

Victor Valley Community College

Press Release

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Lucerne Valley High School Teacher Honored by Teachers R Heroes

The gym was packed with students who were in an anxious state because the school day was almost over and an assembly had been called. Once they learned that one of their favorite teachers was being honored by Teachers R Heroes, everyone was happy for the event. The honored recipient Mr. Troy VanBavel, who teaches agricultural science, agricultural mechanics and horticulture for grades 9 through 12, came onto the gym floor and threw himself into a poorly executed cartwheel to the appreciation of everyone assembled. The students loved it.

That love was reiterated in the nominations that were submitted on Mr. VanBevel's behalf. One such nominator wrote, "I think Mr. VanBavel is a hero, because he cares about everyone of his students. He teaches them not only what in the books, but about real life. He teaches them that common sense in this world goes a long way. He always tells the kids, when there is something that they really don't want to do, you don't have to - you get to. He teaches them a whole different way to take on challenges in this life. He teaches them to do it with leadership and responsibility.

When my son lost a number of scholarships for college because of the economy, he was pretty devastated, but Mr. VanBavel talked to him and showed him he just had to find another way. He is my hero for that. One of my other sons also has Mr. VanBavel as a teacher. He has taught him that there is more in this world than video games, texting and watching TV. Mr. VanBavel has taught him about leadership, animals, plants, team work and team building skills. He teaches him things he will use when he goes out in the real work. He is truly awesome.

Mr. VanBavel gives so much of his own time to these kids. Many times I have driven passed the school on my way home from work to see his truck still parked in the parking lot. All of his students love him. He is our Hero."

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.

The Teachers R Heroes Program is sponsored by Victor Valley College, San Bernardino County Schools, El Dorado Broadcasting, and the Daily Press. Contributing members of the community include: San Bernardino First District Supervisor, Brad Mitzelfelt, Staples, Victor Valley Hospital, Little Caesars Pizza and Pasco's Pizza.