

MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH!

#3 - MAY 2023

RAMS MONTHLY



STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE



VVC NURSING STUDENT CLEAN SWEEPS "LET'S MAKE A DEAL"

Kristina Rosenberg, dressed as a maid, wins more than \$21k on a nationally televised game show

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MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

May is a month of great significance for the U.S. Armed Forces as it is recognized as Military Appreciation Month. This month-long observance aims to recognize and honor the sacrifices and contributions of the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. military. Throughout the month, several observances are held, including Loyalty Day, VE Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and Armed Forces Day.

Loyalty Day, observed on May 1st, is a day to celebrate American patriotism and remember the rich heritage of freedom that defines our nation. This day honors the brave American patriots, including the members of the military, who have defended our freedom throughout history. It provides an opportunity for Americans to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and recognize the countless sacrifices made by military service members to defend our country.

VE Day, observed on May 8th, commemorates the end of World War II in Europe, which marked a significant moment in history. It is a day to pay tribute to the men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the war and recognize their sacrifices and contributions. The day celebrates the bravery and commitment of the soldiers who fought to protect our freedoms and secure peace around the world.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day, observed on the Friday before Mother's Day, is a day to honor the contributions and sacrifices of military spouses. It recognizes the vital role played by these unsung heroes who support their loved ones in the military, manage households, care for children, and provide emotional support during deployments and other challenging situations. Military spouses are often the backbone of military families, and this day is an opportunity to show appreciation for their sacrifices and dedication.

Armed Forces Day, observed on the third Saturday in May, is a day to honor the brave men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. It recognizes the contributions of all branches of the military and provides an opportunity to express gratitude for their service, sacrifice, and achievements. This day is an occasion to recognize the military's role in protecting our country's freedom and security, both at home and abroad. It also provides a chance to acknowledge the military's ongoing commitment to defending our nation's values and upholding its legacy of service and sacrifice.

(Below)

A custom mural is on display in the Students Activities Center throughout the month of May. The military service flags of all six branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are in order of precedence left-to-right order from the viewer's perspective. The Coast Guard flag (far right) does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, but rather the Department of Homeland Security and therefore is placed at the end.

Image Source: Andrew Caravella



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: VVC Nursing Student Cleans House on TV Game Show

Story by Andrew Caravella



Photo courtesy of Let's Make a Deal/CBS

VVC soon-to-be graduate Kristina Rosenberg has had quite an interesting final semester at Victor Valley College. You would think becoming an RN would be the icing on the cake, but winning big money on a national television show was the real cherry on top.

Kristina's professional career in the healthcare/first responder field dates back to about 2016, way before she started attending class at VVC. She started her journey as a travelling EMT and a lifeguard. She ironically worked on various TV shows and Hollywood productions including Top Chef Jr (her favorite), Katy Perry and Lady Gaga music video sets and even Megan Thee Stallion.

The 29-year-old Helendale resident has lived in the High Desert practically her whole life and says nursing was in her blood. "I was the person who would run to people's aide when I was four-years-old. Nursing I feel is basically my natural evolution," says Kristina.

So how did she wind up on Let's Make a Deal?

Kristina says that she had signed up to do the show in the past, but life and scheduling conflicts kept getting in her way so she kept passing on the opportunity. However, one day the planets aligned, and Kristina put on her homemade maid costume, sporting her "space buns" hairdo and made it to set. She was ready. Not long into filming, her name was called and she nearly lost it with excitement.

Little did she know, in just a few minutes, her costume-wearing-maid self was going to clean house.

In this Let's Make A Deal episode, host Wayne Brady interacts with the audience to determine who will be selected as contestants to participate in a game. Kristina gets summoned to play and is offered a choice between three doors. She proudly declares door number one, basing it off of her family dynamic and it being her lucky number.

Brady reveals what's behind door number three first, only showing that Kristina missed out on a \$10,000 dollar opportunity. He then turns his attention to door number one to reveal that Kristina selected the Let's Make a Deal Vault.

Once the vault is opened, it's revealed that Kristina won the big deal of the day and walks away with over \$21,000 dollars!

When asked what she's going to do with the money, Kristina says that she's going to catch up on bills which will help pay off her nursing degree.

Kristina has been an active student during her stay at VVC. She is the current CNSA (California Nursing Students' Association) president for the VVC chapter. When asked what her biggest challenges were at VVC, Kristina simply replied with "prioritization."

She says there were "so many moving parts," that often times it was difficult for her to "find balance." She went on to say that her "family gave up a lot for [her] to do this," supporting her though every step of the college experience at VVC.

When asked to reflect on those at VVC who guided her through the journey she says that Karmen Padfield stands out the most, specifically with her MP2 and MP4 classes, "I struggled the most [in those classes], she always would give me the inspiration I needed."

Kristina was asked about some positive advice that she could leave behind for students at VVC also going through challenges or perhaps struggling with classes as they too power through their college experience.

"Don't take on everyone's emotional baggage. Set boundaries. Don't do too much, you will sink. Mental health matters. To be strong be weak to your own needs."

Why Do We Celebrate Cinco de Mayo?



Cinco de Mayo is a holiday that commemorates the Mexican army's victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. At the time, Mexico was in a state of political and economic turmoil, and was unable to repay its debts to several European countries, including France. In response, France sent a large army to Mexico with the intention of establishing a new government and recovering its debts. The Mexican army, led by General Ignacio Zaragoza, was outnumbered and outgunned, but managed to defeat the French forces in a decisive battle at Puebla. The victory was a significant morale boost for the Mexican army and people, who saw it as a symbol of resistance against foreign aggression. Despite the limited strategic significance of the Battle of Puebla, it has become an important symbol of Mexican national pride and identity, both in Mexico and among Mexican Americans. Cinco de Mayo has been celebrated as a holiday since the late 19th century, and has grown in popularity over time, particularly in the United States where it has been embraced as a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage.

While the holiday is widely celebrated throughout Mexico, it is particularly popular in Southern California, where there is a large Mexican-American population. In fact, Southern California has one of the largest Cinco de Mayo celebrations in the United States, with parades, festivals, and other events taking place throughout the region. One reason why Cinco de Mayo is so widely celebrated in Southern California is because of the region's close proximity to Mexico. Many people in Southern California have family or cultural ties to Mexico and view Cinco de Mayo as an opportunity to celebrate their heritage and cultural traditions. Additionally, the holiday has become increasingly commercialized over the years, with businesses and organizations using it as a way to attract customers and promote their products or services. As a result, Cinco de Mayo has become a major cultural event in Southern California, with many people coming together to celebrate and enjoy the festivities.

GRAD ALERT!

Here's a friendly reminder that the final day to pick up your graduation & commencement tickets is on Monday, June 5th, 2023.

If you are looking to purchase a standard grad package it's \$59.95 (includes cap, gown, hood & tassel)

Honors and Phi Theta Kappa regalia is still available

Any questions or more information can be found by calling 760-245-4271 ext. 2495



District Attorney Presents Crime Victims' Rights Event with Survivors at PAC

SBC District Attorney Jason Anderson holds an annual event honoring victims and survivors of abuse

Victor Valley College recently hosted the National Crime Victims' Rights Week event, organized by the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office. The event aimed to raise awareness about crime victimization and promote victims' rights. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, over 21 million crimes are committed in the United States each year, with many victims suffering from physical, emotional, and financial harm. The event's goal was to provide victims with the necessary resources to heal and recover.

One of the event's main activities was the Victim's Rights Walk, which brought together victims of crime, their families, and community members to raise awareness about the impact of crime on individuals and communities. In the United States, only 43% of violent crimes and 34% of property crimes are reported to law enforcement, leaving many victims without access to the help they need. The Victim's Rights Walk aimed to empower victims and let them know that they are not alone. The event also featured presentations from community leaders and organizations, including law enforcement agencies, victim advocates, and mental health professionals. These presentations provided valuable information

on victim resources, including counseling and support services, legal advocacy, and financial assistance.

Another significant component of the event was a panel discussion featuring crime victims and survivors. The panelists shared their experiences and provided insights into the challenges they faced in the aftermath of their victimization. The panelists discussed the importance of support and how it can help victims heal and recover. The panel also highlighted the need for continued efforts to raise awareness about crime victimization and promote victims' rights.

The event concluded with a resource fair that provided attendees with information on a variety of services and resources available to victims of crime. The fair included booths from local non-profits, government agencies, and community organizations, offering services such as legal assistance, counseling, and financial support. The resource fair gave attendees the opportunity to connect with service providers and learn more about the support available to them.

Overall, the National Crime Victims' Rights Week event at Victor Valley College was a successful and impactful event that helped raise awareness about the importance of supporting victims of crime. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, victims who receive support services are more likely to recover from the trauma of victimization and less likely to experience long-term negative effects. The event was a reminder of the power of community solidarity and the importance of coming together to support those who have been impacted by crime.

If you have been the victim of a crime, it can be a difficult and traumatic experience. However, you are not alone, and there are resources available to help you navigate this challenging time. There are national organizations that can provide support and assistance to crime victims, such as the National Center for Victims of Crime (1-800-FYI-CALL) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233). These organizations can connect you with resources such as counseling, legal assistance, and victim compensation programs, and offer emotional support and guidance. Remember, healing is a process, and with the right support, you can overcome this traumatic experience and move forward with your life.

VVC's College Singers performed the National Anthem at this year's event held at the PAC.



VVC Celebrates Black Student Success Week, Promoting Equity and Inclusion

Black Student Success Week at VVC's Academic Commons building



Recently, the California State Assembly designated the fourth week of April as Black Student Success Week. This annual event aims to celebrate, recognize, and uplift the achievements of Black students in California's higher education institutions.

Organized by the California Legislative Black Caucus, Black Student Success Week features a wide range of virtual events, workshops, and panels focused on empowering Black students, highlighting their successes, and addressing the challenges they face. The event brings together students, educators, community leaders, and policymakers to discuss issues related to Black student success, including access to education, retention, graduation rates, and career readiness.

One of the key goals of Black Student Success Week is to promote equity and inclusion in higher education. Despite some progress, Black students still face significant disparities in educational outcomes and opportunities, including lower graduation rates and higher rates of student debt. Black Student Success Week seeks to address these issues by promoting policies and programs that support Black student success and foster a more inclusive and equitable higher education system.

The events of Black Student Success Week cover a broad range of topics, including career

development, mental health, financial literacy, and community building. The workshops and panels are designed to provide Black students with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to succeed in their academic and professional pursuits. They also provide a platform for Black students to connect with mentors and peers, share their experiences, and build networks of support.

Black Student Success Week is an important event that celebrates the achievements of Black students in California's higher education institutions. It promotes equity and inclusion in higher education and seeks to address the challenges faced by Black students in accessing and succeeding in higher education. Through its events, workshops, and panels, Black Student Success Week provides Black students with the tools and resources they need to achieve their academic and professional goals and builds networks of support that can help them thrive.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Black students account for about 6% of the total student population in California's community colleges. However, despite some progress in recent years, Black students still face significant disparities in educational outcomes and opportunities.

For instance, Black students in California's community colleges have a lower rate of completion and transfer to four-year institutions compared to their peers. According to data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, only 29% of Black students who enrolled in a California community college in 2014-15 earned a degree, certificate, or transferred to a four-year institution within six years, compared to 41% of all students.

Additionally, Black students are more likely to face financial challenges in accessing higher education. According to the California State University (CSU) Equity Report, Black students in the CSU system were more likely to receive financial aid than their peers, but also more likely to have unmet financial need. In the 2017-18 academic year, 58% of Black students in the CSU system had unmet financial need, compared to 50% of all students.

In conclusion, while Black students represent a small percentage of the total student population in California's community colleges, they continue to face significant challenges in accessing and succeeding in higher education. The data shows that Black students in community colleges have a lower rate of completion and transfer and are more likely to face financial challenges. It is important for policymakers, educators, and community leaders to address these issues and work towards promoting equity and inclusion in higher education for all students.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: VVC Students to Present at Stanford University

Students will present at the annual Bay Area Honors Research Consortium

Story by Andrew Caravella

VVC Students to Present NASA Internship Work at Stanford Consortium Five students from Victor Valley College (VVC) have been selected to participate in the Bay Area Honors Research Consortium at Stanford University this weekend. The purpose of the event is to present their work at VVC in the 2023 NASA internship.

Out of nearly 200 honor proposals, only 90 were selected. Of the 90, VVC had its group project selected to present, making them the only 1 of 10 group presentations as well as the first-ever VVC students to present at the consortium. Three out of the five Rams' students will take the stage to present a formal 15-minute discussion on improving aerodynamic efficiency.

Jairo Reynoso, one of the selected students, said, "If it wasn't for opportunities like this offered to us at VVC, we would not have the chance to present our work at a top college like Stanford."

The internship was focused on improving aerodynamic efficiency of wing designs, and to qualify, the students had to submit an abstract. The program was open to community college honor students across the state, with only ten of the 90 selected projects being group projects.

Geline Manuel, another VVC student presenting this weekend, is pursuing a degree in Engineering because of her passion for sustainability. "I pursued Engineering because I live and breathe sustainability. I applied for an internship because the mission of the project that we were working on shows that lower drag reduces carbon emissions from aircraft significantly. To ingrain my passion for everything aerospace has been incredibly enlightening," she said.

The event will be a rewarding experience for the students, according to Reynoso. "I'm very excited. It's an honor to represent our college at this level. I wanted to do this because I'm passionate about research, and this is a very difficult feat for any college student to undertake."

The students have big plans for their future after the consortium and eventually graduation. Reynoso plans on attending UCLA for Mechanical Engineering and then plans to head to med school to study to be an orthopedic



Geline Manuel (left) and Jairo Reynoso (right) posing for a picture outside of NASA Headquarters in Washington DC with mentor and NASA employee Dave Berger, STEM Engagement Embed to Aeronautics

surgeon. Manuel plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Material Science at UC Irvine so she can work in sustainability, which will affect the future of space travel for the next generation.

The consortium at Stanford is one of the biggest universities in the country where work of this nature is presented in a consortium type of atmosphere. Coming from a community college in the high desert and getting invited to speak in front of a captivating audience on the Stanford stage shows that any student can make their goals and dreams a reality.

Both Reynoso and Manuel are members of VVC's Associated Student Body. Reynoso serves as the Student Services Senator and Manuel as the Vice President.

The ASB at VVC encourages students to get involved on campus and be a part of something bigger than themselves. They organize various events and activities, such as club fairs, volunteer opportunities, and cultural celebrations, which allow students to connect with each other and foster a sense of belonging. The ASB also advocates for student

needs and concerns, providing a platform for their voices to be heard and ensuring that their college experience is fulfilling and empowering.

Through ASB, students have the chance to make a positive impact not only on their own lives but also on the lives of others. They learn the value of teamwork, communication, and collaboration, which are essential skills for success in any field. ASB inspires students to dream big, to take risks, and to believe in themselves, instilling in them a sense of purpose and motivation to achieve their goals.

In short, ASB at VVC is an embodiment of the college's spirit, fostering a culture of innovation, growth, and inclusivity. It is an inspiration to all students, showing them that with dedication and hard work, anything is possible, and that their college experience can be a transformative journey that sets them up for success in all areas of life.

VVC Music Department Presents:

SPRING MUSIC RECITAL

ADMISSION IS FREE!



Friday, May 5th at 7:30 pm
Victor Valley College's
Performing Arts Center
Main Stage

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PETER PAN

* A DANCERS POINTE *

MAY 13TH, 2:00 & 6:00 P.M.
& MAY 14TH, 2:00 P.M.

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PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL
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Victor Valley College
Theatre Arts Department Presents

William Shakespeare's

THE TEMPEST

Directed by Emily Ruiz

VVC BLACK BOX

EVENINGS AT 7PM

MAY 19. 20. 26. 27

MATINEES AT 2PM

MAY 21. 27. 28

VVCEDU/TIX



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Aimee Nezhukumatathil
Author of *World of Wonders*

May 16th at
5:00pm in the
PAC (Bldg. 54)

Join us earlier for the
following festivities from
2:30-4:30 PM in front
of the PAC:



Free entrée, beverage, & dessert
Build-Your-Own-Bouquet
Stone Painting
Book Giveaway



Presented by:

One Book, One College

Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center



CINCO DE MAYO LUNCHEON

MAY 5, 2023

**STUDENTS & STAFF
ARE INVITED TO
CELEBRATE
MEXICAN HISTORY
WITH DELICIOUS FOOD
& DELIGHTFUL MUSIC!**

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

**IN FRONT OF THE SAC (BLDG 44)
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM**



2023 VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY JOB FAIR



LARGEST HIRING EVENT! IN THE HIGH DESERT

- Come meet with more than 100 employers!
- Bring several copies of your resumé.
- Remember, dress to impress!

Registrants will be sent information about
FREE job search workshops.

Wednesday, May 17th, 2023

9:00AM – 1:00PM

Around the Campus Lake!

Register Now!



VVCJobFair.eventbrite.com

More Information Contact: Felicia KariKari

e: felicia.karikari@vvc.edu p: (760) 245-4271 ext.2439



Excelsior Jazz Presents

Big Band Swing Night

Featuring Excelsior's
BIG BAND



Dinner, Dancing, Live Swing Music
May 12 & 13 at 6:30pm

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open your camera app and point
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\$20 per Person

includes dinner, dancing, and swing dance instruction

Excelsior Multipurpose Room

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VVC TRANSFER CENTER INVITES YOU:

THE 2023 TRANSFER *Celebration*

Celebrating our VVC students transferring to four-year universities

RSVP by May 8th:

1. VISIT THE TRANSFER CENTER (STUDENT SERVICES CENTER, BLDG 23)
2. COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM IN-PERSON
3. OPTIONAL: TAKE A PORTRAIT PICTURE

Performing Arts Center (BLDG 54)

MAY | **18th** | **2023**

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Doors open at 2:30pm.

Food will be served from 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Parking Lot J1 is available on a first come, first serve basis

