

RAMS MONTHLY



STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE



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recognized as top
California college for
student success!

'Take Back The Night' Coming to Campus



Take Back the Night is an annual event that aims to raise awareness and support for survivors of sexual violence and assault. This year, the event will be held at Victor Valley College and will be hosted by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee on April 28, 2023. The event is open to all members of the community, including students, staff, and faculty.

The event will feature a variety of activities and resources designed to educate participants about sexual violence and to provide support for survivors. There will be guest speakers, including survivors of sexual violence, who will share their stories and provide inspiration for others. There will also be workshops and informational booths set up throughout the event where attendees can learn more about sexual violence prevention and response.

Sexual violence is a widespread and serious issue in many countries, including the United States. Here are some national statistics on sexual violence in the US:

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), 1 in 3 women and

1 in 6 men experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 38 men have experienced completed or attempted rape at some point in their lives.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports that in 2019, there were an estimated 758,800 incidents of rape or sexual assault in the US. This includes both completed and attempted incidents.

The majority of sexual assault victims are young, with those aged 12-34 being at the highest risk.

LGBTQ+ individuals and people with disabilities are also at higher risk for sexual violence.

It's important to note that sexual violence is vastly under-reported, and these statistics likely represent only a fraction of the actual number of incidents that occur. Addressing sexual violence and promoting prevention and support for survivors is an ongoing and important effort for communities and society as a whole.

Take Back the Night is an important event for the community, as it brings attention to an issue that affects many people. It provides an

opportunity for survivors to be heard and supported, and for allies to learn how they can help make a difference. By attending the event and participating in its activities, attendees can demonstrate their commitment to ending sexual violence and promoting a safer, more inclusive community for everyone.





VVC CTE Students Tour Facilities of High Desert Industry Leaders

Exquadrum, DeVoll Rubber, and Mitsubishi Cement Corp opens their doors to VVC students who got some insight into possible entry-level positions post-graduation

Victor Valley College (VVC) Career Technical Education (CTE) students recently had the opportunity to tour several industry leader organizations here in the High Desert including Exquadrum, DeVoll Rubber, and Mitsubishi Cement Corp. The tours were part of an effort to provide students with real-world experience and insight into potential career paths upon completion of their respected programs at VVC. During the tours, students had the chance to see the inner workings of these organizations and learn about the various job opportunities available.

Exquadrum, a technology company specializing in aerospace and defense, gave students a behind-the-scenes look at their facility. Students learned about the company's cutting-edge technology and its applications in the aerospace and defense industries. They also had the opportunity to speak with engineers and scientists about their work and ask questions about potential career paths. The tour was a valuable experience for students interested in pursuing careers in STEM fields. Exquadrum President, Eric Schmidt was asked about the experience they provided in their tour to VVC students, stating "Education is vital to the growth of the Mojave River Valley. Having Victor Valley College's High Desert Training Center next door, in the space donated to them by Exquadrum, for vocational education, aligns with the values and principles upheld by Exquadrum. Exquadrum was honored to have the Industrial Mechanic Program come for a presentation and tour of our facilities to learn about our cutting-edge technology. The HDTC

is doing a great job preparing their students for successful careers in the industry."

At DeVoll Rubber, students learned about the production of rubber products and the many applications of rubber in various industries. Students saw firsthand the manufacturing process and learned about the quality control measures necessary to ensure the durability and reliability of rubber products. The organization was asked about its time giving VVC students a tour of their facilities, stating "It is important to show some of the opportunities that are available here in the High Desert. We understand that opening our doors can spark imagination and help students picture themselves in the manufacturing sector. It's important for local industry to partner with VVC because then we can all work together to create a workforce that has some knowledge about what employers are looking for."

Finally, at Mitsubishi Cement Corp, students learned about the process of cement production and the environmental considerations involved in the industry. They were able to see the various stages of the production process and learn about the importance of sustainability in the cement industry. The tour was a valuable experience for students interested in pursuing careers in environmental science and sustainability. Overall, the tours provided VVC CTE students with valuable real-world experience and insight into potential career paths. They were able to learn about the inner workings

of various industries and speak with professionals about their work. The tours were a reminder of the importance of CTE education and the opportunities it provides for students to explore their passions and interests. VVC continues to prioritize hands-on experiences for their students and these tours were a perfect example of that.

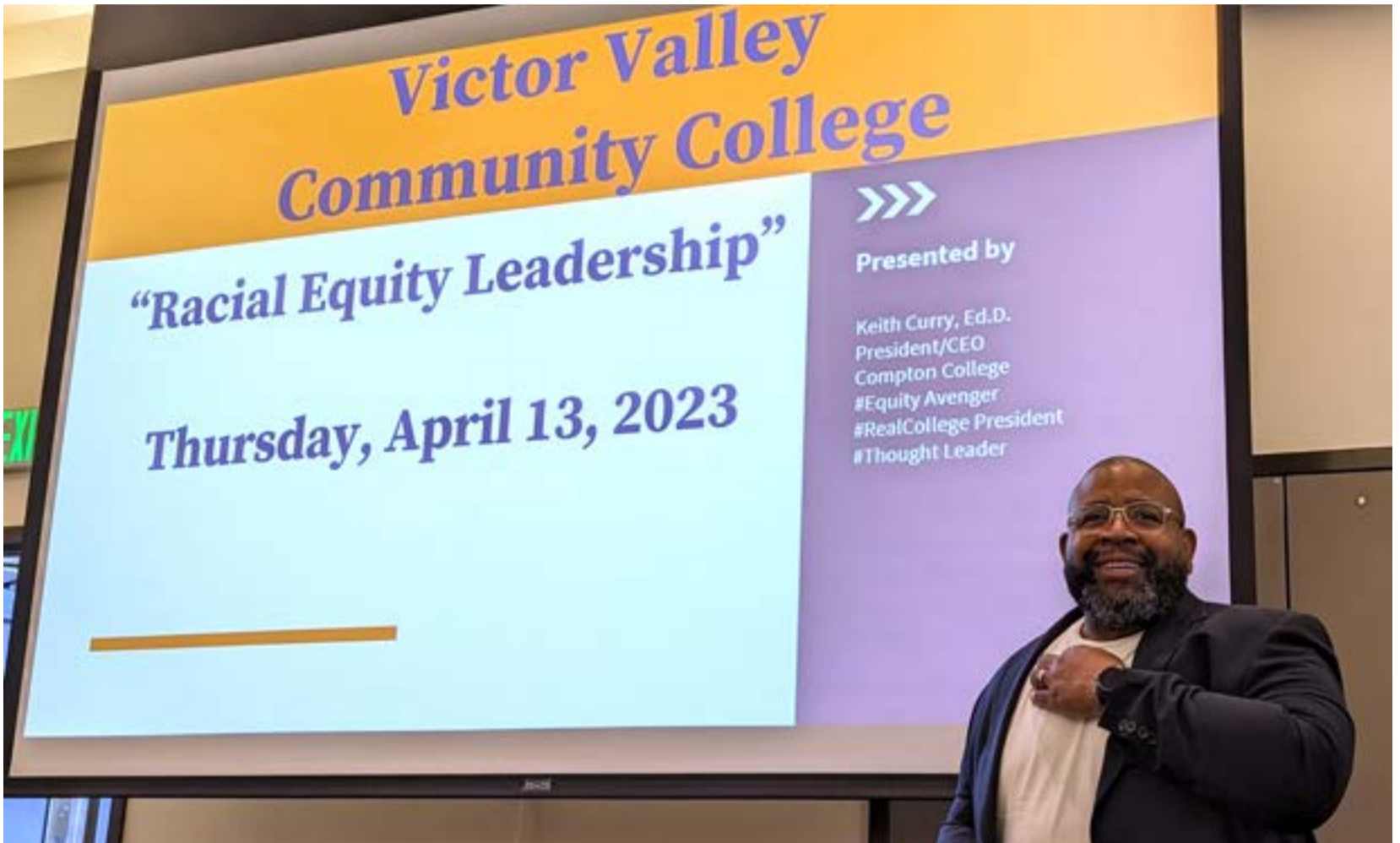
VVC students voiced their gratitude for the tours that showed how each company operated, including the behind the scenes activities that most people don't generally get to witness.

VVC Program Director, Justin Susi, spoke to some students about their experience who said that the "input was invaluable and it was eye opening and helped [them] see what some companies were about and how they operated."



Dr. Curry Presents an Enlightening Look at Leadership

Compton College President/CEO Presents Memorable Equity Discussion with VVC Leaders



Dr. Keith Curry, President of Compton College, shared his insights on Racial Equity Leadership with leaders of Victor Valley College in a recent presentation held at the Student Activities Center.

The event was attended by a diverse group of leaders and students from various departments of Victor Valley College, who were keen to learn from Dr. Curry's extensive experience and expertise on issues of racial equity.

During his presentation, Dr. Curry emphasized the importance of creating inclusive environments that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. He also discussed strategies for addressing racial disparities in higher education, highlighting the importance of data-driven approaches and collaborative efforts. In January 2023 Dr. Curry received worldwide acknowledgement from Forbes for national prominence on racial equity and student

success.

Dr. Curry's presentation was well-received by the audience, who praised his leadership and insights on Strategic Leadership. Dr. Curry explained in-depth how strategic leadership happens when a leader shares a vision and goal with their team and inspires them to work together,

"Dr. Curry's presentation was insightful and informative, and it gave us a lot to think about in terms of how we can improve our own institution," said Dr. Daniel Walden, President of Victor Valley College.

The event was organized as part of Victor Valley College's ongoing efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion on its campus. The college has recently launched several initiatives aimed at improving access and opportunities for under-represented groups, including scholarships and mentorship programs.

Dr. Curry is widely recognized as a leading expert in the field of racial equity in higher education.

Dr. Keith Curry has adopted a slogan, "Every student is a success story." He believes every community college student can be successful with the right academic and student support services. Dr. Curry has taken a strong stance in the ability of community colleges to provide quality education to students and to provide an environment of educational excellence. Dr. Curry also has a passion for teaching those students who aspire to careers as higher education administrators.

Rambassador Quentin CJ Livingston aka "Q" is a 21-year-old student enrolled at VVC. Q had an opportunity to attend the presentation by Dr. Curry and felt that the discussion on Racial Equity was "very productive."

"When we talk about skin color and opport-

"Q" currently serves as a Rambassador at VVC



-unities, it leads into Black students gaining trinkets of success through hard work individually." Q says moving more in-depth that "overall it's about the collective."

Q also enjoyed Dr. Curry's explanation of specifying the importance of establishing an economic base and that everyone needs to do their part with "learning what systemic racism is and how it works."

A 2021 abstract on the National Library of Medicine website (NIH) says that "Systemic racism is a scientifically tractable phenomenon, urgent for cognitive scientists to address. This tutorial reviews the built-in systems that undermine life opportunities and outcomes by racial category, with a focus on challenges to Black Americans."

Another VVC student who is also a Rambassador, Jesus Gonzalez, also attended Dr. Curry's presentation. He says that he really enjoyed how Dr. Curry spoke on making college affordable for students.

Jesus is a first generation college student and says that it's the simple stuff like free food or free access to printers, "Food is one of the best things a college could offer its students."

Jesus says the reason he chose to attend VVC is because he did not want to work a dead-end job and felt that education gives him an opportunity for something better, but most importantly it's a place where he can enjoy getting an education.

Jesus also touched on his thoughts about grants that are used specifically for students. He says that it's important to encourage the positive spending of such funds for things like free food for students because "if you don't use it you lost it."

One of the biggest challenges facing higher education in the United States today is achieving racial equity. Despite efforts to increase diversity and inclusion on college campuses, many institutions still struggle to create an environment that is truly welcoming and inclusive for students of all racial backgrounds.

One of the key challenges facing higher education in the quest for racial equity is the persistent achievement gap between white and non-white students. Despite efforts to close this gap, there are still significant disparities in terms of graduation rates, academic performance, and access to resources like scholarships and internships. Some of the factors that contribute to these disparities include a lack of financial support for students of color, cultural biases in the curriculum and teaching methods, and a lack of diversity in the faculty and administration. To address these challenges, institutions must invest in programs and initiatives that provide targeted support for students of color, such as mentoring and tutoring programs, scholarships and grants, and culturally responsive teaching and learning strategies.

Additionally, institutions like Victor Valley College are working to increase diversity among faculty and staff, and create a more inclusive and welcoming campus culture that celebrates and respects the contributions of people of all races and ethnicities.

QUICK FACTS:

Despite being a significant proportion of the student body, Black and Hispanic students face disparities in graduation rates and transfer rates.

For example, according to a report by The Campaign for College Opportunity, in 2019-2020, only 28% of Black students and 33% of Hispanic students who enrolled in a California community college in 2014-2015 had earned a degree or certificate, transferred to a four-year institution, or were still enrolled after six years.

To address these disparities, California has implemented several programs and initiatives to support minority students, such as the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and the California College Promise Grant, which provides free tuition for eligible students. These programs have been shown to improve academic outcomes for Black and Hispanic students.



Jesus currently serves as a Rambassador at Victor Valley College.

REMINDER
Fall 2023 is FREE
if you register for
classes before
June 17.



Student Spotlight: Meet Mark

Mark's journey is nearly four decades in the making, starting at VVC back in 1981

The year was 1981. Victor Valley College was celebrating its 20th successful year as a community college in California. Student Mark Hinojos enrolled in VVC, but then left abruptly to pursue other adventures.

Fast forward nearly 4 decades later to 2018. Mark returns to VVC to finish his AA degree in Liberal Arts with a Social and Behavioral Science Emphasis.

Not every adventure is worth celebrating, however. Mark had quite some dark days before making the effort to get his life on the right course. "I can admit that I am a recovering alcoholic and part of my recovery was to start to give back to my community, it helped me find a higher purpose for my life," says Mark.

Mark decided the best way to help others is to dig deeper into his own challenges and find ways to help others with their addictions. On that journey, he says he discovered that a college degree could help those who needed to find their own path to recovery, so he moved back to his hometown, sort of. "I moved to Oak Hills and not back to Apple Valley where I was born and raised, and began my education starting at San Bernardino Valley College for my Substance Use Disorder Certificate. While continuing that certificate path, I met Professor Anh Weis for my 'Fire by Crucible' back into elementary algebra! I discovered that she taught at both VVC and SBVC so I knew I could follow her to both schools."

Professor Weis became a major impact in Mark's journey who says that Weis had a way of teaching that enabled him as an older man, to start over in the quest of algebraic expertise, and it was a tough start. "Professor Weis stuck it out, worked with me to help me understand what she was teaching and more importantly, the how and why of what she was teaching. I am a numbers guy so things absolutely need to stand up to verification and quantification, so she figured out a way to kind of reverse engineer how the equations evolve into problem solving and how to incorporate that into real life scenarios." Mark also says that Weis made me a promise that if he put in the time, as she was committing to him, it would all make sense and she would see him through to the finish line.

"What began as an elementary algebra class with a final grade of "C", carried me all the way



Mark at a public health event during COVID-19.

through my final "A" in college algebra with skills support by setting me up for success in the Math Lab. I don't think I could have finished this part of my CSUGE without out her. In fact, what she gave me was the math confidence to continue through to Bio-Stats and I have already carried forward a 4.0 GPA into my SAS programming and other stats curriculum at the University."

Where is Mark Today?

Mark started his career in public health not long after receiving his Associate Degree at VVC. In Spring 2020 at the beginning of COVID-19 Mark began working for the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health for about a year and a half as a communicable disease case investigator.

"While working through the pandemic, I realized that public health offered me the opportunity to reach far more people on a much larger scale as a health educator so I changed my major to Health Sciences and Health Education and continued to study while I worked full time at the county." says Mark.

In August 2021, based on Mark's performance as a team lead for the county, his supervisor put his name in the hat as a candidate for a fellowship with California Pathways into Public Health (Cal-PPH). Not long after, Mark was awarded the fellowship.

Developed by the California Department of Public Health, UCSF and UCLA, the program is designed to hire, educate, train, and place new public health professionals in rural or underserved local health jurisdictions.

Mark says he never gets bored with the work, "One of the first lessons I learned in public health is that no day is 'typical.' While my expertise lies in communications and public outreach, I work on teams that focus on community health assessments (CHA) and improvement planning (CHIP), Health Equity initiatives and Communicable disease investigations in COVID-19, Tuberculosis, STI/STD's and more. My other focus is FEMA training for our Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) programs.

Mark has big plans for his career since his time is up with the fellowship. The primary focus of the two-year program has provided him with a worldclass education and a pathway into public health at the local level. Ultimately, the program was designed so that it impacts how participants make a positive difference in their communities, allowing for permanent placement. "Some of us are still waiting for that offer but I am proud to tell you that I was offered a career position with Tehama County Health Services Agency, which is the local health jurisdiction I was placed in and I am planning on staying [there] so I can make a difference in this small, but very awesome county of Northern California." says Mark.

"Professor Weis stuck it out, worked with me to help me understand what she was teaching..."

Mark has a bit of advice for fellow college students that may be struggling to find their one truth path in higher education, "First, get your General Education done first so you don't burn out, second, if you can, stay employed while you're in school. It may be tough, but that work experience is what is going to make you stand out to future employers, Third, find a professor like Anh Weis in the VVC math department to help you navigate whatever challenges college throws at you, for me that was algebra! I have worked with a lot of instructors throughout my education and finding the ones with passion and empathy will help you succeed at whatever endeavors you strive for. I know that there are incredible instructors still available in this world and a lot of them work in our community college districts. Be honest with your struggles in their classes, ask a lot of questions, put in the work and they will reach far beyond the norms to help you succeed."

NOW HIRING!



PT CDL INSTRUCTORS
\$50.00/HR
INFO@VVC.EDU

Mark Your Calendar!

APRIL 21 | 230 PM
FAFSA Workshop

APRIL 28 | 6 PM
Take Back the Night

MAY 2 | 5 PM
Wellness Fair

MAY 4 | 230 PM
Movie Break

MAY 13 | 2 PM & 6 PM
Dancer's Pointe Presents: Peter Pan

MAY 14 | 2 PM & 6 PM
Dancer's Pointe Presents: Peter Pan

MAY 15 | 7 AM
VVC Men's Golf State Championship

MAY 16 | 7 AM
VVC Men's Golf State Championship

MAY 17 | 9 AM
VVC Community Job Fair

MAY 24 | 10 AM
Life Stream Blood Drive

MAY 25 | 5 PM
FAFSA Workshop

MAY 29 | ALL DAY
Memorial Day - Campus is closed

JUNE 3 | 9 AM
Dreamers, Visionaries, & Leaders
Scholarship Reception

JUNE 9 | 230 PM
FAFSA Workshop

JUNE 14 | 6 PM
VVC 2023 Spring Graduation

ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR A COMPLETE LIST OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLEASE BROWSE THE "COMMUNITY EVENT CALENDAR" BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW:



APRIL 22 EARTH DAY

DID YOU KNOW?

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22nd to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage people to take action towards protecting the planet. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, and since then, it has become a global event with over 190 countries participating. The day is marked with various activities such as tree planting, litter cleanup, and environmental education. The theme for Earth Day 2023 is "Invest in Our Planet" with a focus on promoting the restoration of ecosystems and the use of sustainable technologies.

One of the key areas of focus on Earth Day is promoting the use of clean energy. According to the International Energy Agency, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power accounted for more than 80% of new electricity generation capacity added globally in 2020. This growth in clean energy has helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. In the United States, the use of renewable energy has been increasing steadily, with wind and solar power accounting for more than 10% of the country's electricity generation in 2020. The Biden administration has set a goal of reaching 100% clean energy by 2035, which would require significant investments in renewable energy infrastructure and technology. Overall, Earth Day serves as an important reminder of the need to transition to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious way of living.



VVC RECEIVES RICE AWARD: #1 in Student Success in California



Victor Valley College (VVC) has been awarded the 2023 John W. Rice Award from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for its student-centered strategies that combine strong tutoring programs, vibrant math and writing centers, and an innovative student-run call center that provides immediate support to students.

The John W. Rice Award is presented annually to one California community college that has demonstrated success in implementing student-centered programs and services. VVC was selected for its innovative approach to providing students with the support they need to succeed.

The college's tutoring programs offer individualized support to students in a variety of subjects. The math and writing centers provide students with access to tutors and resources to help them improve their skills. VVC's Connect2Success center provides immediate support to students in need, including technical assistance and guidance on academic and personal issues.

Dr. Dan Walden, President of VVC, expressed his excitement about receiving the award, saying, "We are honored to receive the John W. Rice Award and grateful for the recognition of our commitment to student success. Our tutoring programs, math and writing centers, and Connect2Success are essential components of our efforts to provide our students with the support they need to achieve their academic goals."

The award comes at a time when community colleges across California are working to expand access to higher education and improve student outcomes. VVC's student-centered strategies have been a key part of its success in these efforts, and the college's leadership is committed to continuing to innovate and improve its programs and services.

Overall, the award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of VVC's faculty, staff, and students, and a reminder of the important role that community colleges play in providing

access to higher education and supporting student success.



(From left to right: Interim Chancellor Daisy Gonzales, VVC Superintendent/President Dr. Dan Walden, Madeline Carrillo, Elizabeth Duarte, Anh Weis, President and CEO of the Foundation for California Community Colleges Keetha Mills)

PLANT SALE!

Information Booths by Various Local Organizations & Agencies

VVC

Agriculture & Natural
Resource Department
Plant Sale

- ❖ Herbs
- ❖ Vegetables
- ❖ Landscape Plants
- ❖ House Plants
- ❖ Succulents



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**DATE: Thursday April 20th &
Friday April 21st 2023**

HOURS: 9:00A.M. –2 P.M.



**Victor Valley College
Lower Campus Parking Lot W**

18422 Bear Valley Rd. | Victorville CA. 92395

Look for the Signs - While supplies last



**VVC STUDENTS
PLEASE JOIN US
FOR**

BLACK

**STUDENT
SUCCESS**

WEEK

**PIZZA
PARTY**

**@ ENTREPRENEURSHIP &
INNOVATION CENTER, BUILDING 42**

**APRIL 24-
28**

**12PM-
2PM**

**EACH DAY WILL FEATURE A
WEBINAR FOLLOWED BY
DISCUSSION**

For more information contact: Lorena.newson@vvc.edu

**BLACK
STUDENT
SUCCESS
WEEK**

APRIL 24-28, 2023
#THEBLACKHOUR WEBINARS

All week, 12-1 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

*The Holistic Black Student Experience:
We Are Not a Monolith*

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

*Supporting Black Student Success through
Racially Equitable State Policy*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Transition to Workforce and Livable Wages

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Programming for Black Student Success

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

*The Diaspora Dialogues: Educators'
Reflections from Ghana*

REGISTER NOW:

[LINKTR.EE/CABLACKSTUDENTS](https://linktr.ee/cablackstudents)



@cablackstudents
#TheBlackHour #BlackStudentSuccess



First Year Experience
Victor Valley College

and

Transfer Center
Victor Valley College

TRANSFER 101



Interested in transferring to a 4 year university?

Come and learn about the systems of higher education, requirements, application process, and available resources.



Register using this QR code
Or online at: <http://bit.ly/3ywhv1q>

11:00AM - 12:00PM

CFIE ROOM (BLDG 10/NEAR LOT A)

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

Presented By:

VVC TRANSFER CENTER, Stephanie Briano