

Victor Valley College Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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High School to College Bridge Program Conference Scheduled for September 8 at VVC

In an effort to improve student transition from high schools to colleges and universities, area superintendents, board members, administrators, principals, and other educational leaders are gathering at a conference to review a new program designed to address the issue. This valley-wide conference is scheduled for Friday, September 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Activities Center at Victor Valley College.

The conference will give details about a new endeavor called the "Bridge Program". The program is structured to assist all diploma granting institutions with transition of their students to any post-secondary educational program by bringing the enrollment process directly to the seniors at their local high schools.

The Bridge Program begins, at the outset, with a primary focus on community colleges because they are a natural home base for most students coming out of high schools in California. With 110 institutions offering academic and certificated programs at low tuitions, community colleges are the perfect transitional partners for high schools and four year institutions. The Bridge Program is open to any post-secondary institution that expresses an interest in participating.

The program draws its structure from a field test conducted by Victor Valley College this past spring at Serrano High School. The field test was conducted to determine ways to improve student transition from high school to college. For many students it was a matter of overcoming procedural hurdles rather than apathy or a lack of preparedness. The theory behind the experiment was that institutional support for college transition would increase participation in post-secondary programs.

In the field test, Serrano's SLC program (small learning communities) were utilized by senior advisory teachers to offer a series of lessons and activities that taught students how the college system works, what available programs are offered, and how to get through

the financial aid process, placement exams, enrollment, and registration. This activity was followed by an extensive and informative college tour.

The goal of the Bridge Program is to have seventy-percent of the participating high school graduates in the High Desert enrolled in college by the end of their senior year. Invitations have been sent to all area schools. Officials from the San Bernardino Department of Education, UCR and other community colleges have already responded positively to the invitation.