

ESSAY: HOW THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE KILLED OFF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN THE VERDE VALLEY

By: Robert Oliphant¹

VERDE CTE FACILITY—NORTHERN ARIZONA REGIONAL SKILLS CENTER (2004)

The first major effort to locate a Career and Technical Education Center in the Verde Valley can be traced to 2000. That year voters in a County-wide election approved a \$69.5 million bond issue. The bond provided revenue for Community College renovation and expansion throughout the entire County.² Included in that bond issue was a promise from the Community College to set aside some revenue to construct and support a major CTE training facility on the Verde Campus. It was to be called the “Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center (NARSC).”³

Yavapai College teamed with the United States Department of Commerce in 2000 to provide the funds to construct the *Center* on the Verde Campus.⁴ The 15,000-square-foot, two-story building and outdoor work area was intended to house instructional areas, a computer lab, adjunct faculty and administrative areas. It was designed as flexible interior/exterior instructional space for vocational and technical training programs.

¹ William Mitchell College of Law Emeritus Professor Robert Oliphant has a decade of experience with Yavapai College. Following his retirement in 2007, along with Ms. Ruth Wicks, Ms. Julie Larson, and others, he helped resurrect the greater Verde Valley Chapter of the Yavapai College Foundation. The Chapter raised thousands of dollars to support Community College projects in the Verde Valley. He was president of the Chapter for two years. In 2008, with assistance from former Executive Dean Tom Schumacher, Randy Garrison, Ruth Wicks and Professor Paul Woolsey, he wrote the first business plan for the development of a viticulture program on the Verde Campus. He submitted the proposal to the College Foundation, which eventually led to the adoption by the College. He was also a member of the Yavapai Community College Foundation until 2013. In addition, he represented District three on the District Governing Board, which encompasses about two thirds of the Verde Valley, from 2013 to 2014. He resigned in project of the treatment afforded the Verde Valley by the Board. Since 2014 he has been active with the Verde Valley Community College Advocates group. He has written extensively about the history of the unequal treatment of the Verde Valley at the hands of the District Governing Board and College administrations. In 2016 he authored a 310-page book entitled, “Wake up Verde Valley, You’ve Just Been Ripped off.” The book provides the first in-depth examination of how the Yavapai Community College in Yavapai County, Arizona ignored major development in the Verde Valley for almost a half-century. During this period, the College with approval of the District Governing Board, constructed a Community College educational empire on the west side of the Yavapai County.

²The Bond was approved in November 2000. Yavapai College Timeline <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/library/archives/timeline.htm> (last visited November 2016).

³See generally, *Bugle*, October 2, 2000 <http://cvbugle.com/news/2000/oct/02/college-asks-voters-for-brmoney-in-bond-election/> (last visited November 2016). So

⁴See generally, *Bugle*, October 3, 2000 <http://cvbugle.com/news/2003/oct/03/yavapai-college-verde-valley-campus-construction/> (last visited November 2016).

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS WITH FEDERAL GRANT

The Yavapai College District Governing Board approved a low bid of \$2.28 million in December 2002 to construct the facility on the Verde Campus. A \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce paid for about half of the project, with voter-approved master plan bond money covering the rest.⁵ Yavapai County residents anticipated that the Center would provide education and vocational learning opportunities for residents across much of Northern Arizona.⁶ The CTE program was intended to serve Yavapai, Coconino, Apache, and Navajo counties.

VERDE CTE AIMED AT JOB TRAINING

Professor Paul Kessel, the chief operational officer for the Verde Campus, when interviewed in 2002 about the future of the *Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center* on the Verde Campus, was enthusiastic. He said:

“[T]he (*Center*) will provide much-needed educational space and resources to further develop job training programs to benefit residents of northern Arizona. This is an exciting and unique opportunity for northern Arizona residents to gain specific work-related skills that will allow citizens to seek immediate employment or increase their level of income in a current or new position.⁷

According to interviews given to the local media, the College indicated that the curriculum, at least in part, would be developed based on recommendations from business operators in Northern Arizona seeking specific training for existing and potential future employees. The College also announced that it had already identified many programs that were in the developmental stage. Those programs included the following:⁸

⁵ *Bugle*, January 17, 2003 <https://www.cvbugle.com/news/2003/jan/17/college-begins-verde-expansion/> (Last visited July 2017).

⁶In a Clarkdale *Talk of the Town* newsletter dated December, 2002 the author said: “Yavapai College staff and faculty are excited about the opportunities that will be presented to the community through the expansion of its Verde Valley Campus. Ongoing talks with businesses and community leaders have led the way for many new partnerships for the Northern Arizona Regional Skill Center. http://www.clarkdale.az.gov/newsletter_brochure/12-2002.pdf (last visited November 2016).

⁷*The Daily Courier*, December 11, 2002; *Bugle* October 3, 2003 <https://www.cvbugle.com/news/2003/oct/03/yavapai-college-verde-valley-campus-construction-/> (Last visited July 2017).

⁸*Ibid.*

- Nursing Assistant
- Direct Patient Care Provider
- Medical Assistant- Front and Back Office
- General Office, Customer Service, Receptionist
- General Accounting, Receivable, Payable and Payroll
- Computer Repair
- Facilities Maintenance-Plumbing, Carpentry, Electrical, Grounds keeping, Air Conditioning
- Automotive Technician
- Welding
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration
- Cottage Industry and Small Business Operations
- Commercial Drivers' License Training, Truck Driving, Bus Driving.

“We are excited about the opportunity of truly making this a community campus for our Verde Valley surrounding communities,” said Paul Kessel Vice President Verde campus.⁹

Harry Swanson, general manager of the Skills Center, said that the basic vision of the Skills Center is not only to provide livable wages for the jobs currently available in Northern Arizona but also to identify new opportunities, such as higher technology, to upgrade job-skills training. Swanson said the Center intends to improve skills training for the jobs that are already here. “We're going to get more involved in the building and construction trades.”¹⁰

“This skill center is part of the master plan project of Yavapai College,” Swanson said. “Part of that plan is to provide education and training to a broad-based population in Northern Arizona, especially in Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache counties. The bottom line of the project is to help rural Arizonans find good jobs.”¹¹

⁹ Bugle, October 3, 2003 <https://www.cybugle.com/news/2003/oct/03/yavapai-college-verde-valley-campus-construction/> (Last visited July 2017).

¹⁰ Bugle, February 11, 2004 <http://cvbugle.com/news/2004/feb/11/college-dedicates-job-skills-center/> (last visited November 2016).

¹¹ *Ibid.* See also *Chino Valley Review*, November 14, 2000 <http://www.cvrnews.com/news/2000/nov/14/uelection-2000ubr695-million-for-yavapai-14041/> (last visited November 2016). Yavapai College Comprehensive Financial Report, June 30, 2004 p. 4 (Center dedicated February 2004). https://www.azauditor.gov/sites/default/files/Yavapai_County_Community_College_District_June_30_2004_CAFR.pdf (last visited November 2016).

VERDE CTE CENTER COMPLETED IN 2004

In February 2004 the *Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center* on the Verde Campus was dedicated. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report published and distributed by the College on June 30, 2004 summarized the progress of the *Center*. It reads as follows:

“The construction of the new 15,000 square foot *Northern Arizona Regional Skill Center* on the Verde Valley Campus was completed this year. The building was formally dedicated at the February 2004 District Governing Board meeting.¹² Programs at the *Center* will focus on six key areas - business and office technology, basic health-related occupations, construction and building maintenance, hospitality and tourism, information technology management, and manufacturing/engineering technology. The new *Center* will serve the workforce training needs of residents living in Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai counties. Partial funding for the *Center* was provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration. . .

NEW PRESIDENTS; NEW GOVERNING BOARD

The changing composition of the District’s Governing Board from 2004-2006 and the arrival of two new presidents¹³ over a seven-year period were major factors in changing the focus of career and technical education training in Yavapai County. That focus swung a hundred and eighty degrees from the east side of the County and the *Northern Arizona Regional Skill Center* to the west side of the County and creating a new campus there.¹⁴

MINING INTERESTS TEMPT WEST COUNTY

In 2006, Phelps-Dodge (later Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold), a Phoenix-based global mining company, let it be known that it would financially support the creation of a two-year Community College apprenticeship program in diesel, industrial and electrical mechanics. Phelps-Dodge indicated it would build classrooms and pay faculty salaries for the first three years of the program.¹⁵

¹²Yavapai College Comprehensive Financial Report, June 30, 2004 p. 4 (Center dedicated February 2004)
https://www.azauditor.gov/sites/default/files/Yavapai_County_Community_College_District_June_30_2004_CAFR.pdf (last visited November 2016).

¹³Dr. James Horton, August 2005-summer, 2011; Dr. Penelope Wills, August 2011 to present.

¹⁴The details regarding the problems faced by the College in 2004-06 and the impact of the arrival of the West County voting block were many but are not detailed in this booklet.

¹⁵Sapna Gupta, *The Role of Career and Technical Education in Arizona’s Future*, Morrison Institute for Public Policy, April 2013, p. 24.

Rather than put the diesel training facility on the East side of the County, as a part of the fledgling *Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center*, the College administrators, with Governing Board approval, began looking for a facility in the Prescott area where a CTE Community College Career and Technical Education Center could be developed.

COLLEGE LEADS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPENSES—BOARD ENDS

The College enthusiastically jumped at the chance to start a Career and Technical Education Campus on the west side of the County. The administrators located a large building in Prescott Valley at the Prescott airport that was listed for sale.¹⁶ The project was announced as a “Joint venture between Yavapai College and the Town of Prescott Valley.”¹⁷ However, Prescott Valley made no financial contribution toward its purchase or subsequent renovations.

Development of the CTE Campus was justified by the Board as consistent with Strategy 5.1 of the Board Ends that stated “Develop partnerships with communities and economic development foundations to assist with the creation and sustainability of economic-base jobs. It was also justified on Strategy 5.2 of the Board Ends that states “Develop internal and external relationships to support communities of sustainable economic-based jobs.”

Developing a new CTE facility was presented at the same meeting Prescott Valley also presented a plan asking the College for about \$4 million for “Town of Prescott Valley Public Library Yavapai Community College Project.” This was approved and the facility later occupied in part by Northern Arizona University (NAU).

STAFF USED FOR STUDIES, ETC.

As the minutes of the February meeting show, the College staff including Bob Lynch, John Morgan, Jo Berger and others were heavily involved in developing the CTE project. The minutes of the February meeting read in part as follows:

“Mr. Lynch and Mr. John Morgan, Chino Valley Campus, presented the feasibility benchmarks dated February 2, 2007. This facility will allow the College to rebuild and expand its occupational programs. Mr. Lynch stated the next step is, barring no surprises from the environmental study, to purchase the building with approval of a lease-purchase agreement and move forward through the escrow process. Ms. Berger presented a schematic of the interior of the building. The Facility Department is in the process of completing their analysis of infrastructure with utilities costs, etc. The College will also consider leasing some of the space, but Dr. Horton and Mr. Lynch indicated there are some IRS limitations on leasing Page 11

¹⁶ The “Prescott airport” is technically located in the town of Prescott Valley.

¹⁷ See Item #29, February 2007 agenda <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/02/Full%20Agenda.pdf> (last visited October 2017)

of 153 N:\District Governing Board\2006 Board Packets\October 2006\Minutes of Meeting\Minutes of October 20, 2006 DGB 6 activities for non-profit entities. The College's motivation in such leases would be to help launch companies (not to gain permanent residents) and to expand potential training opportunities."

The College staff concluded the Ruger building would be an excellent site for a CTE Community College Center.¹⁸ A funding scheme to purchase the building was quickly arranged. In April 2007, the College purchased the 108,000-square foot building under a lease purchase financing scheme for \$5 million.¹⁹ An additional \$750,000.00 was added for future renovations.²⁰ (Recall the *Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center* was only 15,000 square feet.)

The material contained in the District Governing Board Agendas for February and May 2007, describe how the purchase of the building was financed.²¹ The material also describes the cash contributions anticipated from Phelps-Dodge.

The District Governing Board formally approved a lease-purchase financing plan for the acquisition of the building "to expand occupational and technical career programs for our citizens." The lease/purchase agreement indicated that an annual payment would continue until the lease/purchase agreement was fulfilled.²² The new Career and Technical Educational Center (CTEC) was set to become fully operational in time for the fall 2007 semester. However, it was not until February 12, 2008 that it was dedicated.²³

REVENUE FROM PRIMARY PROPERTY TAXES

The revenue for the new CTEC came from primary property taxes paid by all the citizens of the County. Millions of dollars flowed from the Verde Valley for the project. Some state revenue was also used although tuition could not be used for it.

¹⁸At the March 2007 meeting, the Board authorized staff to purchase a 108,000-square foot facility at the Prescott Airport to house the District's career and technical education programs. The owner of the 108,000-square foot facility was the Sturm-Ruger Corporation. https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/05/05_Full_Agenda.pdf (last visited November 2016).

¹⁹A copy of the lease can be found in the May approved minutes of the Governing Board for April. https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/05/05_Full_Agenda.pdf (last visited November 2016).

²⁰The staff recommendations can be found at page 139 of the April 2007 agenda. https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/04/04_Full_Agenda.pdf (last visited November 2016).

²¹The anticipated Phelps-Dodge corporate contribution to the Center from 2006 to 2008 was \$717,000. There was also an indication that Phelps-Dodge might provide over \$300,000 in 2007-08 for operations. Discussed as item number 30 in the Governing Board Agenda, February 2007 <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/02/Full%20Agenda.pdf> (last visited November 2016).

²²Discussed as item number 30 in the Governing Board Agenda, February 2007 <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/02/Full%20Agenda.pdf> (last visited November 2016).

²³https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2008/02/Approved_Minutes.pdf (Last visited March 2017).

CTEC TAKES OFF

By 2008, the new CTEC offered “state-of-the industry training in career fields that are in high demand such as automotive and motorcycle technology, welding, and gunsmithing.”²⁴ Because of its partnership with Freeport-McMoRan, the College offered three mining certificate programs that guaranteed graduates a position with the mining company at a salary of \$35,000+ per year.²⁵

GOODBYE VERDE CTE

Once the decision to build a major CTE Campus at the Prescott airport was made, the College showed little further interest in developing the *Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center* on the Verde Campus. Most of the anticipated CTE courses that were listed earlier in the development stage either never got off the ground at the *Center* or were eventually moved to CTEC at the Prescott airport.

Much later, if one asked College officials about the failure of the *Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center*, a typical response was that it lacked enrollment. With the demise of the *Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center* the dreams and hopes of thousands of residents on the East side of the County for a vigorous CTE College training center vanished.

The decision to close the *Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center* meant that *V’ACTE’* would not have the potential of developing a significant partnership with the Community College. Those College pockets bulging with cash would be used to purchase costly CTE training equipment for the new West side CTEC. The decision to close the Northern Arizona Regional Skills kills Center also meant that an opportunity to closely coordinate CTE training with the College and high schools left the Verde Valley. The Verde Valley *V’ACTE* was mostly ignored by Community College officials after 2007.

VERDE BUILDING “L” RENOVATED: 2007

Building “L” on the Verde Campus was the original site for the Northern Arizona regional skills Center. Renovation of Building “L” was undertaken when career and technical education was moved to the west side of the county. Renovation of building “L” was completed in time for the fall 2007 semester. The renovation included two new science labs to meet the demands of Allied Health and other science programs.

²⁴See minutes on p. 2 of President’s Budget meeting (p. 11 of 43 on Agenda) https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2008/06/Budget_Regular_Mtg_Full_Agenda.pdf (Last visited March 2017).

²⁵*ibid.*

COLLEGE POLITICALLY HELPS WEST JTED

The history of the relationship with the JTED on the West side of the County is in sharp contrast to the relationship with the East side JTED.²⁶ There is little doubt that the District Governing Board, especially the members of the Board representing the West County interests, recognized the potential of a West County JTED linking arms with the College's well-financed CTEC Center. While the West County JTED could offer a limited number of CTE programs at its high schools, the CTEC Center could offer high-end training using costly equipment the high schools could not afford.

Among other West County benefits, CTEC could accommodate high school students and non-high school students in the same courses at its Prescott airport facility. By allowing high school students and non-high school students to jointly take courses everyone is a "winner." West County high school students obtain College credit while the College receives tuition revenue from the West County JTED to help pay for operational expenses. Furthermore, with its millions of dollars and ability to obtain large grants, the College could purchase costly equipment for its CTE programs that were out of reach for the West side JTED.

However, in 2007 there was a problem: There was not a Joint Technical Education District on the West side of Yavapai County. A political campaign was needed to create one.

The District Governing Board jumped in to support the political effort to persuade voters to create a JTED. At the February 2007 District Governing Board meeting, the need for a West County JTED was placed on the agenda for discussion. Recall that this is also the meeting where the new CTEC Campus at the Prescott airport was approved. The idea of a West County JTED received accolades from the District Governing Board. The Governing Board was presented with a document that listed the members of the newly created "West Yavapai County Joint Technology Education District Steering Committee." The College Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost was a member of the Committee. Mr. Howard Moody, an influential member of the Yavapai College Foundation, was also a member.²⁷

The Board was so excited at the potential of a West County JTED that it adopted Resolution #2007-02 encouraging its development.²⁸ The Board Resolution made the political case for a West side JTED. Resolution #2007-02²⁹ made the political case for a West side JTED.

²⁶Note that beginning in 2016 College began efforts to improve its relationship with the east side JTED.

²⁷See <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/02/JTED.pdf> (last visited March 2017).

²⁸The resolution signed by then Board Chair Ray Sigafos can be found at page 66 of the February 2007 Agenda. <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/02/Full%20Agenda.pdf> (last visited November 2016).

²⁹The resolution signed by then Board Chair Ray Sigafos can be found at page 66 of the February 2007 Agenda. <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/02/Full%20Agenda.pdf> (last visited November 2016).

**WEST YAVAPAI COUNTY
JOINT TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION DISTRICT
STEERING COMMITTEE**

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WEST COUNTY JTED ARRIVES

Politics to support a West County JTED moved swiftly following the District Governing Board resolution. In the fall of 2008, the question of creating a JTED for the West side of Yavapai County was on the ballot for West side voters. Seven West-side communities voted to create the JTED with more than 70 percent of those voting on the issue approving it. Once the West County JTED was formed, it took the name "*Mountain Institute.*" The next step for the College and the *Mountain Institute* was to coordinate CTE offerings on the CTE Community College Campus at the Prescott airport.

OCTOBER 2009 JOINT AGREEMENT

The relationship between the College and the West side JTED was solidified at the October 8, 2009 District Governing Board meeting.³⁰ The Board unanimously and no doubt enthusiastically approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the *Mountain Institute* Joint Technical Education District No. 02 and Yavapai College.

The College described the purpose of the Agreement as providing “college courses to satellite district and other students eligible for enrollment in courses funded by the *Mountain Institute* JTED. Educational opportunities may include enrollment into regularly scheduled courses and/or enrollment into customized educational arrangements.” It had never made such an agreement with the County's East side JTED.

Mountain Institute high school students began taking classes jointly in reasonably large numbers with Community College students at the CTEC at the Prescott airport. The dual enrollment provisions at CTEC for high school students plus adult non-high school students all being taught together made the College courses far more sustainable.

APRIL 2011 ENGINEERING REPORT

Beginning in the fall 2011, the College together with the *Mountain Institute*, agreed to offer an Applied Pre-Engineering Degree Program at the CTEC for high school students. This program was made possible through a federally funded Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) initiative. The partnership allowed high achieving students to get a jump start in their junior year of high school if they were considering a career in engineering.

Yavapai College's Applied Pre-Engineering students could earn an Associate's degree in Applied Pre-Engineering. They could also earn six separate industry certifications for electronics, robotics and computer numerical control. The program provided an opportunity to earn the above certifications as well as over 20 college credit hours by the time high school students graduated from high school.³¹

ROBOTICS CAMP

To complement the pre-engineering program, the College introduced at CTEC a Robotics Camp in the summer of 2011 for girls and boys in grades seven through twelve.³² The campers worked

³⁰The approval is found in item number 13 of the October 2009 Agenda. https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2009/10/Agenda%20Regular%20Bd%20Mtg%20w_attach.%2010--09.pdf (last visited November 2016).

³¹The program was outlined at the January 2011 Governing Board meeting and a Power Point presentation about it can be found within the agenda. <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2011/01/Jan112011RevBdMtgfull.pdf> (last visited November 2016).

³²*Ibid.*

in a team setting, learning the skills to build robots and compete against skill courses or against each other. They tackled daily engineering challenges and gained invaluable problem solving and interpersonal skills.

There is no indication that transportation issues between the East and West sides of the County were resolved so that girls and boys seeking to attend the Robotics Camp living on the East side of the County had easy, reasonable access to the program.

OCTOBER 6, 2011 AGREEMENT

A new intergovernmental agreement was executed between the College and the *Mountain Institute* in October 2011.³³ The agreement encompassed 17 courses.

SEPTEMBER 2014 AGREEMENT

In September 2014 the *Mountain Institute* and Yavapai College executed another intergovernmental agreement. It listed 47 courses that *Mountain Institute* JTED students could take at the CTEC and the per credit fee the College charged JTED for each of them.

Table 1: Course and per credit cost (2014)

Course	Course	Course	Course
Nursing Assistant \$460	Pvt airplane ground 1 \$1200	Airplane preventative main. \$662	Digital circuits \$276
Diesel Preventative \$184	Pvt airplane ground 2 \$1200	Fundamentals of instructor \$92	Intro line worker 1 \$184
Diesel electrical systems \$368	Pvt helicopter ground 1 \$1200	Intro CNC Machining/operator \$184	Field training (line worker) \$552
Transmission/transaxles \$368	Pvt helicopter ground 2 \$1200	CMC Machine setup \$184	Legal and ethical issues \$184
Automotive Brakes \$368	Pvt helicopter simulation \$662	3-D program & rapid	Intro Manufacturing Tech \$358

³³Item number 14 on the Agenda for October 2011 Governing Board meeting. <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2011/10/RegMtgagdafulwatts101011.pdf> (last visited November 2016).

		prototyping \$276	
Manual Drive \$368	Pvt airplane simulation \$662	Career and personal development \$276	Human nutrition \$216
Diesel steering & suspension \$368	Air Traffic Controller \$92	Intro to engineering \$276	Energy industry fundamentals \$276
Diesel Heat and air \$368	Procedures, Air Traffic Control \$92	Basic electricity \$368	Welding 1 \$184
Engine Diagnostics \$460	ATC Radar \$92	Electrical apparatus \$368	Welding II \$184
Auto engine repair \$184	Pvt Glider ground \$92	Intro to robotics \$276	Oxy-Acetylene Welding \$368
Arc 1	Arc 2 \$368	Blueprint reading \$368	MIG Welding \$368
Medical terms	Metal fabrication \$368.	Pipe welding \$368	

V 'ACTE PROGRAMS 2015-16

The chart that appears below was created by the *Morrison Institute* for the August 2016 forum held in Camp Verde.³⁴ It lists all the courses that existed in the Verde Valley at the time.

³⁴ Morrison Institute, "The Role of Postsecondary Education in the Future of the Verde Valley Region," August 2016. <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/1c69b013-7ba3-454e-b373-68b51824fc3d> (Last visited July 2017).

V'ACTE Program Offerings 2015-16	
Camp Verde	Mingus
Agriculture	Agriculture
Automotive	Automotive
Cabinet Making	Business Operations
Culinary	Drafting
Graphic Web Design	Engineering
Music / Audio Production	Film and TV
Sports Medicine	Sports Medicine
Sedona Red Rock	Technical Theatre
Business Operations	Welding
Digital Photography	V'ACTE
Film and TV	Fire Service
Journalism	Nursing
Technical Theatre	

Popular programs offered on the East side of Yavapai County as of fall 2017 include agriculture, graphic web design, and sports medicine.³⁵ Centralized programs in the Verde Valley include the firefighting Academy in Cottonwood and the nursing program, which operates out of the Verde Valley medical clinic in Cottonwood. A partnership with Yavapai College for 2016-17 will have high school students taking courses in the film and television industry and receiving dual credit for them.

GRAND REOPENING

There was a grand re-opening of CTEC on October 10, 2015 at the Prescott airport to celebrate over \$6 million in renovation.³⁶ The multi-million-dollar upgrades to the facility included new classrooms, computer labs, faculty offices, instruction areas and environmental enhancements. According to the College, technical education is one of its fastest growing offerings at the Community College level.

CUDDLING UP WITH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

The relationship between the *Mountain Institute* JTED and the College has grown closer over the years. This was due in part to the lobbying interests on the West side of the County and the fact that some of the best lobbyists were also members of the highly influential College

³⁵The information regarding popularity was provided the *Morrison Institute* in 2016.

³⁶The College claimed in its press announcements that the cost was \$5.2 million. <https://www.yc.edu/webtools/apps/opi/news/?cid=4784> (last visited November 2016). After the grand reopening, the College continued with renovations and additions.

Foundation. The membership gave them intimate contact with the College President and her advisors.

In February 2016 the District Governing Board approved moving the relationship of the College and the *Mountain Institute* closer. The “closeness” was the result of the *Mountain Institute* agreeing to move its Administrative headquarters to the Community College CTEC at the Prescott airport. In addition, the College said it was consolidating the *Mountain Institute* allied health programs with the College health programs at a new facility being built on the existing Prescott Valley Center. In May 2016 the Governing Board approved moving ahead with the Allied Health Center with an investment of \$5.8 million into the existing Prescott Valley Center.³⁷

9,000 COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS

By 2016 an estimated 200 or more high school students from the West side of the County were involved in CTE classes at CTEC.³⁸ In a *Mountain Institute* press release in December 2015 it stated that in the last six years, *Institute* high school students had earned more than 9,000 post-secondary credits from Yavapai Community College.³⁹

CONCLUSION

One of the more troubling stories in the 50-year history of the Community College Administration and District Governing Board involves how career and technical education opportunities were developed in Yavapai County. This booklet argues that the College has shown strong favoritism to the West side of Yavapai County. The booklet also argues that the result of Career and Technical Education decisions by the Governing Board may have prevented effective CTE training opportunities from developing for hundreds, if not thousands, of Verde Valley high school students and others living on the east side of the County.

The booklet argues that the CTE favoritism can be traced to 2007 when the Governing Board and College administration began closing a fledging CTE program on the Verde Campus while opening a new CTE center at the Prescott airport. Since that time, the CTE focus has been almost entirely on the West side of the County.

³⁷On its web site, the Mountain Institute indicated that it had moved its administrative headquarters to CTEC at the Prescott airport.

³⁸In fall, 2015 240 JTED students from the Mountain Institute enrolled at CTEC. Yavapai College News release, September 10, 2015 <https://www.yc.edu/webtools/apps/opi/news/?cid=4785> (last visited November 16, 2016).

³⁹In a spread sheet on its web site, the Mountain Institute reported that by the end of 2014 students had earned 6,288 credits.
http://www.mijted.net/pages/Mountain_Institute_JTED/Group_Pages/MIJTED_Governing_Board/JTED_Data (last visited November 2016).

This essay asserts that the favoritism for the west side of Yavapai County is evident when the history of the development of career and technical education plus the relationship with the west county JTED and Community College is examined. For example, while the CTE project on the Verde Campus was being closed down in 2007, the Community College began a vigorous development of a new CTE Center at the Prescott airport and began simultaneously courting a relationship with the Joint Technical Education District (JTED) for the high schools on the West side of the County.⁴⁰ Those high schools played an important role in the ultimate development and financial success of the College's Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) at the Prescott airport.

It is argued that the favoritism for the West side has continued unabated since 2007. For example, while high school students on the West side of the County were obtaining access to CTEC training opportunities at the Center at the Prescott airport, those same opportunities were not available to high school students on the East side of the County.⁴¹ The Governing Board has never seriously addressed the inequity for a decade.

The essay suggests that the key to building an outstanding Career and Technical Education Center on the East side of Yavapai County begins with close and supportive cooperation between the three high schools, VACTE and the Community College. They should follow the model based on 10-years' experience of Yavapai College, the Joint Technical Education District (Mountain Institute JTED)⁴², and high school superintendents on the west side of Yavapai County.

Because the educators on the West side of the County placed education of their children ahead of potential local territorialism they could roll up their sleeves and work together. The result is a comprehensive CTE program and centralization of many projects at the finest small college CTE facility in Arizona, if not the United States --CTEC located at the Prescott airport.

Yes, the Verde Valley has been badly served in the last decade. It is, however, time to move ahead. What is done, is done.

⁴⁰For example, the Yavapai College Provost was a member of the West Yavapai County Joint Technology Education District Steering Committee as of February 2007. <https://www.yc.edu/v5content/district-governing-board/sub/2007/02/JTED.pdf> (last visited November 2007).

⁴¹ No high school students from the East side of the County have attended any CTE courses during the school year at the Colleges CTE Center at the Prescott airport.

⁴² *Mountain Institute*, see http://www.mijted.net/pages/Mountain_Institute_JTED (last visited March 2017).