April 23 to consider how we can collaborate.



## Division five, Business, Science Computer Science and Math

- The School of Business at Yavapai College recently hosted a special celebration event to honor and recognize the outstanding students, mentors, and internship supervisors who participated in the Mentorship and Internship Program for the academic year. The event, which took place on the Prescott campus, was an opportunity for the college and greater community to come together and celebrate the invaluable contributions of mentors and supervisors who helped guide students through their professional growth.

The evening began with heartfelt remarks from **Dr. Doug Berry**, Provost, who highlighted the vital role mentorship plays in shaping the next generation of leaders by guiding students' career paths and offers invaluable insights from experienced professionals who have already successfully navigated the business world. Dr. Berry also conveyed deep appreciation for the mentors, internship supervisors, faculty, advisors, and staff who were instrumental in supporting students' growth and success throughout the program.

**Lauri Dreher**, Associate Dean of the School of Business, illustrated the significant impact of multigenerational mentorship, emphasizing how it encourages the exchange of wisdom and innovative ideas, which is essential in shaping students into impactful leaders in the business world. She expressed pride in Yavapai College's programs, which foster a mutually enriching relationship where students and industry experts collaborate to tackle challenges, share valuable insights, and navigate the complexities of their respective fields.

*SCORE Mentor, Dick Milon, attended the event with Mentee, Ashley Darling.*





The event underscored the School of Business's ongoing commitment to providing students with the experience and mentorship opportunities needed to succeed in the business world. Through the Mentorship and Internship Program, students gain invaluable real-world experience while building relationships with professionals who are invested in their growth and success. The School of Business at Yavapai College is dedicated to preparing students for successful careers in business through rigorous academic programs, firsthand learning experiences, and meaningful mentorship opportunities. The Mentorship and Internship Program is an integral part of the school's mission to connect students with experienced professionals who can provide guidance, career development, and insight into the ever-evolving business landscape.

- **School of Business Hosts Engaging Spring Faculty Retreat**

On Saturday, April 26, the School of Business held its semi-annual Faculty Team Retreat on the Prescott Campus, bringing together 17 full-time and adjunct faculty members for a full day of professional development, collaboration, and community-building. The retreat, themed *"Building a Unified Faculty Community with Shared Standards and Practices,"* ran from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and included dynamic sessions on student demographics, innovation in instructional tools, regular and substantive interaction (RSI), and strategies for building presence in online classrooms.

Led by **Associate Dean Lauri Dreher** and Faculty **Program Director Dr. Megan Hanna**, the day featured hands-on activities, lively discussions, and a working lunch focused on practical application of new strategies. Faculty left the retreat energized and aligned as they prepared for the next academic year. The School of Business will host its next retreat on September 20, 2025.



## School of Business Represents YC at Ace Hardware Health Fair

On Tuesday, April 15, faculty from the Yavapai College School of Business participated in the annual Ace Hardware Distribution Center Health Fair in Prescott Valley.

Representing the college were **Dr. Fahim Mazumdar**, **Dr. Aderemi Adedokun**, and **Dr. Brett Watts**, who connected with more than 150 attendees to promote YC's Business programs, including Accounting, Management, and the Bachelor of Science in Business.

This ongoing partnership has yielded direct results. Several Ace Hardware employees have enrolled in Yavapai College following previous events. The School of Business's consistent presence continues to build meaningful relationships with local industry and showcases YC's commitment to accessible, career-focused education that supports workforce development in our community.



## School of Business Faculty Win Arizona Veteran Small Business of the Year

Congratulations to **Dr. Brett Watts**, Associate Professor of Economics & Business, and **Raynald Bédard**, new Adjunct Faculty member in the School of Business, for receiving the 2025 Arizona Veteran Small Business of the Year award from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The award was presented as part of National Small Business Week during the AZBizCon 2025 event in Phoenix.

Watts and Bédard are co-owners of True Course Simulations (TCS), a Prescott-based business developing extended reality flight training simulators used across the globe in education and military sectors. Both are military veterans—Watts served in the U.S. Air Force, and Bédard in the Canadian Air Force—and bring real-world innovation and



global reach to their local business and their classrooms. Their leadership reflects the high-caliber, workforce-driven experience that defines Yavapai College's School of Business.



## Library and Instructional Support

- The Teaching and eLearning Support (TeLS) department has been busy this semester. Our staff has been managing the rollout of the college's Digital Micro Credentialing program. Our instructional designers are preparing for the new Bachelor's in Computer Science degree program, working with the program director and subject matter experts in the design and development of these upper-level courses. We also support the design and development of Online Educational Resources (OER) courses, as well as playing a key role the Elev8 with eight initiatives going forward, much of the support for which is launching at the Summer Institute teaching and learning event on the Prescott Campus May 15th.

## Verde Valley Campus

- The Patty McMullen-Mikles Art Gallery Artist Reception Semi-Annual Spring Student Art Exhibition took place from April 1- to May 8<sup>th</sup>. This group exhibition includes students in Drawing, Painting, Ceramics and Jewelry programs.



- **CPR/AED TRAINING**

For the second consecutive year, the Verde Valley Campus successfully hosted a sold-out Basic Life Support class, open to faculty, staff, local municipalities, and the public. Offered in collaboration with certified American Heart Association and Basic Life Support instructors, the course provides essential training on recognizing emergency situations, performing CPR and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), all reinforced through firsthand demonstrations.

A poster for CPR/AED training at Yavapai College. The top half features a grayscale photo of a person lying down with a training mannequin on their chest. The Yavapai College logo is in the top left. A large red banner across the middle contains the title 'CPR/AED TRAINING' in white and black text. The bottom half is divided into two columns: the left column lists training details and topics, while the right column provides the date, time, location, and fee. A QR code for registration is in the bottom right, with a note about limited capacity.

**YAVAPAI COLLEGE**  
*Be More*

# CPR/AED TRAINING

Training provided by  
American Heart Association (AHA)  
& Basic Life Support (BLS)  
instructors

*Training includes:*

- Learn how to identify emergency situations
- Introduction to Basic Life Support
- Learn the basics of CPR
- Introduction to using an AED
- Hands-on demonstrations
- Available to YC Employees & Public participants

**Tuesday, April 8th, 2025**  
9:00am to 12:30pm  
Yavapai College - Verde Valley Campus  
Building G, Room 111  
601 Black Hills Drive  
Clarkdale, AZ. 86324

**\$35.00 certification fee**

**Scan QR or register @**  
**[www.yc.edu/cpraed](http://www.yc.edu/cpraed)**



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Limited Capacity. Registration Required.



- **Verde Valley Superintendent's Meeting hosted by Yavapai College Verde Valley Campus**

In April, Yavapai College's Verde Valley Campus had the privilege of hosting the monthly Verde Valley Superintendents' Meeting. These meetings, organized by the Yavapai County Education Service Agency, bring together leaders from educational institutions across the county and are hosted in rotation by different school locations each month.

- How do I use this thing? **Karly Way Schauwecker's** Psychology Students served as "Tech Tutors" for OLLI Members recently. This was a "back by popular demand" event and OLLI member are already asking when the students will schedule it again in the fall!

