

# Nursing News



## A Note from the Associate Dean of Nursing

Dr. Barbara Durham, DNP, RN, CNE, CNE-cl

Welcome nursing students to the SPRING 2025 semester. Currently, there are approximately 233 students enrolled in the nursing program at the Prescott and Verde Valley locations, including a new cohort of 62 first-semester students! This is a 24% increase from previous semesters, thanks to a Nursing Education Investment grant (HB2691).

Our RN-BSN program is well underway. We had 18 graduates in December from the Spring 24 cohort. Congratulations. We submitted our self-study report on January 28, 2025, and continue to prepare for the site visit scheduled for March 11-13, 2025. Official approval will be determined by Fall 2025. Once approved, our accreditation status is backdated to the time of our eligibility/candidacy was accepted which was November 16, 2023. As a result, any graduate from the RN-BSN program will have graduated from an accredited program.

This RN-BSN is post-licensure, meaning applicants must possess an unencumbered RN license to apply and have graduated from an accredited nursing program. All YC nursing graduates will be automatically accepted into the program pending licensure verification. Cost for the RN-BSN program is \$8,845 for 30.5 credits @ \$290/credit (24/25 tuition/fees).

The LPN-RN advance placement option is going well. We had two students enrolled into the third semester in Spring 2025.

The nursing program collaborated with Allied Health to offer an LPN step-out option for nursing students completing year one of the program. The step-out option will begin Spring 2025. This course allows students to seek their LPN license and enter the workforce to earn a more livable wage.

## Upcoming Events

### Next SNA Meeting

**01/13/25 @ 4:00 pm – Bootcamp**

**01/27/25 @ 5:15 pm**

**02/10/25 @ 5:15 pm**

**03/10/25 @ 5:15 pm**

**04/07/25 @ 5:15 pm**

**04/28/25 @ 5:15 pm**

### March 28

Student Representation at Department Meeting (Prescott Campus Rm 2-216/Zoom)

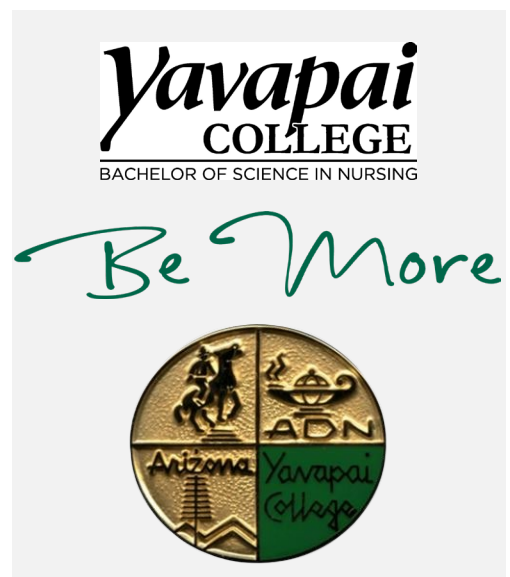
**@ 9:00 am**

### May 1

Pinning Rehearsal **@ 1:30 pm**

Pinning Ceremony, YCPAC

**@ 5:00 pm**



Yavapai College (YC) Nursing graduates continue to be successful on the NCLEX-RN Licensure with a first-time pass rate of 94.51% for 2024. These rates remain comparable to the 93.75% pass rate for the state of Arizona and the 91.16% pass rate nationally.

Our program completion rate for 2023-2024 was 77.6%.

Currently, according to the Arizona Board of Nursing, there are 114,595 RN's practicing in Arizona ([www.azbn.gov](http://www.azbn.gov)). An increased demand for RNs in Arizona's future estimates 28,000 more needed by 2025\* (AZBN Newsletter, Nov 2022). Job Placement Rates for YC nursing graduates in 2024\* year-to-date is 97% with an 87% response rate.

As of January 2025, Yavapai College is still ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 33 nursing schools across Arizona\*\*, according to [Registered Nursing.org](https://www.registerednursing.org). This ranking is up from 12<sup>th</sup> in 2023 and based on current and historical NCLEX pass rates.

\*Data extracted from YC IER

\*Data extracted from the AZBN NCLEX Reports

\*\* <https://www.registerednursing.org/state/arizona/>



**Student assistance is always required to ensure we have the most accurate data. Be sure to look for post-graduate surveys and respond promptly.**

The [Nursing Program Student Handbook](#) for 2024-2025 was revised on 01/17/2025. While mid-academic year changes are rare, a few policy changes were made that go into effect immediately. Here is a summary of the changes:

1. Academic Dishonesty (cheating) – was added to the Zero Tolerance policy
2. Revised grading scale to affirm the no rounding rule for grades: i.e. C = 78.00-83.99%
3. Added chain of communication overview
4. Updated attendance policy #2 to clarify that attendance is expected during the entire class; combined expectations for theory and skills lab; any missed skill/dosage calc will result in a zero grade
5. Updated exam policy #3 to clarify all SATA/Alt format questions will have + / - grading as appropriate to match NCLEX scoring, no more collaborative exams, clarified consequences of not uploading ExamSoft exams in a timely fashion
6. Updated medication administration policy #6 to clarify that dosage calculation competency should be completed by week 3; if not, the student will receive a "D" grade on their midterm evaluation
7. Updated readmission policy #7 to clarify that readmission skills must be completed prior to attending hospital orientation
8. Professional conduct policy #10 was updated to clarify unprofessional behavior and consequences of academic dishonesty, and clarified that students cannot complete clinical at a facility in which they are employed

Students are responsible each semester for knowing and following the contents of the most current Nursing Program Student Handbook and reviewing all YC communications or emails from [nursing@yc.edu](mailto:nursing@yc.edu) for important program announcements and policy updates.

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REMINDER: Students can register for nursing classes as soon as registration opens. This will enable students to self-schedule their courses and select their clinical placements. There are several disclaimers to this process:

1. Students who start in the evening cohort will always have first priority to register for the evening courses/clinical. Students who want to move from evening to days or days to evening must schedule an appointment with the Nursing Director to ensure program availability.
  2. Students must attend class/clinical on the campus they were accepted to. For example, a student living in Prescott Valley, who accepted program placement on the Verde campus, must attend clinicals in Verde.
  3. Please pay attention to which course/campus you are registering for. Several students registered for classes on the incorrect campus.
  4. When registering for clinical, students must select a clinical site different from where they work. For example, if a student works at the VA, they must select YRMC; if a student works at YRMC EAST, then they must select WEST or the VA as their clinical site.
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**PUBLIC NOTICE OF UPCOMING ACCREDITATION REVIEW VISIT BY THE  
ACEN**

Yavapai College wishes to announce that it will host a site visit March 11-13, 2025, for initial accreditation of its RN-BSN nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Written comments are also welcome and should be submitted to the ACEN via email at [public-comments@acenursing.org](mailto:public-comments@acenursing.org) or to the ACEN office:

Attn: Accreditation Services  
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing  
3390 Peachtree Rd NE, Suite 1400  
Atlanta GA, 30326

All written comments should be received by the ACEN by February 25, 2025.

**From the Desk of Lorrie Vodika, Prescott Instructional Support Specialist**  
**928-776-2017** **lorrie.vodika@yc.edu**



Hello, I'm Lorrie Vodika, the Nursing Department ISS for Prescott. I have been with Yavapai College for 3 months but have worked here previously for over 9 years. I truly love this department! I am a true Arizona Native. I have four grandchildren, and a dog named Bruno. I love being an assistant and helping everyone; it's just my nature.

**From the Desk of Alaina Graciano, Verde Instructional Support Specialist**  
**928-634-6512** **alaina.graciano@yc.edu**

Welcome to the Spring 2025 semester! This is my second semester in the position, and time has flown by quite fast. Regardless of the campus you are on, please know that my door is always open (at least metaphorically), and my phone number listed above is available for calls or texts. The entire team is here to support you on your educational journey. Don't be afraid to reach out and utilize your resources!



As always, please make sure to **check your YC scholar email regularly**. You'll find notifications of important clinical and program updates, and other time sensitive correspondence on your YC email account. Also, please keep your voicemail box open to receive important messages as needed.



**From the Desk of Pam Linkner, Clinical Coordinator**  
**928-717-7106** **pam.linkner@yc.edu**

Welcome back! I am excited to be seeing you all soon. Many things changed last semester for clinical rotations. Here is a reminder of those changes – Both **NAH** and **Dignity Health** want ALL Clinical Requirements completed 1-month before the start date of your clinical rotation. This means having BOTH your Castle Branch AND your My Clinical Exchange updated through the end of the rotation. If you do not meet this deadline, you will not be able to get your badge and computer sign-on and start your Rotation.

Also, for students in Prescott, you will receive some email requests from **Common Spirit**. **Common Spirit** is the parent company of **Dignity Health (YRMC)**. It is important for you to respond and follow through with these emails.

**PLEASE** remember that **YOU** are responsible to get these done by the deadline set.

Let's have an **AMAZING** semester together!

**From the Desk of Jennifer Buskey, RN-BSN Coordinator**  
**928-776-2331**                      **jennifer.buskey@yc.edu**



Hello Everybody! My name is Jennifer Buskey, and I started in September as the RN-BSN Coordinator. I have worked many years in accounting in the corporate world, so I am learning all about nursing, as well as the workings of a community college. We have a stellar RN-BSN program, with 3 full-time faculty and many qualified adjuncts. After you have completed your goal to become a Registered Nurse, stretch your sights further to finish at Yavapai College with an RN-BSN degree! (The RN-BSN degree is 100% online, and you can enroll part or full-time). Contact me regarding any questions about the program, and I hope you have a great semester!

**Clinical Updates:**

Health requirements are to be current throughout the entire semester. Students must meet all clinical compliance requirements by established due dates to be eligible to proceed into the clinical setting. Students who do not comply risk being administratively withdrawn from the clinical setting by the Nursing Director.

1 <sup>st</sup> semester	At time of admission to the nursing program	
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	Fall: September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spring: February 8 <sup>th</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> semester	Fall: July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spring: December 8 <sup>th</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup> semester	Fall: September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spring: February 8 <sup>th</sup>

There are **two clinical tracking systems** used in the nursing program. CastleBranch is a clinical tracking system that is used by the YC Nursing Program to ensure students are up to date on their clinical requirements. CastleBranch is first implemented upon admission to the program for students to purchase their background checks, drug screens, and the clinical health requirement checklist and must be maintained throughout the course of the nursing program.

My Clinical Exchange is used by the clinical agencies for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>-semester clinical requirements. Students must complete the required hospital onboarding modules in MyCE before orientation at the clinical site. Both sites must be maintained while in the nursing program.

**Mrs. Jennifer Pimenidis, Simulation Coordinator**

Hello, I'm Jennifer Pimenidis, BSN RN. I am the Simulation Coordinator for the Nursing Department. We are so fortunate to have a state-of-the-art simulation center on the Verde Campus. During the simulation, you will gain experience with conditions you may not encounter during clinicals and become more confident in handling those situations.

I also provide clinical lab support for student clinical learning and growth. Open lab hours on the Verde Campus are Tuesdays from 12:00-4:00 pm. I look forward to working with all of you!



### New Faculty:

We are pleased to introduce our new Full-Time Nursing Faculty: Jennifer Brandt and Amelia Robles.

#### **Jennifer Brandt (Prescott Campus):**

Hello, I am Professor Jennifer Brandt. After Fall semester 2024 working as both a nursing clinical instructor for third semester students and a nursing instructional lab aide for second semester students, I have decided to teach in the classroom as a full time Associate Professor. I have been in healthcare for close to 30 years. Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for 16 years and a Registered Nurse (RN) for 14 years. My credentials are Associate of Applied Science (AAS) from Boswell School of Nursing 2011, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Arizona State University 2012, and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Arizona State University 2023.

My clinical background as an RN includes progressive care, critical care, dialysis, long term care/skilled nursing, nurse supported group homes, pediatric home health, and inpatient psychiatric mental health. I am excited to embark on this new teaching journey to foster nursing students' growth and development in a supportive learning environment. In my free time I enjoy traveling, hiking, and spending time with my grandchildren.



#### **Amelia Robles (Prescott Campus):**

I'm honored to join the nursing department at Yavapai College, bringing extensive experience in patient care, family education, mentorship, and entrepreneurship. I've served as a nurse practitioner in skilled nursing, rehabilitation, primary care, and home health, supporting patients and their families through complex recoveries and promoting long-term well-being.

As the owner of a wellness practice focused on medical weight loss, aesthetics, and longevity care, I've gained valuable insights into how holistic, individualized approaches can improve patient outcomes. This entrepreneurial experience enriches my teaching, allowing me to connect classroom concepts to real-world practice and inspire students to see the broader impact of nursing care.

My teaching philosophy centers on fostering curiosity, resilience, and empathy. I believe that exceptional nurses combine clinical expertise with compassion. I look forward to mentoring future nurses and empowering them to become leaders who make a lasting difference in their communities.



Amelia Robles BSN, MSN, ANP-C

**New Staff & Faculty:** We are pleased to introduce our new Instructional Lab Aides and Clinical Adjuncts, who will be helping in the skills lab during class time and with competency check-offs as well as in the clinical setting. Jennifer Pimenidis will be available to staff open skills lab hours on Prescott every Friday from 1000-1400.

**Prescott Campus: Jeanne Monroe**

**Jeanne Monroe (Prescott Campus):**

My name is Jean Monroe aka Jeanne. I moved to Prescott Valley last January and am very excited to continue my love of teaching new nurses. My career in nursing began in 1991 as a nursing assistant, in 1994 I obtained my LPN, and in 1995 I completed my RN. I returned to school when my children reached high school and finished my BSN; while raising five children and working in surgical services in the open heart program. After all these years I have accomplished my lifelong goal of completing my MSN to encourage and support upcoming nurses. My career in nursing has been in Med/surg, Tele/PCU, surgical services – mostly intra op, Cath lab, ICU, and now CDI. On a personal note, I love to spend time with my husband, children and grandchildren, gardening, quilting and taking my dogs on long walks. I am looking forward to working with all the nursing students and being faculty at Yavapai College.



**New RN-BSN faculty and adjunct:** We are pleased to introduce our new RN-BSN faculty, who will be teaching in the program. Trevor Nordin comes to us from the AAS program and joins Danyel Giacomini and Casey Truse.

**New Full Time: Trevor Nordin**

**New Adjunct Faculty: Julie Cobos, Erica Hosfeldt, Leanne Kocemba, Linda Mackey, Elizabeth Nellis-Dailey, and Chandra Smay.**

**Student Nurses Association:**

Being a part of SNA is a wonderful opportunity to learn and experience new opportunities within the community. Through the efforts of past and current SNA officers, we have created a new, creative logo. In addition, we have combined both Verde and Prescott Campuses to serve the needs of our SNA members better. SNA is a wonderful way to meet other students, gain resources and insight, and help them succeed in nursing school while giving back to the community.

The [SNA Store](#) is a great resource for member dues, donations, and SNA merchandise. QR codes are also available on all SNA bulletin boards at both campuses.



If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the officers via text or email, or our faculty advisor, Associate Professor Troxel.

**SNA Officers and Contact Details:**

<p><b><u>Prescott SNA President</u></b> Erika Fisher efish001@scholar.yc.edu</p>	<p><b><u>Verde SNA President</u></b> Timothy Miller tmille22@scholar.yc.edu</p>	<p><b><u>Vice President</u></b> Tyler Brimer Tyler.Brimer@yc.edu</p>
<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b> Vacant</p>	<p><b><u>Secretary</u></b> Elvira Acosta eacost02@scholar.yc.edu</p>	<p><b><u>Social Media</u></b> Adrian Diaz adiaz3@scholar.yc.edu</p>
<p><b><u>Prescott Ambassador</u></b> Skylar Pierce spierce6@scholar.yc.edu</p>	<p><b><u>Verde Ambassador</u></b> April Beltran April.Beltran@yc.edu</p>	

**YCSNA Leadership Introduction:**

***Erika Fisher – President from Prescott Campus:***



Hello. My name is Erika, and I am a 2nd semester nursing student at Prescott Campus. This will be my second semester in SNA and I am excited to be the co-president with Tim. I am a mother to a wonderful little girl, two huskies and an old scruffy cat. Currently, I work for YRMC West in the lab and as a business manager for a Mobile Veterinary clinic. In my free time I enjoy reading, hiking, Pilates, martial arts, kayaking and writing. My long-term goal after nursing school is somewhat of an enigma as I am interested in both Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics. Eventually, I would like to become an NP providing care to underserved communities, primarily homeless populations.

***Timothy Miller – President from Verde Campus:***



My name is Timothy Miller, and I am honored to serve as the Verde Valley Campus President of the Student Nurses Association (SNA). It is a privilege to represent our campus and contribute to the growth and success of our nursing community. I am a husband and a proud father of two, and I have been fortunate to call Arizona my home for over 40 years. Throughout my life, I have embraced a wide range of experiences, including playing professional football, working in various capacities within the NFL, and traveling across the United States to train athletes. These opportunities have shaped my values and instilled in me a strong sense of dedication and perseverance.

In addition to my athletic background, I bring over 20 years of experience in the medical field. Following my football career, I obtained my EMT license and worked as both an athletic trainer and a personal trainer with Under Armour Combine 360. For the past 18 years, I have proudly served as an Anesthesia Technologist at Flagstaff Medical Center.

Now, I am eager to take the next step in my professional journey by completing my nursing education and expanding my contributions to the healthcare field. I am excited to bring my diverse experiences and unwavering commitment to excellence to this new chapter in my career.



### **Tyler Brimer – Vice President:**

Hello everyone! My name is Tyler and this is my third semester in SNA and third semester in nursing school. I was born in Arizona but I actually grew up in Portland Oregon. I currently work on campus for Res Life where I get to engage with students and faculty as one! When my head isn't crammed into books, I enjoy spending my time on the beach and on the water, I've been on 3 cruises so far and I intend to do many more after I graduate. Speaking of graduating, I would love to do something in Cardiology when I graduate as a nurse. I'm very thankful and excited to serve you as your VP this semester and I look forward to a great rest of this year!



### **Elvira Acosta – Secretary:**



Meet Elvira, a fourth-semester nursing student who grew up in the small town of Ash Fork, Arizona before moving to Prescott Valley in 2008. As a caring mother and partner, she cherishes spending quality time outdoors, savoring Arizona's natural beauty with her high school sweetheart and three children. Elvira has served in the medical field for over 15 years and has dedicated her life to honing her skills and expertise. For the last five years, she was the Executive Secretary to the Medical Center Director at the VA, where she displayed exceptional organizational and administrative abilities. Driven by her passion for healthcare, Elvira enrolled at Yavapai College to obtain her nursing degree. She is eager to further her knowledge and skills to be a valuable asset to her community. This will be her 3rd semester as SNA secretary.

### **Adrian Diaz – Social Media Officer:**



Hello everyone, I'm Adrian Diaz and this is my second semester as a Yavapai College nursing student. I'm honored to serve as YCSNAs Online Media Officer as well as be the first Yavapai College student to join Embry-Riddle's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC). Prior to nursing, I was an online content creator for 3 years, posting videos that helped people improve their physical and mental health. Hobbies of mine include photography, reading, and exercising—I am always looking for new opportunities to push my limits! My educational goal is to receive my Doctorate degree, whether that means becoming an M.D/D.O, NP, PA, DNP, or something else will come as I get more experience! I'm excited to represent YCSNA and promote the Yavapai College and Embry-Riddle cross-town agreement. Take care of yourself, don't fear reaching out to the cohorts ahead of you, and get involved! You never know where a simple conversation or decision might lead. "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." – Seneca

### **Skylar Pierce – Ambassador – Prescott Campus:**

Hi I am Skylar. I am an 18 year old college student who is a 2nd semester nursing student also pursuing a bachelors in business and an associates in paralegal. I hope to become either a pediatric trauma or oncology nurse. Currently I work at YRMC, and the Learning Center and Family Enrichment Center on the Prescott Campus. Once graduated I hope to get my bachelors in nursing, and continue on to get my Doctorate in Physical Therapy and my Law degree. I love to volunteer at my church and the local animal shelter, as well as spend time with family. I am excited to represent the Prescott campus SNA as an ambassador for the upcoming semester.



### **April Beltran – Ambassador – Verde Campus:**

Hi, my name is April Beltran. I'm a wife and mother of three. After spending a decade working overseas directing a community service project in India, I recently returned to the United States. I felt compelled to further my education to obtain meaningful work in the US, and thus, I am a second-semester nursing student on the Verde campus. I am passionate about public health and plan to pursue my bachelor's degree in nursing at YC, focusing on Pediatrics and community health. I love ceramics and camping, I still love to travel, and I get involved in overseas help projects whenever possible.



Please feel free to reach out to the SNA Officers on how you can be a part of SNA and take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities to advance current skills, develop leadership skills, volunteer in community events, network and be a part of unique experiences outside of the Nursing Program.

### **Nursing Store**

We are pleased to inform you that our nursing store is now open for purchasing additional patches. The nursing store will serve various purposes, and we will keep you updated via email whenever new items are added. To access the nursing store, you can follow this link: [nursing store](#), or alternatively, you may use any of the nursing store QR codes available on bulletin boards, within your ISS's office.



**Nursing Store**

## From the Academic Advising Office

Welcome to the Spring 2025 semester! Academic Advisors are just one of your many resources here and we can help with your program planning, transfer planning, as well as resources for academic and non-academic support. You can see who your assigned advisor is in your myYC portal. Click on Your Advisor underneath your name in the portal and your Academic Advisor and Financial Aid Advisor will come up with their email address and link to schedule an appointment using our online calendaring system.

One resource to be familiar with as a YC student is the online Academic Calendar. This will give you all the important dates and deadlines for the semester, including when to submit your graduation application. You can access the Academic Calendar here, <https://www.yc.edu/v6/registrar/calendar.html>.

Your Academic Advisor is here to help you with planning for your continuing education, whether it's for a Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) with a university or an RN to BSN program at YC or at a University. Make an appointment with your Academic Advisor to review your options and come up with an education plan.

We will be in contact with you throughout each semester so check your YC scholar email regularly. All email communication needs to be done through your Yavapai College email account; this is different from your Canvas course email. This is for your safety due to confidentiality of information. Please contact your assigned Academic Advisor anytime with questions or concerns. We are here to help!

### YC Tutoring Hours of Service

#### **Prescott (Building 1, Room 207)**

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm  
Friday: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

928-776-2085  
prescottlearningcenter@yc.edu

#### **Verde (Building M, Room 111)**

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Friday: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

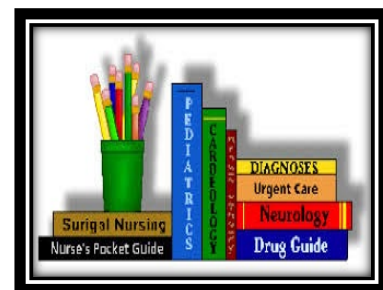
(928) 634-6562  
verdelearningcenter@yc.edu

### Bookstore Return/Book Buy-Back Information

Check with the bookstore for the best price on your textbooks! The bookstore has gone online only as of the Spring 2025 semester, but still has various items including stethoscopes and uniforms for purchase.

[YC Bookstore](#)

Price Match - Find A Lower Price? We'll Match It!



### YC Learning Center Resources & Items

Both the Prescott and Verde Learning Centers have two group study rooms, laptops, headphones, a full body skeleton, boxes of bones, true-to-life human x-rays with a head with removable parts, anatomy & nursing flash cards, a neuromuscular junctions kit, and a muscle module for students to use while studying there. Check with them for Nursing tutor hours – they will be available on Zoom!

**Important YC Contact Information:**

Prescott	Verde
YC Campus Safety (928) 776-2185 - non-emergency (928) 237-0420 - emergency	YC Campus Safety (928) 634-6599 - non-emergency (928) 239-0172 - emergency
Disability Resource Specialist – Prescott Petra Bennett 928-776-2057	Disability Resource Specialist – Verde Kay Rollis 928-634-6567

**A Little Reminder:**

If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L. means "First Attempt in Learning".

End is not the end. In fact E.N.D. means "Effort Never Dies".

If you get NO as an answer, remember, N.O. means, "Next Opportunity".

Change your mindset! —unknown

**Food for Thought:**

**BE CURIOUS, NOT JUDGMENTAL – WALT WHITMAN**

**THE MOST DAMAGING PHRASE IN THE LANGUAGE IS "WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THIS WAY" — GRACE HOPPER**

**A WELL EDUCATED MIND WILL ALWAYS HAVE MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS — HELEN KELLER**

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Thank you for choosing YC Nursing Program. Please feel free to reach out to the YC Nursing Office with any questions or concerns:

Prescott: 928-776-2017

Verde: 928-634-6512 or nursing@yc.edu.

RN-BSN: 928-776-2231 or RN-BSNnursing@yc.edu



**NURSING PROGRAM**