

District Governing Board Highlights

May 2025

Student Engagement and Leadership (SEL)



Yavapalooza Recap

Yavapalooza 2025 brought the fun—and the community showed up in a big way! We welcomed **1,089 attendees** this year, including **905 guests** and **184 amazing volunteers**, making it one of our most vibrant celebrations yet.

The event featured **26 carnival-style games**, **6 food trucks**, and sweet treats like cotton candy, Dippin' Dots, and freshly brewed coffee. Eleven Yavapai College departments and divisions sponsored five bouncy houses and a variety of interactive games, adding to the non-stop energy throughout the evening. Residence Life brought color with a crowd favorite: a HUGE Tie-Dye Pit experience.

The vibe was elevated by local DJ entertainment from Digital Realm Studios, with beats by Josh Orlando (Owner), and a dynamic live performance by Colby Jeffers, Valley Rapper sponsored by the Baha'i Association.

Thanks to incredible community support, the event remained completely **FREE** for youth 18 and under, promoted through radio spots, banners, posters, and the generosity of 9 community sponsors.

All proceeds from Yavapalooza will directly benefit YC Student Resources, including the YC Food Pantry, IShelter+, and other essential student support programs.



The event was thoughtfully planned and executed by the Student Engagement and Leadership Team—Janice Souttee and Mary Rizk—alongside the incredible Roughrider Ambassadors (see *photo*) who brought energy, creativity, and heart to every detail.

📷 Visit our **Gallery of Photos**
www.yc.edu/yavapalooza to relive the fun!



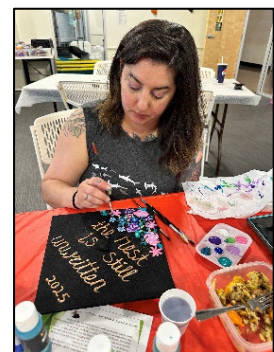
Student Engagement and Leadership partnered with the REDC's Katherine Anderson to share with YC graduates, staff and faculty on how to build a professional LinkedIn profile! Here are some statistics that Katherine shared with attendees:

- 7 people are hired every minute on LinkedIn.
- You are 4x more likely to be hired at a company where you have LinkedIn connections.
-

Mortarboard Deco Party



SEL sponsored a graduation celebration in style by supplying graduates with items to decorate their graduation CAP and treated them with CAKE (Pancakes).



Congratulations To all YC Graduates!

Yavapai College Student Government Association

Introduction Announcement!

Executive Leadership for 2025-2026

Our new SGA President, Talia Yazzie, looks forward to facilitating a supportive environment in which every student feels heard and valued. She is excited to collaborate with her peers to implement new initiatives and will provide innovative solutions that will improve the experiences of the YC student body.

Our new Vice President, Samuel Ogunrinu, he is an effective communicator who will listen to student concerns and will seek to foster collaborative environments in which he can help connect students to the administration and where their voices will be heard and taken seriously.

Our new Secretary is Jocelyn Tavares. Her strong time management skills and attention to detail will help streamline meetings as she efficiently documents the minutes and maintains transparency with her team and the students. She seeks to keep everyone engaged and informed and looks forward to collaborating with her peers.

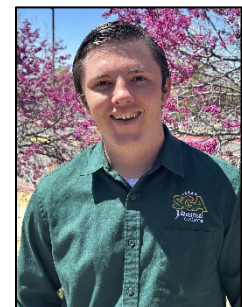
Our new Treasurer is Alyssa Bullock. She is well equipped to oversee SGA funds as she has a strong understanding of finances. She prioritizes accountability and will ensure that student funds are allocated appropriately. She is excited to set an example and distinguish herself as a role model for students.



Jackson James | Summer Intern for U.S. Senator Mark Kelly

Jackson James, Vice President of the Yavapai College 2025 Student Government Association, has been selected for a prestigious summer internship with U.S. Senator Mark Kelly in Washington, D.C. This in-person opportunity runs from June 2 to August 1, 2025, and provides Jackson with a front-row seat to the legislative process and the inner workings of the U.S. Senate.

Jackson's path to leadership has been far from easy. Raised in a challenging environment and facing mental health struggles, academic setbacks, and discouragement from educators, he was once told he would not make it through high school—let alone college. But with unwavering determination and the steadfast support of



his grandmother, Jackson turned his life around. Now a student leader, he is committed to using his voice to uplift others who feel unseen or unheard.

“I was supposed to become a statistic,” Jackson shares. “Instead, I became a voice.” His story is a testament to resilience, second chances, and the power of belief. As he prepares to take his passion to Capitol Hill, Jackson remains grounded in his mission: to remind others that they, too, can overcome and lead.

Academically, Jackson is thriving and has his sights set on transferring to a university, where he plans to pursue a dual major. One concentration will be in Probability and Statistics, and the other will be an interdisciplinary study of Philosophy, Law, and Politics. He is passionate about applying his education in ways that create positive change and deepen his understanding of both the human experience and the systems that govern society.

Students of Leadership (SOL)



This year, the Students of Leadership (SOL) program embarked on a transformative journey that began with our September Meet and Greet, where new and returning students



connected over shared goals and aspirations. We climbed higher—literally and figuratively—during the President’s Retreat on Mount SOL, setting the tone for a year grounded in self-discovery, trust, and purpose. Students earned their Certified Peer Educator micro-credential through hands-on training that strengthened their mentoring and communication skills.

Throughout the year, our community came together through impactful experiences like the Outward Mindset workshop, the Community Food Gathering, and writing Letters from SOL to inspire and uplift others. We also

proudly expanded the SOL Bricks Pathway, adding engraved bricks to honor the achievements and contributions of this year’s student leaders. The year concluded with an End of Season Celebration and our Six -Year Anniversary event, where we reflected on the legacy of SOL and celebrated the hundreds of students who have grown into confident, compassionate leaders through this remarkable program.



Recruitment

High School

YC's Recruitment Team attended 4 Arizona High School Career and College Fairs, including San Tan Foothills High School College Fair, Paradise Valley College Fair, Gila River College Fair, and the AAEC College and Career Fair.



Summer and Danny at
San Tan Valley HS



Summer & Terri at
AAEC College Fair



Summer and Danny at Gila River Spring College Fair

Tours and Visits

Recruitment coordinated and assisted with tours on all 6 YC campuses and centers. The team provided tours for **221** individuals during March 2025. Tours included individual or family tours, high school group tours, Early College, faculty interview tours and YC Athletic tours.



Seligman
and Mayer
High School
Early College
Tour.

YC Internal / External Community Events

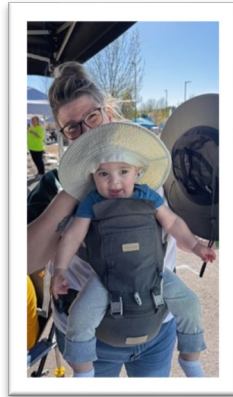
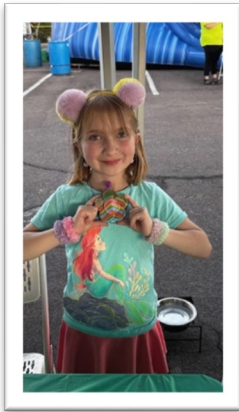
Recruitment presented with internal and local area community events, including:

Prescott Women's Shelter	Prescott Job Fair	YC's Yavapalooza	Verde Valley Bike Race
US Vet's Car Show	Prescott Rodeo Grounds Tractor Pull	US Veteran's Courts	US Vets Town Hall Meeting
Nation's Finest Town Hall	PTSD Veteran's Group	The Community Partner National Guard Event	

Verde Valley Bike Race



Recruitment at Yavapalooza



The recruitment tent was very busy!



US Vets Car Show with Tim



Prescott Rodeo Grounds Tractor Pull with Wendy & Linda



Basic Needs at Yavapalooza

Brenda Burns helped out at the YC Basic Needs table at Yavapalooza this year. Brenda and Theresa Scott, Basic Needs Manager, distributed resource information to YC students. Adults and kids had a great time playing the fishing game!

