

RAMS MONTHLY



STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

MULTI-DISCIPLINE PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR DRAWS LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

VVC'S RPST Center Shows Off All Its Public Service Opportunities For The Next Generation



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MAY IS AAPI MONTH

May is recognized as National Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the United States. This month-long observance celebrates the rich and diverse cultures, histories, and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to the nation's fabric. It is a time to honor the achievements and recognize the challenges faced by these communities, while promoting a greater understanding and appreciation for their unique heritage.

National Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month has its roots in the acknowledgment of Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, which was first established in 1978. The week-long celebration aimed to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese individuals to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad by predominantly Chinese immigrant workers on May 10, 1869. In 1992, the observance was expanded to a month-long celebration, recognizing the growing contributions and influence of AAPI communities across various sectors of society.

Throughout the month, various events and activities are organized nationwide to showcase the rich cultural traditions, artistic expressions, and historical achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. It provides an opportunity to educate the public about the diverse experiences and contributions of these communities, fostering cultural appreciation and a sense of unity and inclusion. National Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month encourages individuals and communities to engage in dialogues, learn from one another, and celebrate the vibrant tapestry of AAPI cultures that have shaped the nation's identity.



Veteran and First-Generation College Student Finds Success at VVC

Army vet affirms 'positive experience transitioning back to education at VVC'

Victor Valley College has been a transformative journey for 25-year-old Jason, a veteran and first-generation college student. Having served in the United States Army and achieved impressive accomplishments during his time, Jason's path to college has been shaped by his experiences and aspirations.

Originally from the Philippines, Jason came to America at the age of 10 in 2011. Reflecting on his early life, he describes his upbringing as "rough," particularly highlighting the challenges of limited access to basic necessities like water. "Growing up not having enough water" was one of the hardest parts, he recalls. However, his life took a significant turn when he joined the Army, finding camaraderie and structure within the military. "The most enjoyable part was the comradery and structure the Army provided me," Jason said. His display of leadership skills earned him the title of Soldier of the Year in 2018.

Inspired by the movie "Fury," Jason's decision to join the Army was heavily influenced by the depiction of US tank crews during World War II. Serving as a tanker in the infantry, he embraced the demanding lifestyle and the opportunity to be a problem solver in high-pressure situations. "I had to be an on-the-spot problem solver almost instantly," he confessed.

Now a civilian, Jason balances his studies at VVC with running his own business called "Infinity Sky Party Rentals." This locally owned and operated venture provides a range of services and equipment for various events. Jason takes pride in his entrepreneurial spirit, stating, "I'm grateful for my time at VVC because all of my teachers are super understanding and amazing."



As May is Military Appreciation Month, Jason reflects on the challenges of military life. "The lifestyle is rough," he admits. He emphasizes the need for resilience and a willingness to learn, while cautioning others about combat arms, saying, "Don't do combat arms, there are hundreds of jobs in the Army."

At Victor Valley College, Jason has found a supportive community. He commends the understanding and amazing teachers who have guided him throughout his academic journey. He also highlights the valuable assistance provided by the Veteran Resource Center on the lower campus, stating, "The center helps out a lot too." Overall, he affirms his positive experience transitioning back to education at VVC.

Jason's story serves as an inspiration to fellow veterans and first-generation college students, showcasing the potential for success through resilience, determination, and seizing opportunities. Victor Valley College celebrates Jason's achievements and looks forward to supporting his continued growth as he pursues his passion for software engineering.

Any veteran from the U.S. Armed Forces that is considering going to school or back to school through Victor Valley College is encouraged to check out the Veterans Resource Center on campus. The Veterans Resource Center serves as a vital support hub for military veterans and their families, offering a comprehensive range of services and resources to enhance their academic journey. Dedicated to ensuring a smooth transition from military to civilian life, the center provides personalized assistance with education benefits, financial aid, and career development. With a focus on fostering a sense of community, the Veterans Resource Center creates a welcoming environment where veterans can connect with peers, access academic counseling, and receive guidance on navigating the college experience. Through its unwavering commitment, the center empowers veterans at Victor Valley College to achieve their academic goals and thrive in their post-military endeavors.



Multi-discipline public safety fair draws local high school students

Nearly 300 students from high schools throughout the region explored dozens of pathways into public safety through Victor Valley College's rigorous Public Safety programs

Victor Valley College (VVC) has played host to a large-scale multi-discipline public safety fair, drawing an impressive turnout of nearly 300 high school students from across the region. The May 2023 event aimed to provide valuable insights into various careers in the field of public safety.

The fair, organized by VVC in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, emergency medical services, and fire departments, took place on the college's satellite campus which is also known as the VVC Regional Public Safety Training Center. Invited students from high schools had the opportunity to explore diverse public safety professions and engage with professionals working in those fields.

One of the highlights of the fair was the interactive exhibits set up by participating agencies. The students eagerly participated in hands-on demonstrations, including an obstacle course, and experiencing the day-to-day challenges faced by professionals in the field. They had the chance to witness simulated emergency scenarios, such as VVC student firefighters utilizing the jaws of life to rescue accident victims, medical emergencies, and fire suppression exercises. These simulations provided invaluable insights into the decision-making process and critical thinking skills required in public safety careers.

The fair also featured informational booths staffed by first responders who were readily available to answer questions and provide guidance. Representatives from law

enforcement agencies, including the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Redlands Fire, San Bernardino County and Cal Fire, shared their experiences and discussed the rigorous training required to pursue a career in their fields of public service. VVC's student emergency medical technicians and paramedics highlighted the demands of their profession and the importance of quick response times. The training center showcased its equipment and emphasized the significance of teamwork and physical fitness.

One high school senior who attended the fair, expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "This event opened my eyes to the range of public safety careers available. I've always wanted to make a difference in my community, and now I have a better understanding of the paths I can take to achieve that."

VVC President Dan Walden, Ph.D, emphasized the importance of events like the public safety fair in guiding students towards fulfilling and rewarding careers. He said, "We are thrilled to provide this platform for high school students to explore various aspects of public safety. Our aim is to inspire the next generation of professionals who will serve and protect our communities."

One of the most talked about exhibits of the day was Cal Fire's brand-new Fire Hawk aircraft which was on display for the first time ever at the bi-annual event. Officials for the department say the primary mission for the helicopter is to respond to initial

attack wildfires and rescue missions. When responding to wildfires, the helicopter can quickly deliver up to a 9-person Helitack Crew for ground firefighting operations and quickly transition into water/foam dropping missions. The Fire Hawk is also equipped with an external hoist for rescue missions. This specialized rescue technique involves highly trained firefighters being lowered from a hovering helicopter to an injured or trapped person below. Once secured to a harness both the victim and rescuer are then hoisted into the helicopter and flown to a landing zone.

Students left the fair with newfound knowledge and a greater appreciation for the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to ensure public safety. Many expressed their intent to pursue careers in law enforcement, emergency medical services, and fire departments, motivated by the exciting experiences and interactions they had at the fair. With the success of this multi-discipline public safety fair, Victor Valley College and its partners hope to continue hosting similar events in the future, nurturing the aspirations of young minds and building a stronger, safer community.



Motivational Speaker A'ric Jackson Ignites Inspiration in VVC Rams



A'ric Jackson speaks in front of a captivated Rams audience.

A conference room at Victor Valley College buzzed with anticipation as motivational speaker A'ric Jackson took the stage, exuding a magnetic energy that instantly captivated the audience. As the students settled into their seats, a palpable sense of excitement filled the air, signaling the transformative journey they were about to embark upon.

With a charismatic presence and a voice that resonated with conviction, A'ric weaved a tapestry of inspiration, drawing upon his own personal triumphs and the resilience that defined his journey. The students leaned in, spellbound by his words, as he skillfully blended storytelling with thought-provoking insights.

Sarah, a student whose aspirations had been clouded by doubt, found her confidence reignited by A'ric's powerful message. "A'ric's

stories reminded me that our circumstances don't define us; it's our determination and belief in ourselves that shape our destinies," she exclaimed, a spark of fresh resolve shining in her eyes.

A'ric's speech unfolded like a symphony of motivation, each word carefully chosen to stir the souls of the students. He reminded them that greatness often lies just beyond their comfort zones, and that failure is merely a stepping stone on the path to success.

Daniel, a tenacious dreamer who had often grappled with self-doubt, felt a seismic shift within him as A'ric's words washed over him. "A'ric's message shattered the confines of my limited thinking," he declared. "He urged us to embrace our dreams fearlessly, with unwavering determination. It's time for me to step up and take charge of my destiny."

A'ric's impact on the students of Victor Valley College was undeniable. His ability to connect with their struggles and aspirations on a personal level left an indelible mark. Lily, a budding artist yearning to find her voice, felt a surge of inspiration. "A'ric's words unlocked the creative reservoir within me," she shared. "He reminded me that my artistic dreams are worth pursuing with unyielding passion. It's time to unleash my true potential."

As A'ric concluded his speech, he challenged the students of Victor Valley College to break free from the shackles of self-doubt, to embrace their unique strengths, and to carve their own paths to success. The applause that followed was a testament to the transformative impact of his words.

Leaving the auditorium that day, the students




of Victor Valley College carried within them a modern belief in their abilities. A'ric Jackson had ignited a fire of motivation and determination, empowering them to face challenges head-on and pursue their dreams with unwavering tenacity. The echoes of his inspiring message would continue to reverberate in their hearts, lighting the way to a future defined by resilience, passion, and limitless possibilities.

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Benefits of Financial Aid

Story by Gabriel Navarrete
Submission from VVC's RamPage



Financial Aid is known to be a very stressful topic for those applying/reapplying. Financial aid is funding that is accessible to students attending secondary educational institutions and helps with covering the costs acquired while there. This money can be given in different ways such as grants, loans, work-study jobs, and scholarships. Financial aid can come from everywhere but the majority of it comes from the federal government. Here is a breakdown of what grants, loans, workstudy jobs, and scholarships are. Grants are a form of aid that do not need to be paid back to the government. The only way the student must repay this money is if they withdraw from classes and school.

There are many types of grants offered such as Pell grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants. A loan is money that you borrow but it must be paid back with interest. When a student applies for school and financial aid, they may be given many different loan options. Workstudy jobs, the work-study program allows you to work part time to earn money to pay. The amount of money earned depends on the job and the position. Scholarships are money that are given as gifts. Scholarships are given in all sorts of amounts and are gifted by anyone such as people, non-profit organizations, community

organizations, companies, employers, etc. To apply for financial aid, an applicant must have all necessary documents that are listed on studentaid.gov. First, one must prepare all necessary documents, secondly one must complete the FAFSA form, thirdly go over their student aid report, fourthly respond to the aid offer and fifthly one will receive their financial aid.

The financial aid department at Victor Valley College can walk any student or soon to be student through these steps in the office and if one is not available to go to the office then there are workshops that are offered on campus and virtual walk-in sessions.

The Victor Valley College Financial Aid department office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 7:00pm and Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm, hours and days may vary depending on school breaks and holidays. The Financial Aid department is in the One Stop Student Services Area Upper Campus, Building 23. Even though financial aid can be a hassle to get, it comes with great benefits and help does not always have to be in person, it can be found online as well. Contact Information: Email financialaid@vvc.edu / Phone- 760-245- 4271

2-Year CA Colleges Continue Advances Toward Student Success Goals

SACRAMENTO — California's community college system progressed toward meeting key goals of its strategic plan, the Vision for Success, with gains in completion among all student groups, an increase in the number of students transferring to four-year colleges and universities and reductions in student success equity gaps among regions of the state.

"We set bold goals to improve student outcomes and are proud of the progress that has been made so far by our campus leaders, faculty, staff, and students, particularly during a global pandemic" said Interim Chancellor Daisy Gonzales, PhD, who presented the California Community Colleges State of the System report to the Board of Governors. "We are committed to action and transformational change that will continue to lead to equitable improvements that will benefit our students and our state."

The 116-college system again exceeded the long-term goal of increasing the number of students earning credentials by at least 20 percent, even though the data for the period covered in the report coincided with steep pandemic-induced enrollment declines. Since the baseline year of 2016-17, the number of students completing credentials has increased by 25 percent.

Some 98,909 community college students transferred to California State University or University of California in the 2020-21 academic year, an increase from the previous year and up 14 percent from five years ago.

"Given the fact that the outcomes reflected in this report occurred during the pandemic, it is remarkable we saw progress in some areas," said Amy M. Costa, President of the Board of Governors. "The Board's unyielding commitment to student equity remains and our work continues to improve our progress with urgency."

Story continued on PAGE 12

In Celebration of Foster Youth Awareness Month



SHINING STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Alexis Villa

*"You'll only
draw if you
don't fight to
stay atop."*

ABOUT ME

I am a first year at VVC, I am majoring in Animal Science and planning on transferring to Cal Poly. I love to read and write. I love frogs and the color pink.

GOALS

Finish school and get my dream job and buy myself everything I never had.

EXPERIENCE

I was placed into foster care at nine and got adopted after my thirteenth birthday, which also means I technically grew out of it and my adoptive parents income doesn't affect me.

ADVICE

It sucks but best part is growing up and being proud of the scars and knowing it's what helped you grow.

In Celebration of Foster Youth Awareness Month



SHINING STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Robert Gutierrez

*"It does not matter
how slowly you
go as long as
you do not stop."*

ABOUT ME

I am 26 years old and majoring in Psychology and will be graduating this summer. Currently I work in property management, and was introduced to the field by one of the Real Estate classes they offer at VVC! I am passionate about helping others and serving my community. I love anything outdoors and spending time with family. Some of my hobbies are music, art, and exploring new cultures!

GOALS

A goal I have after VVC, is to attend a university and earn my Bachelor's Degree. I'm still unsure on what university I'd like to attend, but Cal State San Bernardino and Cal state Poly are in my top 5!

EXPERIENCE

I was in foster care for 3 years, and was also in extended foster care. My biological mother was deported at 6 years old, so I had to live with my grandmother. I was raised in a 4 bedroom home with 17 people. (cousins, aunts, siblings) At 15 years old I left home due to ongoing conflicts with family. After being raised by the streets for two years, I decided to emancipate myself at 17 years old and I turned myself into the system, this was the best decision I could have made at the time.

ADVICE

My advice for any former foster youth is to not give up, although it sounds cliché, it is solid advice that has helped me along the way. As foster youth we are forced to be resilient, and it is our resilience that gives us the strength to keep moving forward. Be open to structure and rules, no matter where you go in life there will always be rules. Learn to love yourself and put yourself first. Learn to separate yourself from the dysfunction in your life even if it is family, this is the only way you can grow and become the best you.

In Celebration of Foster Youth Awareness Month



SHINING STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Carmen Avalos

*"Always believe in
yourself. Never
lose your abilities
to be successful in
the midst of your
troubles."*

ABOUT ME

I am 24 years old. A mother to 2 beautiful girls! Single Mom in College obtained 2 degrees and awaiting to transfer... I love to go out and spend time with loved ones... Had a hard time in life as a teen but I never let that stop me from changing my life and becoming successful!

GOALS

- My goals are to complete school and make a change in the world. Overall, inspire those who are lost and looking for a way out. I want to be someone my daughters can be proud of!
- Transfer to a University to work towards my Bachelors degree and start some work in my field of Psychology.

EXPERIENCE

I was in the system for years since the age of 11 until about 18... I aged out and now I am participating in the Former Foster youth program in college. Making sure that the people who are working in that field truly have a heart to help those kids and be a light for them. I met a lot of great people that have impacted my life tremendously in a positive way. Definitely helped with my education as a former foster student in College.

ADVICE

Never give up, no matter the circumstances always stay optimistic. One day all the hard work will pay off... You are never Alone!

In Celebration of Foster Youth Awareness Month



SHINING STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Brianna Alvarez

*"Don't let the world
label you as just a
foster kid some of
the richest people
in the world were
fostered. and look
how far they got."*

ABOUT ME

I'm 19, and I am a mother of a 1-year-old

GOALS

I want to go into the welding business and I want to buy a house

EXPERIENCE

I was in foster care from the age of 14 to 18 and then I transferred to extended foster care at 19.

ADVICE

Don't let the world label you as just a foster kid, some of the richest people in the world were in Foster Care, and look how far they got.

In Celebration of Foster Youth Awareness Month

Victor Valley College
NEXT UP SHINING STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



"Opportunities don't happen you create them"

Jocelyn Ross

ABOUT ME
Hi, I'm Jocelyn, I am 20 years old, and my major is in medical assistant. I'm a huge animal lover, I even have my own rescue.

GOALS
After I finish my medical assistant certificate, I would like to go for my associate's degree.

EXPERIENCE
I was in foster care from June 2019-April 2021. Originally I did not go into extended foster care. Until recently October 2022

ADVICE
Take advantage of everything they offer and ask about ab12.

In Celebration of Foster Youth Awareness Month

Victor Valley College
NEXT UP SHINING STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



"Just believe in yourself because you will be able to accomplish what you need to do in life"

Ashley Jones

ABOUT ME
Well I'm a former foster youth. I'm part bishop Paiute Indian from dad's side of the family. I love my family and my boyfriend's family.

GOALS
Well my goals after WC is to become a Phlebotomist Tech or a Dialysis tech.

EXPERIENCE
I was in foster care from 2007 to 2018 and if I'm being completely honest it wasn't great because I felt abandoned by my own mom but not my dad because I was able to see him. It changed me to be more independent because I really didn't have anyone to show me the way. So I taught myself how to be more independent.

ADVICE
Just believe in yourself because you will be able to accomplish what you need to do in life.

In Celebration of Foster Youth Awareness Month

Victor Valley College
NEXT UP SHINING STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



"It's never too late to begin again!"

Rara Valenzuela

ABOUT ME
Hi my name is Rara Valenzuela and I am your friendly neighborhood artist who loves music, art, animals, nature, and good food. I love to live a creative life. I believe that we are all ever changing and growing individuals and that life is a learning experience. I'm also majoring in Psychology.

GOALS
My long term goals in life are to have my own car, have my own house, and to have my career going for me. Also, I will be making music and art for my hobbies. I will also get married to my partner and we will travel places together.

EXPERIENCE
Everything teaches you something and my experience in foster care taught me what it's like first hand to be in the system. It has made me learn to cherish and appreciate things more and it allowed me to understand my emotions better. I had to hit my lowest, darkest time in order to see that there is light. I decided that I wanted to change my life and that I didn't want a foster care system to be in control of it or anything and anyone to be in control of my life.

ADVICE
My advice is to not give up. There's a positive in every negative situation but you have to challenge yourself to see it. You are more powerful than you know and it all starts in your mind and heart. Your mindset matters.

In Celebration of Foster Youth Awareness Month

Victor Valley College
NEXT UP SHINING STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



"When you ever feel like you need help and reach out for help. Don't sit there and dwell on how you can do better or how you should be better anyway try to look for help you are worth more than you think"

Autumn Trice

ABOUT ME
I'm a determined student who wants to do better I know there's times where I make mistakes but I also know how to admit my mistakes and try to learn from them. In the future I hope to go far with my career and from the help of NextUp I can go much further.

GOALS
To have a career in the medical field and be able to financially support myself.

WHAT I WOULD CHANGE
I personally would less than the caseload between all social workers because I felt I sparingly saw my social worker in between visits during my time in foster care.

ADVICE
Even though sometimes you get stuck in the past and think about all the things that could've happened if you would've had a better life, just remember that you have Support and that there are people there for you at every corner. You just have to look.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Matthew Sianarta



Victor Valley College's Tutoring & Academic Support Center recently organized its monthly "Student Connection" event, featuring the accomplished and aspiring student, Matthew Sianarta. Matthew, a dedicated student pursuing an AS-T Mathematics major with ambitions of obtaining a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, shared his inspiring journey and future goals with the college community. During the event, Matthew expressed his

unwavering determination to become a NASA Astronaut, a dream he has nurtured for years. He credited Elizabeth Duarte, an exceptional figure on campus, as the most caring and supportive person who has been instrumental in his academic and professional pursuits. Elizabeth's guidance and provision of resources have been invaluable, particularly during Matthew's NASA research project and his ongoing efforts to advance his professional aspirations.

Reflecting on his college experience, Matthew candidly shared that time management has been his greatest challenge. Balancing academic, professional, and personal responsibilities while adapting to unexpected events has required him to prioritize and reallocate his time effectively. However, his passion for helping others has served as a powerful motivator. Witnessing others grasp complex concepts has been an incredibly rewarding experience for Matthew. Outside of his academic pursuits, Matthew indulges in hobbies such as star gazing, cooking, and hiking, which provide him with a well-rounded perspective and moments of relaxation amidst his demanding schedule. When asked about his advice for fellow college students, Matthew emphasized the importance of understanding that college is not the sole

defining experience in life. He encouraged students to recognize the broader community they are a part of, allowing them to connect their studies with real-world applications and events. Matthew also emphasized the significance of identifying what truly matters in life.

In terms of improving the college experience for students, Matthew suggested that establishing connections and offering support, guidance, and advice to those facing academic and social challenges would be invaluable. By sharing personal experiences and insights, students can navigate college life with confidence and ease.

Matthew took a moment to highlight the unwavering support of his girlfriend, Ivette Curiel, who has been an indispensable source of encouragement and assistance throughout his academic journey. Her well-timed jokes and logistical support have played a crucial role in making each day smoother for Matthew. The Tutoring & Academic Support Center's "Monthly Student Connection" event with Matthew Sianarta served as an inspiring platform for students to learn from his experiences and gain valuable insights into academic success and personal growth. The event left attendees feeling motivated and encouraged to pursue their goals with unwavering determination and a supportive community behind them.

BRUSHES UNLEASHED: VVC's Annual Art Show Bridges Creativity and Community

Victor Valley College's Student Art Show is expected to captivate audiences on June 2, highlighting the talents of its dedicated students in diverse visual arts disciplines. This event serves as a bridge between the college and the community, offering a platform for creative expression and fostering connections through artistic dialogue. From design and painting to photography and sculpture, the exhibition promises to showcase unique and thought-provoking works that address social concerns and evoke emotions.

The Student Art Show at Victor Valley College is not only a testament to the hard work and talent of its students but also an opportunity for the community to engage with the vibrant art scene on campus. The event always brings together emerging artists and art enthusiasts alike. With the guidance of dedicated faculty members, students have the chance to explore

and spotlight a range of artistic mediums and techniques, allowing their voices to be heard through their visually striking creations.

Whether you are an art aficionado or simply curious about the power of artistic expression, attending the Student Art Show is a must.

This exhibition serves as a captivating window into the cultural concerns and artistic visions of the students at VVC. By supporting this event, you not only encourage the growth of these talented artists but also contribute to the larger dialogue on social issues through the lens of visual arts by enrolling in one of their esteemed art classes. On June 2nd Join the ranks of the dedicated and talented individuals who contribute to the ever-evolving world of visual arts.

A promotional poster for the VVC Student Art Show Spring 2023. The poster features the VVC logo in the top right corner. The main text reads "VVC STUDENT ART SHOW SPRING 2023" in large, bold, pink and white letters. Below this, there is a photograph of an art gallery with various artworks displayed on the walls. A red banner in the bottom right of the photo says "NEW DAY & TIME!". At the bottom of the poster, a yellow circle highlights the date and time: "FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023 FROM 12 PM - 5 PM". To the right of this, it says "BUILDING 22 ART SHOW ATC STUDY-A-THON". At the very bottom, it lists "FOOD VENDORS" and "VVC MUSICAL PERFORMANCES" in pink text.

2-Year CA Colleges Continue Advances Toward Student Success Goals



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 — While all student groups have made gains in completion rates and across regions of our state, the outcomes continue to light a path forward to tackle equity gaps for students of color. Equity gaps in educational attainment among regions continued to narrow, with the Central Valley and Inland Empire showing the strongest improvements.

The share of students who are employed in their field of study, one of the six goals measured in the report, dipped by 3 percentage points from the previous year to 68 percent as a result of the high unemployment rate and economic disruptions caused by the COVID crisis.

The State of the System presentation also detailed commitments to align the Vision for Success and its goals with the complementary Roadmap for the Future, the state's long-term framework for increasing degree attainment and social mobility for all Californians. Community colleges will play a critical role in achieving the goal of having 70 percent of working age Californians earn a degree and certificate by 2030.

SOURCE: cccco.edu

Embarking on Ecological Exploration:

Ainsley's Journey into Biopreservation Begins



VVC Ram Ainsley will embark on an exciting research journey as a participant in the prestigious ATP-Bio REU & UROP Program. This nationwide internship offers STEM students, including those from community college with no prior research experience, the opportunity to explore cutting-edge biopreservation technologies. Ainsley graduates in June, from there she'll head to Minnesota where she'll work alongside a collaborative team at the University of Minnesota. With comprehensive support, including lodging, travel, and a \$6,000 stipend, Ainsley gets to delve into revolutionary research aimed at extending the viability of biological systems and advancing biopreservation techniques.

This immersive experience will help propel Ainsley's understanding of advanced technologies for biological preservation. The ATP-Bio REU & UROP Program not only fosters interdisciplinary collaborations but also empowers aspiring scientists to contribute

to groundbreaking discoveries. Ainsley's participation exemplifies the transformative impact of research internships, providing a solid foundation for her future pursuits in biology and biopreservation.

Ainsley's passion for ecology stems from her deep fascination with the intricate interconnections between living organisms and their environment. Ecology, as a specific branch of biology, focuses on understanding the relationships, interactions, and dynamics within ecosystems. Ainsley is driven to explore the intricate web of life instead of sitting behind a computer in some office somewhere. She wants real life experience in the field.

The educational journey continues for Ainsley immediately after her internship as she will embark on her next chapter at UCR, equipped with knowledge, experience, and a burning curiosity to make a positive impact in the world of ecology.

ASB Hosts Successful AAPI Fest by Lake



Victor Valley College's Associated Student Body (ASB) recently organized a vibrant and culturally immersive event to celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Held earlier this month, the event aimed to promote awareness, unity, and appreciation for AAPI cultures. The ASB orchestrated a diverse range of activities and attractions, including mesmerizing fire dancers, delectable Thai and Filipino cuisine, and engaging games that reflected the richness of AAPI traditions. Last but not least, Boba was provided as well to attendees.

Nearly 600 attendees visited the cultural event and almost 500 Boba drinks were given out. Additionally, the audience was enthralled by the captivating performances of fire dancers, whose skilled and graceful movements illuminated the stage. The mesmerizing display showcased the unique artistry and cultural significance of fire dancing within AAPI communities. Furthermore, the event's culinary offerings included an array of mouthwatering Thai and Filipino dishes, allowing attendees to savor the flavors and experience the authentic tastes of AAPI cuisine.

In addition to the captivating performances and culinary delights, the AAPI event featured a multitude of interactive games and activities that provided attendees with an opportunity to engage directly with AAPI cultures. From traditional games to henna art and origami workshops, participants immersed themselves in the diverse and captivating aspects of AAPI heritage.

Through the collaborative efforts of the ASB and the active participation of students and community members, Victor Valley College's AAPI event successfully highlighted the rich and vibrant cultures of the AAPI community. By providing an inclusive space for cultural exchange and celebration, the event underscored the importance of fostering unity, understanding, and respect among all individuals, regardless of their backgrounds.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

- AAPI Awareness Month holds significant value as it provides a dedicated period to highlight and celebrate the diverse contributions, cultures, and achievements of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities
- AAPI Awareness Month plays a crucial role in combating stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, promoting inclusivity and social justice.
- AAPI Awareness Month also serves as an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, educate the public, and advocate for policies and initiatives that address the needs and concerns of the AAPI community, ultimately working towards a more equitable and inclusive society for all.



Victor Valley College

SPRING STUDENT ART SHOW

June 2nd, 2023 12pm - 5pm

Building 22

Artist: Melanie Zuniga



a Celebration of

Learning & the **arts**

FRIDAY, JUNE 2 12pm - 4pm at ATC

the Art of Learning
Study-A-Thon

the ARTS of
Visual & Performance

**Student Art Show
& Musical Performances**



FREE lunch
will be provided by



Eat Smart, Be Healthy!





STUDY-A-THON



Want to earn that **A+** grade on your final exams and papers?

Join the Math, English and TASC Departments for tutoring and workshops on **FRIDAY, June 2, 2023 from 8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM in BUILDING 21(ATC)!**

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM			1:00 PM – 4:00 PM		
Math 105 Weis Rm 146	Math 104 Barahona Rm 156	Math 226 Viehweg Rm 155	Math 105 Mecklenburg Rm 142	Math 227 Viehweg Rm 155	Math 104 Barahona Rm 156
Math 231 Rocha Rm 170	Math 105 Moore Rm 133	Math 132 Ridge Rm145	Math 132 Rocha Rm 170		Math 105 Moore Rm 133
Math 120/228 Simanyi Rm 157	Math 105 Mecklenburg Rm 142		Math 226 Weis Rm 146	Math 226-228 Simanyi Rm 157	

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM LUNCH provided by Waba Grill, Boba, Pupusa, Baklava and Nothing Bundt Cakes Vendors. Halo donuts for breakfast.

Join us during lunch break for **“The Celebration of Learning and the Arts” Student Art Show And musical performances.**



Scan the QR Code to sign up for raffles & food!

<p align="center">Writing Center Tutoring and Workshops 21-177</p> <p>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: In-Class Essays 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Commas I 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM: MLA Format: Basics & Works Cited 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: MLA: Quoting 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Thesis Statements 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Conclusions</p> <p align="center">Communication Center Tutoring and Workshop 21-171</p> <p>12:00 PM – 2:30PM: Tutoring 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM: Workshop: Overcoming Speaker Anxiety</p>	<p align="center">TASC Lab Tutoring and Workshops 21-171:</p> <p align="center"><u>Tutoring Sessions:</u></p> <p>8:30 AM – 3:30 PM: CIS & Physics 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM: Chemistry & Psychology 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM: ASL 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Political Science</p> <p align="center"><u>Workshops:</u></p> <p>9:00 AM & 10:00 AM: Time Management Mindful Test Taking Strategies Building Good Study Habits</p>
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Food and activities are funded by ASB, Presidential Office, Guided Pathways, and VVC Foundation

CORRECTIONS:

1. In the previous issue of RAMS Monthly (#3) the District Attorney’s story on Page 5 had an incorrect spelling for the title. The title should have reflected “District Attorney Presents Crime Victims’ Rights Event with Survivors at PAC”
2. In the previous issue of RAMS Monthly (#3) the featured story on the cover and on Page 3 had an incorrect spelling of the last name of the subject. The correct last name should have reflected “Rosenberg.”
3. In the previous issue of RAMS Monthly (#3) the featured story on Page 5 had an incorrect spelling of a VVC class. The correct spelling should have been reflected as “NP2” and “NP4.”

RAMS MONTHLY IS A PUBLICATION FROM YOUR ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION CAN BE REQUESTED AT:

760.245.4271 EXT. 2395