New Programs: Pre-Pharmacy and Unmanned Aerial Systems

In fall 2019, Yakima Valley College entered valuable partnerships that resulted in two new programs: Pre-Pharmacy and Unmanned (Drone) Aerial Systems. The Pre-Pharmacy program, designed in partnership with WSU’s College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, prepares advanced biochemistry students to apply for pharmacy school. The drone program, a partnership with Big Bend Community College, offers both a one-year certificate option and a shorter two-credit online class which prepares students for the test for federal licensure. Many industries now rely on drone technology, including media production, emergency response, agriculture and land survey.

One of Ten Colleges Chosen for Caring Campus

In 2019-20, many YVC staff members will receive no-cost training to improve their relationship-building skills and create an even more welcoming environment for students. YVC was one of only 10 colleges nationwide selected for this training by the Institute for Evidence-Based Change, a higher education consultant group from southern California. YVC was chosen for a number of factors, including its relatively rural location, its status as a Hispanic Serving Institution, its ability to generate performance data, and its record of successfully implementing emerging industry practices.

Flourishing Undergraduate Research

In summer 2019, YVC’s Arts and Sciences division again offered students a wealth of paid summer independent research opportunities. There were 19 projects in all, led by faculty mentors, covering research areas as diverse as woodpecker communication strategies, household hazardous waste management, cross-fostered chimpanzees and pesticide residue in wine. These projects put students in contact with valued community partners and employers, including the Yakima Valley Museum, the Washington State Department of Transportation, the US Department of Agriculture, the Washington State Department of Ecology and many more.