

Headline: NAU teacher is well-known in the College of Business but many people don't know his outside duties besides teaching

Everyone stands out whether it be a hidden talent, they volunteer in the community, hold a leadership position, etc. This is the case for Professor Eric Yordy.

Yordy is a long time faculty member at NAU first starting as a part-time teacher back in 2000 and is now a full-time professor at the College of Business. Originally, Yordy came to Flagstaff to further his education but plans changed when he arrived.

“I was practicing law in Los Angeles and wanted to get a higher education. I came here originally to be a student and got a job in the dean's office and got a part time job at night and things sorta just moved along,” Yordy said.

After working all these years, Yordy loves his job and also working with the students whether they be incoming freshmen or graduating seniors.

“I love the students and exploring different aspects of business with them and how the stuff we talk about in class is stuff they're gonna deal with in real life,” Yordy said.

What people may not know about Yordy is that he serves as a local bishop for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Because of this, Yordy balances both being a full time professor and being a bishop on the side.

Members of the Latter-Day Saints do not receive payment when they have a position in the church and sacrifice their time to serve in the calling. Despite working long hours at the university, Yordy does all he can to fulfill his calling as bishop.

“For me it actually works really well because the ward I’m a bishop of is over the young single adults and so I get to spend even more time with the student group that I love working with,” Yordy said.

For some, it can be really hard to work a full time job and serve in the community as well. For Yordy, it comes natural to him when balancing both being a professor and a bishop. He uses the same principles from his job when he serves as a bishop.

“A lot of it is still working with young single adults. Working with students or working with the members in the ward to help them adjust to life in Flagstaff, help them adjust to living on their own and so they’re in a constant state of transition just as the students in my classes are,” Yordy said.

Though Yordy enjoys being a bishop on the side, he admits there are challenges he deals with.

“The hardest thing about balancing both is sorta the awesome thing about both is that I am surrounded a lot of times by people who are struggling with the transition,” Yordy said.

“The hardest thing is there’s a lot of that but the beautiful thing about it is that I get to do that in both my job and at church to use the same skill sets that I’m using and working with.”

Outside of work and church, Yordy says that he and his wife like to go on hikes and be outside in nature whenever they get the chance. He also enjoys listening to music and playing the piano to wind down after long days.

Yordy is an example who has the best of both worlds. With his positive attitude and always having a smile on his face, he makes others around him feel safe and cared for. Whether it be at church or school, Yordy does his best to get the job done and to serve everyone around him.