

Victor Valley Community College Press Release

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Apple Valley Teacher in Pregnant Minors Program Honored by “Teachers R Heroes”

The setting was different but the celebration had the same effect. Everyone in the audience was ecstatic at the selection of Rebecca Leary as the first “Teacher R Heroes” honoree of the new year. The celebration was held before a large group of residents, students, and educators at the monthly meeting of the Apple Valley Unified School District. Leary, a teacher in the Pregnant Minors Program at Apple Valley High School, was nominated for her unwavering support and encouragement of the young students in the program.

In one of the nominations that was submitted by a teenage student in Ms. Leary’s class, the submitter is quoted as saying, “In my opinion Becky Leary is the most dedicated and honorable teacher that I’ve ever met. When I was fifteen years old I became pregnant with my son. I had no one to turn to and I thought that I wasn’t going to be able to accomplish any of my dreams because of my pregnancy. She enabled me to grow as a

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person, student, and mother and I believe that nominating her for this award is the least that she deserves in comparison to what she's done for me. She helped me grow into the young woman I am today. She taught me to never settle for anything less than what I deserve and helped me to achieve such a high self-confidence in who I was and what I stood for. Being a pregnant teen in high school was never easy. People looked down on me because of my situation, but she stood there proud of the person I was becoming and she would tell me that every day. When I was sad, she would listen. When I would cry, she would hug me. When I was mad, she would make me spill my guts and help me resolve the problem even if I thought it was ridiculous because she knew it was in my best interest. Everything she does is in the best interest of all her students.

Becky wasn't only a teacher to me, but was also a mentor and helped me to become the mother I am today! After graduating Apple Valley High School, she helped me to enroll in college. She taught me to reach for the stars not only for myself, but for my son who I care for to better his life and set an example for him.

In another nomination a parent wrote, "Becky played a crucial part of my daughter's life, not only as teacher and mentor, but also as disciplinarian. My daughter was required to call in if she was going to be absent. (Something my daughter cringed at!) Mrs. Leary even threatened to come and pick her up, if she didn't make it in. She was optimistic, encouraging and tough on not only my daughter, but all of the girls. Becky challenged the girls to succeed even when all odds were against them. I am proud to say that with Mrs. Leary's help, my daughter was able to take her son with her to school everyday, graduate a year early and even complete her second year of college at VVC as an honor roll

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student. Rebecca continues, even today to help keep my daughter on track and I can not express how grateful I am to her for being there for her students, my daughter and my entire family.”

The Teachers R Heroes Program is sponsored by Victor Valley College, San Bernardino County Schools, Clear Channel Radio, and Desert Community Bank.

Teacher nominations may be submitted in the form of 500 words-or-less essays to www.vvc.edu. Anyone interested in making a nomination can go online to www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com, www.Y102FM.com, www.TheFox106.com, or www.Talk960.com, and find a link to the college’s website. Nominations may also be sent by mail to Victor Valley College, Teachers are Heroes, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395, attention Dr. Lori Kildal.

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