

November 2025 Board Highlights

Division One, Viticulture, Enology, and the Southwest Wine Center

On October 25th, 2025, Wine & Dine “Under the Stars”—an annual fundraising event hosted by the Yavapai College Foundation and the Friends of the Southwest Wine Center (FoSWC) in support of the Viticulture and Enology (VEN) Program at Yavapai College’s Verde Valley Campus—was an enormous success, raising \$88,000 for the program. This sets a new record, exceeding prior years by nearly \$30,000. Proceeds from the event help fund Endowed scholarships for VEN students, student activities and experiential learning opportunities, and priority needs of the VEN Program. Each year, guests enjoy an evening of fine food and wine, featuring local wineries and restaurants—many of which include Southwest Wine Center alumni. Funds are raised through a combination of sponsorships, ticket sales, auctions, and other engaging activities. 🍷 ✨







🚚 The Southwest Wine Center successfully hosted five performances over three days in mid-October of The Concert Truck, in conjunction with the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center. Attendance collectively topped 100 community members, many of whom were first-time visitors to the SWC.



In partnership with Sedona TV, the Southwest Wine Center has produced a new video segment currently airing in numerous Sedona hotels and motels. This year-long promotional campaign highlights both the educational (enrollment) side of our programs and the Tasting Room experience. 🍷 🎥 The content will also be repurposed for additional marketing avenues to be announced soon.

▶ Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1L07OuxCe4>

The Southwest Wine Center was nominated for the 1st Annual Sedona Innovation Award, presented by the Sedona Chamber of Commerce, recognizing our leadership in education in the Verde Valley. 🏆 🌄 Results to be announced November 6th.

Beginning in November, the Southwest Wine Center is featured in the 3rd edition of Edible Central Arizona (Nov–Jan issue)—the start of a year-long marketing campaign reaching Central and Northern Arizona’s food and wine enthusiasts. 🍷 🍷 This issue’s Holiday Gift Guide includes a QR code allowing readers to directly join (and pay for) either the Fall or Fall & Spring Wine Club releases. This marks a new, proactive way of connecting with potential members in the coming months.

Viticulture

Following harvest, Vineyard Manager Jeremiah Prough, students, and staff have focused on irrigation upgrades and precision improvements. New systems now allow better isolation of individual rows and blocks, and previous issues—such as single-row misfires—have been corrected. The APS grant awarded earlier this fall has been activated to fund two soil sensor monitors, each reading five depths simultaneously. These serve as excellent teaching tools for students while advancing the vineyard’s long-term commitment to water stewardship and reduced consumption year-over-year. 💧 🇮🇹

Camp Verde Library Open House – October 21, 2025

Yavapai College’s Skilled Trades Center, Horticulture, and Viticulture & Enology programs participated in the Camp Verde Library Open House on October 21st, 2025. This was our first Open House in Camp Verde, meeting a direct request from the Town of Camp Verde to bring educational outreach and program awareness to their community. 🌄 🤝

Instructors from across our hands-on programs—including HVAC, Residential Electric, Carpentry, Plumbing, and Viticulture & Enology—were on site to share information, answer questions, and connect with community members interested in pursuing technical education and career pathways. The event provided a great opportunity to highlight the diverse training opportunities available through Yavapai College and to inspire future students to explore rewarding careers in the skilled trades and wine industries.





Division Two, Administration of Justice Studies

YC Students Engage in Powerful Learning at Justice Institute Summits

Last week, the Yavapai College Justice Institute hosted two impactful events that brought students and professionals together for hands-on learning, leadership development, and real-world insight into community safety and care.



Northern Arizona School Safety Summit – Wednesday, October 29

Students joined school safety teams and district leaders from across Arizona for a full day of sessions focused on creating safer learning environments. By engaging directly with statewide professionals, YC students gained a deeper understanding of current safety strategies and the vital role they will play in future public service careers.



Leadership Summit: Performance Driven Thinking & Actively Caring for People – Thursday, October 30

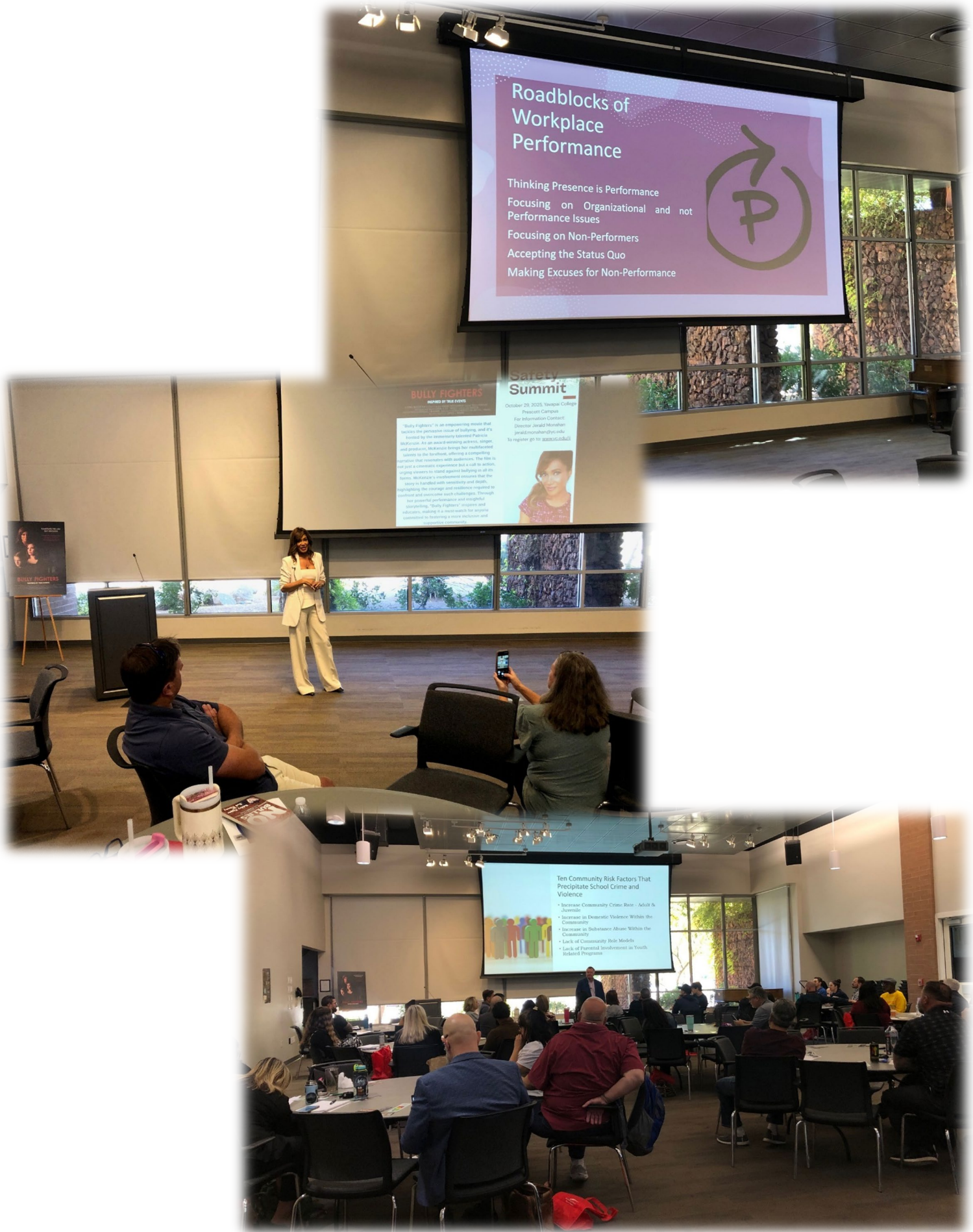
Students and community members came together for an inspiring day of leadership training centered on service, compassion, and performance-driven excellence. Attendees also had the opportunity to earn a Yavapai College Micro-credential, strengthening their professional portfolios and future career readiness.

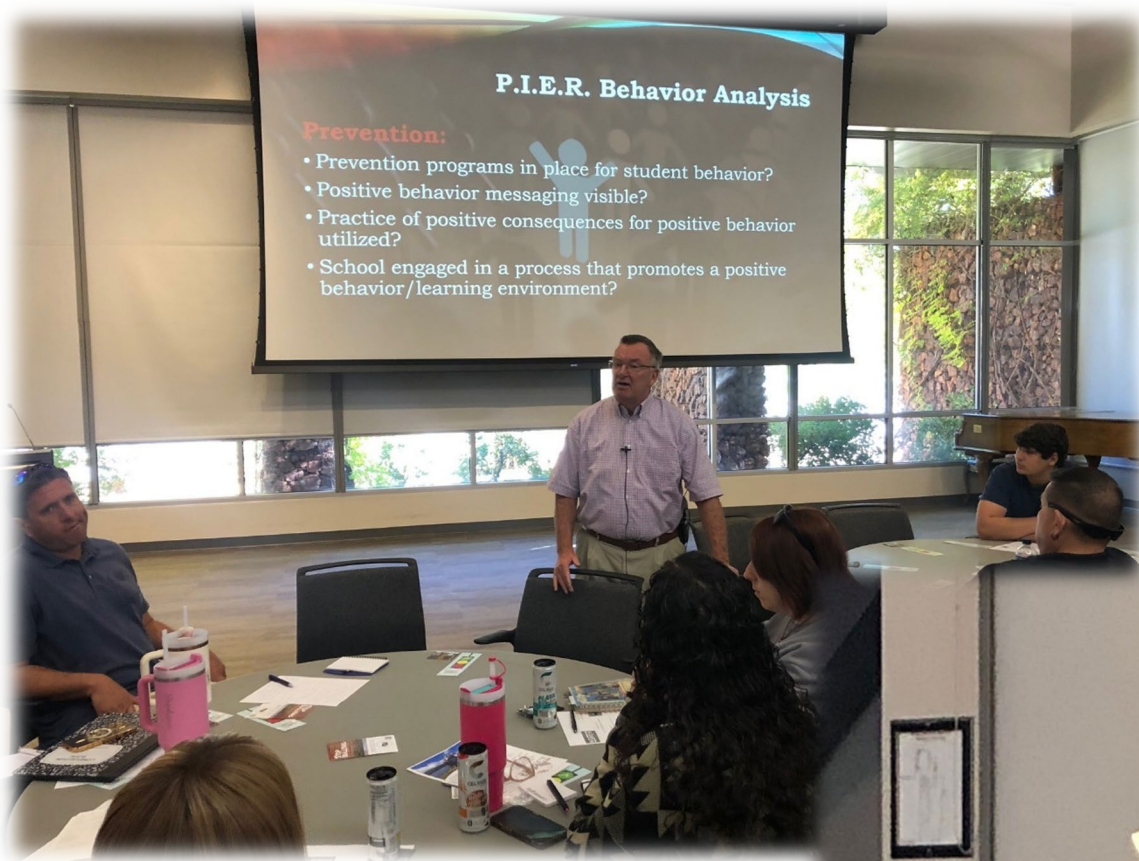


Featured Speakers

- Bobby Kipper
- Meredith Dunlap-Serrett
- Patricia McKenzie (Actress)
- ✨ Special guest appearance by Genevie Horn, reigning Miss Scottsdale Arizona

These events gave students a rare opportunity to learn from nationally recognized speakers, build confidence, and connect with leaders who are shaping the future of justice and community care.





Division Two, Fire Science

🔥 YC Fire Academy Cadets Gain Real-World Skills in Extrication Training Day

Yavapai College Fire Academy Cadets recently put their training to the test during an intensive Extrication Training Day, where students practiced advanced stabilization and vehicle extrication techniques used in today's emergency response operations.

🚒 Hands-On Learning With Industry Tools

Cadets trained with state-of-the-art power tools and extrication equipment, giving them direct experience with the same gear they'll use in the field. Regional subject matter experts worked side-by-side with students, offering professional guidance and real-time feedback throughout the exercises.

🚑 Building Confidence for Real Emergencies

This high-impact training day strengthened students' decision-making skills, teamwork, and confidence as they prepare for their future roles as first responders. Each scenario brought them one step closer to the realities of emergency service—ensuring they're ready when every second counts.





November 2025 Board Highlights

Division Three, Visual, Performing, Film and Media Arts

- The Prescott Art Gallery celebrated October with four different public events related to the recent exhibition, Transforming Traditions: Art and Folklore in 2025. A highlight of the series was exhibition juror and Humanities Professor **Dr. Suzanne Waldenberger's** lecture on the Folklore of Halloween. The monthlong folklore celebration also featured a lecture and performance by local folk musician Mark Matos, and a poetry workshop and readings in the gallery. On November 14, the YC Prescott Art Gallery presents the 2025 Fall Juried Student Exhibition, which features 65 works of art by YC student-artists.



- The Patty McMullen-Mikles Art Gallery will feature the Fall Student Art Exhibition for Verde Valley students from November 13 to December 4. This semi-annual showcase highlights creative works from students in ceramics, drawing, and painting. The opening reception, held from 5 to 7 p.m., will include offerings from the Southwest Wine Center and complimentary small bites as students, families, and faculty come together to celebrate the semester's artistic accomplishments.



- The Sedona Center will present *Cloud Cover*, a solo exhibition by artist and Fine Arts Professor **Ben Norton**, on view from October 8 to December 18, 2025. The exhibition explores vision and perception through paintings and pastels that capture the interplay of light, form, and color across Arizona's landscapes, where moments of wilderness and human presence blend in unexpected harmony. The artists reception will be held on Friday, November 7, from 4 to 6 p.m. This event celebrates the Visual Arts Department's first participation in Sedona's *First Friday* gallery walk and offers the public an opportunity to experience the department's work in a dynamic, community-wide arts event.



- The Film and Media Art program is enjoying stellar enrollment for the Spring Semester. Thus far it is up 173%, so we are thrilled about that! They are hosting a fundraiser for the Prescott Film Festival on November 16th.



Division Four, Education, English, Humanities, Political Science & Social Science

- **Heather Leavitt** (Professor of Education) presented at the Open Ed conference this week. She also hosted with the YC Honors Organization PTK a "Taste the Tales" event, where PTK students showcased recipes that YC students gathered from the college community as part of their storytelling research project.



- **Michael Moghtader**, Associate Dean of Division 4, presented research on “Environmental Literacy” at the Fall 2025 Distinguished Guest Lecture Services, Prescott Campus, Nov. 3.



November 3, 12:30-1:30
Bldg 3 Room 119

Environmental Literacy
With Michael Moghtader, PhD.

How we read, write, and talk about the natural world (environmental literacy) determines our behavior in that world. This literacy can be particularly consequential for educators and parents who influence the behavior of current and future young people. This presentation asks us to assess our current environmental literacy and examine the unintended effects it may have on the natural world.

Division Four, Lifelong Learning

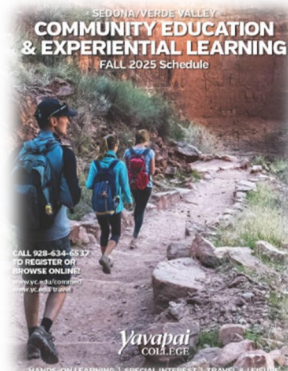
- OLLI's Fall 2 session is off with a bang – with everything from Prescott History to the Geology of Jerome, from galaxies to art to wellness.



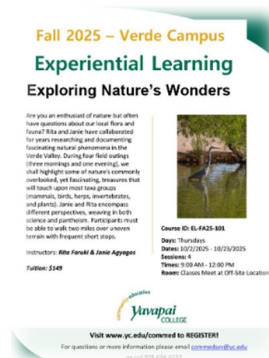
- OLLI Gives Back! OLLI collected 14 Sets of hear aids that can be refurbished to assist those in need.
- OLLI goes to the Canadian Maritimes! Twenty OLLI members had an amazing trip, traveling throughout Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, learning about local history, culture, geology, standing IN the Bay of Fundy, and eating amazing seafood! Their trip to Ireland in May of 2026 is sold out, and our latest trip to the Dolomites in Italy just opened and is already sold out as well.



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



- Fall 2025 Community Education & Experiential Learning: classes and trips are humming along well!
 - Winter/Spring 2026 Community Education & Experiential Learning: Finalizing catalogs.
 - Registration for Winter/Spring '26 opens online December 4.
- Experiential Learning - Prescott & Verde/Sedona



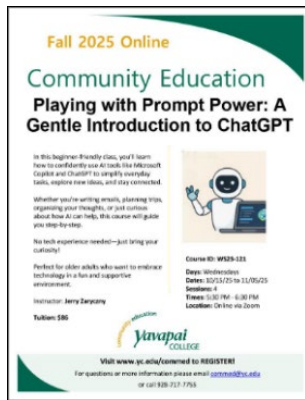
- The Experiential Learning program was highlighted in the latest YC & You publication.
- The first Experiential Learning course on the Verde Campus, Exploring Nature's Wonders, was a success.
- New additions for Winter/Spring terms:
- Biographies of new instructors will be included in the Winter/Spring 2026 catalog.
- We are adding new trips for the Winter/Spring terms and offering more pick-ups in the Verde Valley.

- **Community Education - Verde/Sedona**

- Popular Fall Course Offerings include Dance and fitness classes, with selections expanding for the Winter/Spring terms; Chat GPT course, offered by Yavapai College staff; Collaborating with the Southwest Wine Center to offer monthly yoga classes in the Winter/Spring terms.

- **Community Education, Prescott**

- Student enrollments continue to be higher than the totals of last Fall '24 and Fall '23 terms!
- Multiple classes continue to be sold out and at waiting list status.
- *Sold Out* classes this fall include Perfect Paella & Pie Making Cooking Classes, Belly Dancing Basics, Tai Chi, Qigong, Essential Drawing, Beginning Acrylic Painting, Life Skills Academy, Creative Clay, and Crystal Sound Bowl Meditation!



Division Four, Family Enrichment Center (FEC)

On Friday, October 31, on the Prescott Campus, 25+ FEC students and their teachers meandered around the Prescott Campus visiting many buildings and offices to show off their costumes and fill their Halloween bags with nifty gifts. Buildings included Admissions, Nursing, School of Business (top floor faculty office area), rooms 3-255, 3-212C, 3-212D, and 3-250; the Library; Student Engagement; the Eatery offices; and Division 4 representatives in Building 3.



Division Five, Business, Science Computer Science and Math

- Division Five Dean **Perry Baker**, Computer Science Professor **Philip Reid**, and **Robyn Bryce**, Executive Director, Learning & Educational Innovation, presented a breakout session titled Future-Ready Community College Education at Yavapai College at the 2025 Arizona Community College Administrators Conference, which took place October 13-15 in Tucson, Arizona. The session highlighted Yavapai College's innovative approach to leadership and student preparation for a fast-changing, technology driven future.
- **Dr. Dana Kirkwood-Watts**, Biology Professor, will attend the 2025 ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE), held November 21–23 in San Antonio, Texas. The conference brings together biology educators from around the world for an immersive three-day experience. Participants will share effective teaching strategies, engage with current biology education research, and network with peers in undergraduate education.
- Biology Professors, **Dr. Dana Kirkwood-Watts**, **Amy Bell**, and Provost **Dr. Doug Berry** will represent YC at the VOLARÉ Institute's Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, from November 17–20, 2025. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the conference focuses on strengthening research capacity, innovation, and workforce development across participating institutions. Through a series of capacity-building activities, the program aims to enhance institutional competitiveness in securing research grants and advancing STEM initiatives.
- Math Professors, **Andrea Schaben**, and **Mandy Atherton** are scheduled to present at the AMATYC (American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges) national conference next week in Reno. Their presentation is about OER (Online Educational Resources) and its sustainability.

- **Yavapai College Joins Global Initiative for Fraud Awareness**

Yavapai College is proud to be recognized as a supporting organization of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners' *International Fraud Awareness Week*, taking place November 16–22, 2025. Led by **Dr. Fahim Mazumdar**, Associate Professor of Accounting and a Certified Fraud Examiner for over 14 years, the College's participation highlights the School of Business's commitment to integrity, transparency, and ethical leadership in education and industry. This global initiative unites organizations worldwide in raising awareness about fraud prevention and responsible financial practices. By joining the effort, Yavapai College underscores its dedication to preparing students, especially those in the Accounting program—to become ethical professionals who uphold the highest standards of accountability in their communities and workplaces.



- **Entrepreneurship Certificate Revision**

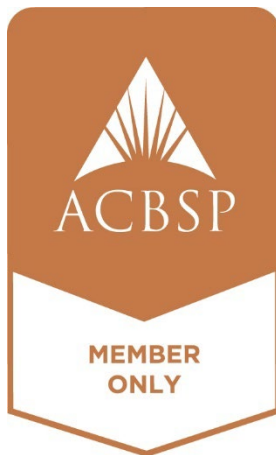
Under the leadership of **Dr. Brett Watts**, the School of Business faculty are collaboratively redesigning the **Entrepreneurship Certificate** to integrate **LivePlan**, an industry-standard business planning platform, directly into the curriculum. This initiative reflects a unified commitment to advancing innovation, experiential learning, and workforce readiness. The integration of LivePlan creates a seamless continuum of applied learning across multiple courses, allowing students to develop, assess, and refine real-world business ideas. The redesign not only strengthens alignment with **ACBSP accreditation standards** and program learning outcomes but also elevates the College's reputation for delivering practical, high-quality business education. Through this initiative, students gain authentic entrepreneurial experience and leave Yavapai College better prepared to launch ventures, lead organizations, and contribute meaningfully to Arizona's economic vitality.



- The Yavapai College School of Business joined the prestigious International Organization, Accreditation Council for Business Schools, and Programs (ACSBSP). The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs is a leading accreditation body that promotes excellence in business education worldwide. Membership connects YC Business with a global network of more than 1,200 business schools across 60 countries, each dedicated to high-quality teaching, student learning, and scholarly research. Under the ACBSP, they function as standard-bearers for continuous improvement and quality assurance in business education.

“Joining ACBSP reflects our commitment to providing high-quality, student-centered business education at Yavapai College.” YC School of Business Associate Dean Lauri L. Dreher said. “It connects us with a global network of institutions focused on excellence in teaching, learning outcomes, and continuous improvement. This membership positions our School of Business to align with industry-relevant standards and best practices, ensuring our students will be prepared to lead in today’s evolving business landscape.” As an ACBSP member, YC’s School of Business will gain access to a wide range of resources, including opportunities for accreditation, international conferences, faculty development, student competitions, and publications designed to foster innovation and continuous improvement. “We are pleased to welcome the Yavapai College School of Business to the ACBSP community.” Dr. Steve Parscale, ABCSP’s Chief Accreditation Officer, said. “Their decision to join us highlights a commitment to excellence in business education and to providing students with the skills they need to succeed in today’s competitive global marketplace.”

To learn more about ACBSP, visit: www.acbsp.org.



Verde Valley Campus

- **Stargazing Night at the Southwest Wine Center**



Yavapai College, teaming up with the Astronomers of Verde Valley club, wrapped up the year's final community stargazing night at the beautiful Founder's Circle at the Southwest Wine Center. The event was open to everyone, and more than 70 curious stargazers showed up to soak in the wonders of the night sky. For some, it was their first time peering through a telescope!

Four enthusiastic club members set up their own personal telescopes, each pointing toward something different in the heavens. It's cool how each member gets to choose what they want to show—stars, planets, nebulae, you name it. Club President Richard Bohner gave us the scoop: “We usually kick things off with a sky tour using a laser pointer, pointing out the major constellations and cool stuff like that,” he said.

It was a night of learning, wonder, and a deeper connection to the cosmos. What a way to wrap up the season!





- **Vitalant Blood Drive on the Verde Valley Campus**

Vitalant extends their appreciation for the college's ongoing support in hosting community drives—especially during October, when many of our local high schools are on fall break.



They were thrilled to see 27 donors scheduled and 26 checked in for the drive. The Vitalant team successfully completed 23 procedures—18 whole blood and 5 power red donations—for a total of 28 life-saving units collected, which is 122% of their goal! Even more meaningful, those donations could go on to help up to 64 Arizona patients in need. We're so grateful Vitalant chose Yavapai College's as a partner and look forward to many more successful drives together.

Camp Verde Open House – Camp Verde Community Library

Yavapai College recently hosted a successful Open House at the Camp Verde Community Library, where attendees had the chance to meet YC experts who helped them take the first step toward their educational journey.



Visitors were able to learn about available scholarships, financial aid and even enter drawings for some exciting prizes—including a free 3-credit course, a Chromebook, Apple AirPods, and more!



The event showcased YC's wide range of offerings, including certificate programs, associate degrees, transfer degrees, and four bachelor's programs. Guests enjoyed hands-on demonstrations, refreshments, connected with the YC team, and discovered how the college can support their path to success.



Concert Truck at the Southwest Wine Center and Sedona Center



Yavapai College Southwest Wine Center in collaboration with the Jim & Linda Lee Performing Arts Center welcomed *The Concert Truck* to both the Verde Valley Campus and Sedona Center. This innovative mobile music venue brings live performances directly to communities, transforming the traditional concert experience and making it accessible for everyone.

The Concert Truck, a 16-foot mobile unit, serves as a fully equipped concert hall, featuring a sound system, lighting, and even a grand piano. Artistic Director Susan Zhang will partner with pianist Sophia Zhou to present a series of classical music concerts. Guests enjoyed the classical music while sipping on wine made by the Yavapai College enology students.

This event is made possible by the Jim and Linda Lee Performing Arts Center.



Wine & Dine Under the Stars

Wine & Dine Under the Stars is an annual event hosted by the Southwest Wine Center at Yavapai College and Friends of the Southwest Wine Center. Featuring a delightful evening where guests can enjoy fine wine, exquisite food, and live entertainment in a beautiful outdoor setting under the stars. The event highlights wines crafted by the College's students, offering guests a chance to sample locally produced wines paired with local gourmet dishes. It's a popular event for wine lovers and those who appreciate the artistry of local cuisine. The event often includes a silent auction, with proceeds benefiting the college's viticulture and enology programs, providing valuable resources for students.

