

October 28th, 2015

Good morning Stakeholders of the Yavapai County Education Service Agency (YCESA),

As you probably know, our agency is undertaking a new challenge.....to become the first Education Service Agency in Arizona to be accredited by AdvancED. Successful accreditation of the agency will ultimately include our currently accredited Accommodation School District and Juvenile Detention School as well.

I have long believed in the power of accreditation as a conduit to a successful continual improvement model, strategic planning, empowerment of staff, thoughtful data based dialogue and decision making, and having an external review and account of our efforts.

Accrediting Education Service Agencies is quite common in many states, but since this effort has not been attempted in Arizona before, the Arizona AdvancED office is using a process that resembles a modified "system accreditation model" which many of our larger school districts are now using. We have embraced that model and are confident we can be successful.

We have applied for candidacy and successfully completed the readiness review. We have long maintained an excellent working relationship with the Arizona AdvancED staff and have an outstanding internal Steering Committee in place. Our mission, vision, and belief statements have been reviewed and only slightly amended. We have an external review team (including an out of state chair) that will visit our campuses October 16-19, 2016. We look forward to their visit, to engaging in a professional interaction about the elements of a highly successful ESA , and their findings. We will learn a great deal and be a much better agency as a result.

At this point, we are actively engaged in the self-evaluation process. We have already realized a great many things, both positive and negative.....all of which we are learning from. Now, we could use your help, please. It is essential that we collect "stakeholder surveys" from various individuals and groups that we interact with to get their views of our agency and the services it provides. If you would kindly take a few minutes to complete a survey it would be sincerely appreciated. Feel free to skip questions, of which you may be unfamiliar Please be straight forward. We need an honest assessment of where we are now, to create a baseline for improvement in the future. Your help is critical in that regard. Thank you very much for your assistance. Click link to take the survey <http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/5384168>.

We will keep you informed about our continuing accreditation efforts. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at 928.925.6560.



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