

December 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Yavapai College is committed to providing high quality, convenient, and cost effective learning opportunities for the diverse population of Yavapai County. The College has two main campuses, with the Verde Valley Campus located in Clarkdale, Arizona. Our latest addition to the college is the 108,000 square foot Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC). One of our most popular programs offered at CTEC is Mining Technology, which is generously supported by Freeport McMoRan. As an institution, Yavapai College has a demonstrated concern about the economic and environmental sustainability of our central Arizona region.

Upon examination of the Town of Clarkdale's plans for a Sustainability Park, we feel this concept will help achieve long-term economic vitality in our region and, at the same time, improve environmental health, and wise use of scarce water resources. The Clarkdale Sustainability Park is a concept whose time has come and the area surrounding Peck's Lake in Clarkdale, currently owned by Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold, has many unique attributes that make it a logical location for a facility of this type.

Numerous possibilities exist for Yavapai College to join in partnership with Clarkdale on this project. Eventually, we envision internship programs offering structured field experiences at the Clarkdale Sustainability Park, enabling students to explore potential careers and apply knowledge gained in our classrooms, while refining their technical skills and gaining relevant experience in a career focused on sustainability.

I encourage our legislative representatives and others interested in solving some of our most pressing problems to support the Town of Clarkdale in this effort in every way possible. Only by working together as a community, as outlined in the Clarkdale plan, can we take the steps necessary to bring lasting prosperity and environmental stewardship to our region.

Sincerely,



Tom Schumacher
Campus Executive Dean