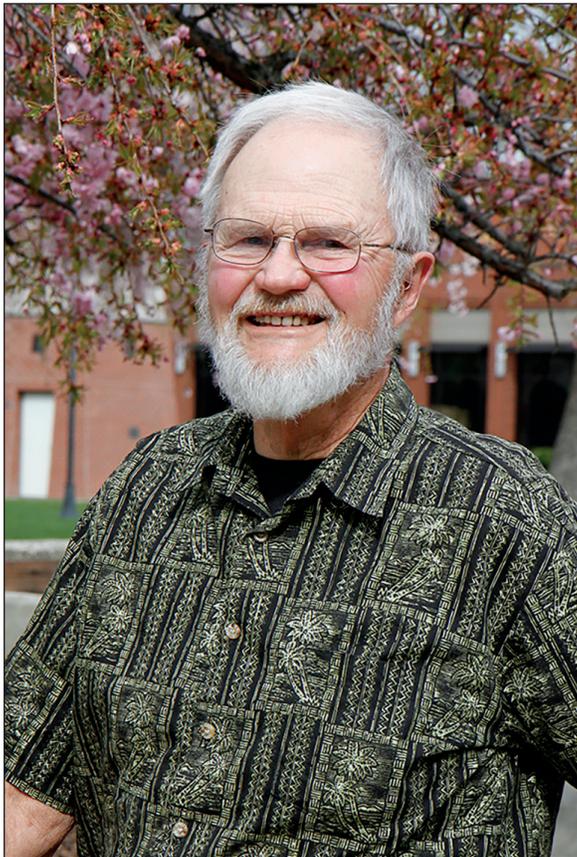


Distinguished Alumnus Award



Mr. Chuck Weedin

The Yakima Valley Community College Alumni Association is pleased to announce Mr. Chuck Weedin as this year's recipient of the *Distinguished Alumnus Award*. A passionate educator, he taught at the college for 43 years before retiring in 2004.

Weedin grew up in the Wenatchee Valley and migrated to Yakima to finish high school. He enrolled at YVCC and earned his associate degree in 1954. From there he went on to graduate from Washington State University (WSU) with degrees in social studies, speech, and education. He was then drafted to serve in the United States Army and spent two years of active duty in Oahu, Hawaii. After his service, he returned to WSU earning a master's degree in public address and a minor in community college education.

In 1961 YVCC called and offered Weedin a position as a speech instructor and the opportunity to oversee the newly built dormitories. He had fallen in love with the community college mission as a student, so he accepted the position and remained at YVCC until his retirement. Weedin became involved in campus life, living in the dorms, and serving on numerous committees including advising, homecoming, graduation, student services, tenure review, and accreditation.

In 1991 Weedin received national recognition as an outstanding academic advisor. In 1994 he received the *Robert M. Leadon*

Excellence in Teaching Award from the YVCC Foundation, in 2004 received *Teacher of the Year* awarded by the YVCC student government, and in 2005 he was selected by YVCC as *Emeritus Faculty*.

His commitment to YVCC and its students continues today. He has served the college for over 20 years as a member of the alumni association. "Chuck Weedin has made a difference in his community," stated Deborah Wilson, former alumni association coordinator. "From all of the students who have sat in his classes, to all of the individuals he has met and interacted with, at, around, and because of YVCC, everyone has been impacted by his gentle nature, his good humor, and his fierce devotion to the college and its mission of higher education," she concluded.

"Attending YVCC was one of the most shaping things to happen in my life because of both the instructors and the caliber of instruction," stated Weedin. "Alumni associations are a very good thing. They provide a chance for people to come back and support the institution. I've enjoyed and continue to enjoy serving," continued Weedin.

Wanting to share some of his experiences with the graduating class of 2016, Weedin provided some insight into what life was like 62 years ago when he graduated from YVCC. "Imagine having school cancelled on a Friday so that we could go out and hunt pheasants. This is exactly what we would do in preparation for the Home Harvest Dinner. Students would go and hunt and then prepare the dinner. All the faculty would perform skits and the student body would enjoy the meal," stated Weedin. "The student body was small, there were only 150-200 students and one building, Prior Hall," he continued. He can only imagine how different campus will be in another 62 years. "Graduates, imagine what the world will be like in 2078. I know people don't always plan on living that long, but I hope you do. There is one thing I know for sure. YVCC administrators, faculty, and staff will continue to support students and provide opportunities to create community. I wish you all well," he concluded.

Weedin lives in Selah with his wife, Gloria. Now in retirement they enjoy spending time with family and gardening. In addition, he remains active with YVCC's Alumni Association, the Salvation Army Board, and Selah Kiwanis.