

FEB 2024

RAMS

MONTHLY



STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE



VVC Hosts Black Community Influencers During CTE Pathways Tour

Victor Valley College Spotlights Lower Campus Programs

New Golf Coach
Spotlight
3

VVC ASB Goes To
Washington DC
4-5

Student Spotlights
8 & 11

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
Top Video Game in
California



MURAL: CREATED BY DELTA ACADEMY G.E.M.S. OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC
HIGH DESERT ALUMNAE CHAPTER
ON DISPLAY ALL MONTH LONG IN BLDG 44 (SAC)

WHY DO WE STILL CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

Often times we forget things if we're not reminded, so it's February once again and here's why BHM is important!

Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, holds profound significance in American culture and history. Its roots trace back to the early 20th century when African American historian and scholar Carter G. Woodson set out to raise awareness about the contributions of African Americans to the nation's history.

The initiative to celebrate Black History Month stems from a critical need to acknowledge and honor the often overlooked or marginalized roles that African Americans have played in shaping the fabric of American society. Black people, are not the only group this has happened to, hence why we celebrate other groups in different months, like the Military, LGBTQ+, Women, Indigenous People, etc. Despite enduring systemic discrimination, oppression, and injustice, African Americans have made enduring and invaluable contributions to every aspect of American life, including politics, science, literature, arts, and civil rights.

Black History Month serves as a reminder of the struggles and triumphs of African Americans throughout history. It provides an opportunity for reflection on the injustices faced by African Americans, the progress made in the fight for equality, and the work that still lies ahead in the ongoing pursuit of racial justice and equality.

Furthermore, celebrating Black History Month helps to educate people of all backgrounds about the richness and diversity of African American culture, heritage, and achievements. It fosters a deeper understanding of the complexities of American history and promotes empathy, inclusivity, and cultural appreciation.

In essence, Black History Month endures as a testament to the resilience, strength, and perseverance of African Americans in the face of adversity. It serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, reminding us of the ongoing struggle for equality and justice while celebrating the indelible contributions of African Americans to the tapestry of American history and identity.

Source: [History.com](https://www.history.com)

Driving Success: Victor Valley College Welcomes Derrick Williams as Head Golf Coach



Victor Valley College is thrilled to announce the hiring of Derrick Williams as the new Head Coach of the golf team. With a rich history in the world of golf and a deep passion for the game, Derrick brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to fostering a culture of excellence within the team.

Derrick's journey with golf began 25 years ago when he fell in love with the sport, inspired by the meteoric rise of a young Tiger Woods on the PGA tour. Since then, he has dedicated his life to golf, excelling as a player during his collegiate years at Michigan State University and later turning professional. Derrick has competed in various State Opens, Mini Tours, PGA qualifiers, and Q Schools across the globe, showcasing his skill and dedication to the game.

Having moved to Southern California over a decade ago, Derrick has become an integral part of the golf community in the region. His experience includes serving as a teaching professional at renowned golf courses such as Brookside GC, Scholl Canyon GC, and Valencia CC. He also contributed significantly as the

Outreach Coordinator for First Tee Greater Pasadena and has previously served as a High School/Collegiate Head Coach.

Derrick takes immense pride in his extensive knowledge of the game and has a true passion for golf instruction. He aims to elevate the experience of every athlete at California Country Club, where he recently took on the role of Head Golf Professional. His dedication to coaching goes beyond the golf course, as he actively participates in community outreach and strives to make a positive impact wherever he can.

Derrick is also a family man with 15 years of marriage and four children, which brings not only professional expertise but also a sense of family values and commitment to our community. Outside of his coaching duties, Derrick enjoys a variety of sports, loves to travel, values social interactions, and remains actively engaged in giving back to the community.

In his own words, Derrick expresses his excitement about joining Victor Valley College, stating, "I'm excited to bring a level of

professionalism to the athletes here so I can help maximize their potential and give them exposure they might not have had before." His vision aligns with the college's commitment to nurturing talent and providing students with opportunities for growth and success. Victor Valley College looks forward to a promising future with Derrick Williams leading the golf team, bringing inspiration, expertise, and a genuine love for the game to the student-athletes under his guidance.

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VVC Takes Washington: Advocating for Education Equity



VVC POSES FOR A PHOTO WITH JEE HANG LEE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES - FEBRUARY 5, 2024 (WASHINGTON D.C.)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Four members of the Victor Valley College Associated Student Body, along with VVC's Board of Trustees and VVC Superintendent Dr. Daniel Walden, embarked on a journey to the nation's capital this week to attend the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) annual National Legislative Summit. The summit, held in Washington D.C., serves as a platform for community college leaders and students to engage with lawmakers and key leaders on critical legislative issues shaping education and workforce development across the nation.

During their time at the summit, attendees are delving into various topics aimed at advancing key education and workforce programs, enhancing student tax policies, and advocating for vital legislation to support community colleges. Among the focal points of discussion are strategies to secure federal funding for education and workforce programs, including initiatives aimed at addressing rural economic development and combating food insecurity on college campuses, particularly through provisions in the Farm Bill.

Furthermore, the summit highlights efforts to support Dreamers, also known as DACA students, and emphasizes the importance of accountability and transparency in higher education institutions.

Throughout the week-long event, VVC students and trustees are participating in tours of the United States Congress, engaging in direct conversations with policymakers, and attending keynote speeches by prominent figures in government and academia. Today, Jennifer M. Granholm, the U.S.

Secretary for the Department of Energy, delivered a compelling keynote address to summit attendees. Reflecting on the pivotal role of workforce development in the clean energy sector, Secretary Granholm emphasized the urgency of transitioning to clean energy solutions and the vast opportunities it presents for job creation and economic growth.

Secretary Granholm underscored the significance of community colleges in training the workforce needed to meet the demands of the evolving clean energy landscape. She highlighted initiatives such as the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides incentives for institutions to adopt clean energy technologies, and emphasized the importance of workforce training programs tailored to the needs of the clean energy industry.

In her address, Secretary Granholm issued a call to action for community colleges to embrace clean energy initiatives, invest in workforce training programs, and empower students to pursue careers in the burgeoning clean energy sector.

"Clean energy is here now. And it is next," Secretary Granholm declared. "We have this opportunity, right now, to not only address the climate crisis but also rebuild our economy and provide pathways to the middle class and beyond."

Victor Valley College Board of Trustees member, Jennifer Tarpley, commented on her experience thus far at the summit with VVC students, stating, "This trip has been such a huge success! We're spending time lobbying for programs that can enhance the student

experience at VVC. Spending quality time with our students reminds the trustees why we serve on the board."

Also in attendance is VVC Associated Student Body Vice President Amber Herrera who stated, "The ACCT Summit has given me a better understanding of the legislative process and the importance of advocating for students. Something I have taken away from this conference is the significance of the students' voices. When recognizing their needs and advocating towards improvement we can work towards creating effective improvement."

As the summit progresses, attendees from Victor Valley College remain committed to advocating for policies that advance educational opportunities and empower students to thrive in a rapidly evolving workforce landscape. With a shared vision for a brighter and more sustainable future, they stand ready to leverage their experiences and insights gained at the summit to drive positive change within their college community and beyond.

The ACCT National Legislative Summit continues to serve as a vital platform for community college leaders and students to amplify their voices and advocate for policies that prioritize education, workforce development, and economic prosperity for all.



Community College

ENERGY SECRETARY JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM SPEAKS ON CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVES, EMPHASIZING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AT THE ACCT NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON D.C. (2/5/24)

Victor Valley College Delegates Champion Increased Federal Aid from Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON D.C. — With a resolute focus on addressing the financial hurdles faced by students, delegates from Victor Valley College (VVC) are actively engaging with U.S. Representatives from Southern California during their participation in the Association of Community College Trustees National Legislative Summit. On Tuesday, the primary objective of these discussions was to advocate for augmented funding for the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Work Study programs.

Amidst the bustling halls of Capitol Hill, four impassioned students from Victor Valley College, Jacob Kleinsmith, Richie Quiroga, Jennifer Weis, and Amber Herrera, have seized the opportunity to advocate fervently for increased federal aid. Their voices echo the sentiments of countless students grappling with similar financial challenges. Notably, the students had the privilege to directly engage with Representative Pete Aguilar (D-CA 33rd District), whose area encompasses parts of the Inland Empire, and who holds a pivotal role on the House Appropriations Committee, responsible for allocating funds across government programs. Additionally, Aguilar has been a supporter of students in higher education. In the Fall of 2023, he introduced the bipartisan Protecting Students' Civil Rights Act to help universities and colleges effectively address any instances of inequity and bias.

Victor Valley College Board of Trustees president Joseph W. Brady also attended the private meetings with students and elected officials. Brady reflected on the encouraging meetings, stating that he was "really proud of [our] students, they told compelling stories." Brady went on to say that he was impressed to see "how much further VVC's Associated Student Body is in leadership compared to ASBs throughout the country." Brady elaborated saying that it's evident that VVC's students really care about one another.

When discussing the trip to Washington D.C. overall, Brady was asked for comments on what he would like to see done on the federal level moving forward that would benefit VVC students and that's when the president of the board of trustees fired back and said that he'd like to see the U.S. Congress "start working together and stop acting like children. It's affecting not just our students' future, but our country."

VVC trustee member Brandon Wood shared during the February 13, 2024 board meeting his experience during the trip to Washington D.C. During his time to share, Trustee Wood pointed



VVC TRUSTEES AND STUDENTS ENGAGING WITH CONGRESSMAN PETE AGUILAR (D-CA 33RD DISTRICT)

out that VVC was one of very few community colleges in attendance that physically brought students. In total, only around 120 students attended the conference out of around 1300 community colleges nationwide. Victor Valley College brought 4 students to the conference.

Wood went on to state "I was proud to see that our students were there and were more than just decorations. Our students communicated clearly and concisely why they were there and exactly what we expect out of these officials. It was like a proud parent moment."



VVC BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT JOSEPH W. BRADY ENGAGES IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN PETE AGUILAR (D-CA 33RD DISTRICT) ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL WORK STUDY AND THE PELL GRANT.

As the day progressed, the Victor Valley College delegation secured a meeting with

their local congressman for the High Desert region, Representative Jay Obernolte (R-CA 23rd District). Trustees and students alike underscored the financial obstacles hindering student success, emphasizing the transformative impact that expanded Federal Aid could have on student welfare.

In an intimate dialogue, Representative Obernolte affirmed his steadfast support for Victor Valley College and its integral role within his district. He acknowledged the challenges within the congressional processes and delineated the necessary steps to advance the advocacy efforts of the students and trustees.

Commenting on the progress in Student Success at Victor Valley College, Obernolte noted that it is imperative to recognize the invaluable contributions of institutions like Victor Valley College and the profound impact they have on the communities in his district. VVC student and Associated Student Body (ASB) Executive Senator Richie Quiroga gave some insight into his experience face-to-face with both representatives, stating "To be able to tell my story to my elected officials in D.C. face-to-face was a very awesome opportunity! When you talk to a member of their staff you never truly know if it gets back to them or not! Being able to look them in the eye and tell them [my] story and know that they are hearing [me] is a great feeling!"

The ongoing discussions underscore a shared commitment to prioritizing educational equity and empowering students to realize their academic aspirations. As the delegates continue to collaborate and advocate for enhanced federal assistance, the potential for positive outcomes in student welfare and academic achievement remains a driving force behind their endeavors.

Pathways to Success: VVC Highlights Career Technical Education for Local Black Leaders

Victor Valley College gives an exclusive tour of their CTE Pathways program at a special event welcoming 30 Black and African American community influencers and affirming its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Victor Valley College welcomed approximately 30 Black and African American community influencers from the Victor Valley area to a special event aimed at highlighting the college's successful Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. In partnership with the DVL Project and Millionaire Mind Kids, the three-hour event provided an exclusive tour showcasing various career pathway training opportunities, student support services, and the essential steps for students to embark on a path of opportunity.

Leaders representing education, local government, No Drugs America, California Health Collaborative, the NAACP, St. Mary Medical Center, and other local organizations had the unique opportunity to witness first-hand the diverse array of programs offered at Victor Valley College. Among the programs showcased were Cosmetology, Truck Driving, Welding, Automotive, and more.

DVL Project founder Regina Weatherspoon-Bell also attended the event at the college and said that it was a "wonderful way to honor Black History Month." Weatherspoon-Bell's organization collaborated on the event with VVC, and despite the rainy weather, she says "all eyes and minds were open to the amazing possibilities."

The event served as a platform to underscore the college's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by providing equitable access to high-quality education and career development opportunities for all members of the community.

"I learned that VVC is a jewel in the community. The career and technical education programs

should be something that every High Desert youth should know about. We need more marketing to our kids about awesome programs such as these." Said Terrance Stone, CEO of Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy and member of the High Desert Black Chamber of Commerce.

"This event was an invaluable opportunity for us to engage with community leaders and showcase several opportunities available at Victor Valley College," said Dr. McKenzie Tarango, VVC's Associate VP of Instruction. "We are dedicated to empowering students from all backgrounds to pursue their educational and career goals, and events like these help us foster meaningful partnerships within our community."

Victor Valley College remains committed to fostering an environment of inclusivity and empowerment, where students can thrive and succeed in their chosen career paths.

The presence of Black representation in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs holds profound significance not only for individuals but for the entire community. As historically marginalized groups, including Black and African American communities, strive for equitable access to education and economic opportunities, CTE programs serve as vehicles for empowerment and advancement. By actively engaging Black students in vocational training and skill-building initiatives, institutions like Victor Valley College contribute to breaking down systemic barriers and fostering pathways to success.

Black representation in CTE programs not only addresses disparities in access to education

but also addresses workforce diversity and inclusion. By encouraging participation from individuals of diverse backgrounds, CTE programs enrich the talent pool and promote innovation and creativity in various industries. Moreover, the integration of diverse perspectives and experiences enhances problem-solving abilities and fosters a culture of collaboration and mutual respect.

Furthermore, the benefits of Black representation in CTE programs extend beyond individual success to community development and economic prosperity. As Black individuals acquire skills and qualifications through vocational training, they are better equipped to contribute meaningfully to local economies and address pressing societal needs. By supporting the professional growth and advancement of Black individuals, CTE programs strengthen the social fabric and promote sustainable development within communities.

In essence, the promotion of Black representation in CTE programs is not only a matter of equity and justice but also a strategic investment in the collective well-being and prosperity of communities. By embracing diversity and inclusivity in education and workforce development initiatives, institutions like Victor Valley College play a vital role in shaping a more equitable and vibrant society for all.



WELDING TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTOR TROY KUHNS SPEAKS ABOUT HIS PROGRAM.



INSTRUCTOR ROBERT HEWITT SPEAKS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS LEARNING ABOUT THE CDL PROGRAM AT VVC



AUTOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT CHAIR LEE BENNETT SPEAKS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS LEARNING ABOUT THE AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

Stitching Stories: Deborah Hamilton's Dedication to Family History and Quilting



From Left to Right: Quilt 1 is Deborah's Aunt Julia quilt, described as a Vintage African-American quilt. A family heirloom that has been in the family since the 1930s. Quilt 2 is Deborah's Medallion Quilt, a tribute to her mother that she quilted about 20 years ago.

Deborah Hamilton, a vibrant and spirited 71-year-old student at Victor Valley College (VVC), embodies the essence of resilience and passion. Her journey from the bustling streets of New York City to the serene landscapes of the High Desert is a testament to her unwavering spirit and commitment to family legacy.

Growing up in the heart of NYC, Hamilton's childhood was marked by adversity and perseverance. Raised by her mother in the projects after her father's departure, Hamilton learned the value of education early on. "Mom was determined to get her children to succeed to break the cycle and be freed of poverty," Hamilton recalls, her voice tinged with gratitude and admiration for her mother's unwavering support.

Despite facing racial prejudice and economic hardship, Hamilton excelled in school, propelled by her mother's resilience and determination. Her mother's graveyard shifts as a key punch operator on Wall Street served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made for their family's future. "Education was the key," Hamilton emphasizes, reflecting on the lessons instilled by her upbringing.

Hamilton's academic journey led her to Indiana University, where she pursued graduate studies and eventually became the Director of Affirmative Action EEO and Minority Program. In this role, she championed the rights of minorities, women, and people with disabilities, leaving an indelible mark on the university

community.

In the early 2000s, Hamilton found herself drawn to the serene landscapes of the High Desert, where she discovered a new found passion for quilting at VVC. "Quilting is a way of preserving memories and important people in our families," Hamilton explains, her eyes sparkling with enthusiasm for her craft.

Over the years, Hamilton has meticulously hand-quilted numerous pieces, from commissioned works to personal projects, each imbued with a story and a sense of heritage. Her quilting journey at VVC has been enriched by the guidance of instructors like Lonnie Sanders and Pat Adams, whose expertise and support have inspired her creative pursuits.

But Hamilton's interests extend beyond the realm of quilting; she is deeply engaged in unravelling her family's ancestry, tracing her roots back to Jamaica and Aiken, South Carolina. Inspired by the work of historian Henry Louis Gates Jr., Hamilton emphasizes the importance of family history in shaping one's identity and understanding the broader tapestry of human experience.

"Family is responsible for preserving its family history," Hamilton affirms, her voice resonating with conviction. She urges younger generations to explore their heritage and ask questions about their origins, recognizing the transformative power of storytelling in connecting past, present, and future.

As she continues her studies at VVC and

delves deeper into her family's history, Deborah Hamilton remains a shining example of resilience, passion, and the enduring power of the human spirit. In her vibrant zest for life and unwavering commitment to preserving her family's legacy, Hamilton's journey serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who encounter her story.

In addition to her academic pursuits and passion for quilting, Deborah Hamilton is a pillar of strength and inspiration in her community. Known for her infectious laughter and boundless energy, she actively engages in community outreach programs and volunteer initiatives. Whether she's lending a helping hand at local shelters or organizing fundraising events for charitable causes, Hamilton's generosity knows no bounds. Her vibrant spirit and unwavering commitment to serving others exemplify the values of compassion and empathy that define her character. Through her selfless acts of kindness and unwavering dedication to making a positive impact, Hamilton continues to leave an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those around her, inspiring others to embrace the power of community and collective action.

New Study Exposes California's Top Video Game Picks

A recent study conducted by experts at CSGOLuck has unveiled the gaming preferences of Californians, with Roblox emerging as the most sought-after video game in the Golden State. The findings, which analyzed the average monthly Google search volume of various video games in each state, provide intriguing insights into the gaming landscape of California.

Roblox Reigns Supreme

Topping the charts with an impressive total search volume of 1,371,410, Roblox has secured its place as the reigning favorite among gamers in California. The online platform and game creation system allow users to design and play games crafted by fellow users, boasting a staggering 70 million daily active users worldwide. With a valuation soaring to \$23.77 billion, Roblox's popularity continues to soar, capturing the imagination of Californian gamers.

The Last of Us and Fortnite Follow

Securing the second and third positions respectively, The Last of Us and Fortnite have cemented their status as beloved titles in California's gaming community. The Last of Us, propelled by the recent HBO TV adaptation and a remake of the original game, garnered an average monthly search volume of 378,984. Meanwhile, Fortnite, known for its dynamic gameplay and evolving content, amassed 268,333 monthly searches, reflecting its enduring appeal among players since its 2017 release.

Minecraft and Hogwarts Legacy Round Out the Top Five

Minecraft, the iconic sandbox game celebrated for its limitless creativity, claimed the fourth spot with an average monthly search volume of 244,414. Its customizable world-building features continue to captivate players, maintaining a steadfast presence in California's gaming scene. Rounding out the top five is Hogwarts Legacy, the long-awaited entry into the Harry Potter gaming universe, boasting an average monthly search volume of 162,656. With over 22 million copies sold as of 2023, the game has captivated fans with its immersive wizarding world experience.

Insights from CSGOLuck

A spokesperson for CSGOLuck highlighted the enduring popularity of open-platform games such as Roblox, Minecraft, and Fortnite, emphasizing their ability to sustain interest long after their initial release. The spokesperson expressed curiosity regarding

the potential emergence of new contenders in future rankings, underscoring the dynamic nature of the gaming industry.

Methodology

The study's methodology involved analyzing Google keyword planner data over the past 12 months, incorporating modifiers such as "buy," "game," "video game," and platform-specific terms like "Xbox," "PlayStation," and "Nintendo Switch." By aggregating search volumes associated with each game title, the study provided comprehensive insights into California's gaming preferences.

As gaming continues to thrive as a mainstream entertainment medium, insights from studies like these shed light on the evolving tastes and preferences of California's vibrant gaming community. With Roblox leading the charge, and stalwarts like The Last of Us and Fortnite not far behind, the gaming landscape in California promises continued excitement and innovation for players across the state.

Rank	Video Game	Total Search Volume
1	Roblox	1,371,410
2	The Last of Us	378,984
3	Fortnite	268,333
4	Minecraft	244,414
5	Hogwarts Legacy	162,656

SOURCE: CSGOLuck

DID YOU KNOW?



The video game industry stands as one of the most lucrative entertainment sectors globally, generating staggering revenues year after year. Recent trends indicate a remarkable surge in earnings, with the industry reaching unprecedented financial heights. In 2021, the global video game market boasted revenues exceeding \$175 billion, a testament to the industry's remarkable growth and widespread appeal. This revenue encompasses various revenue streams, including game sales, in-game purchases, subscriptions, and advertising. With the advent of mobile gaming, esports, virtual reality, and streaming platforms, the industry's revenue potential continues to expand exponentially, fueling innovation and driving the evolution of interactive entertainment on a global scale. As technology advances and consumer demand for immersive gaming experiences grows, projections suggest that the video game industry will continue to thrive, solidifying its position as a cornerstone of the modern entertainment landscape.



Best-selling Author Chris Hogan Delivers Valuable & Insightful Seminar during VVC Speaker Series



Best-selling author and public speaker Chris Hogan speaks in front of an engaged crowd of students, faculty, and staff at VVC about Life, Money, & Career. Hogan has been featured on numerous TV networks including FOX, CNN and CNBC.

Victor Valley College (VVC) welcomed renowned public speaker and best-selling author Chris Hogan to its campus as part of the Spring semester's Speaker Series, where he delivered two engaging seminars on February 13, 2024. Hogan, a distinguished financial expert and motivational speaker, captivated staff and students alike with his insights on personal finance and retirement planning.

Drawing from his extensive experience in the financial industry, Hogan addressed critical topics related to achieving financial wellness, leadership, and preparing for retirement. With a dynamic and engaging speaking style, he emphasized the importance of setting clear financial goals, managing debt effectively, seeking employment, and building a solid foundation for long-term financial security.

During his seminars, Hogan shared practical strategies and actionable advice tailored to individuals at every stage of their financial journey. From budgeting and saving to investing wisely for the future, he offered valuable insights designed to empower attendees to take control of their financial destinies.

One of the key themes of Hogan's presentations was the significance of developing a mindset of financial independence and taking proactive

steps to secure one's financial future. He stressed the importance of making informed financial decisions, setting priorities, and aligning financial goals with personal values and aspirations.

Moreover, Hogan emphasized the importance of early planning and consistent saving habits in preparing for retirement. Through compelling anecdotes and real-life examples, he underscored the transformative impact of prudent financial management and disciplined saving behaviors.



"The more you help other people, it's a blessing to you," says Hogan, speaking to the audience, "Don't be scared by the word no. No is an opportunity to get a yes." Hogan went on to explain the importance of seeking out new

employment and what it takes to be committed to a job search.

Hogan's visit to Victor Valley College resonated deeply with attendees, who found inspiration and practical guidance in his message of financial empowerment. His engaging presentations left a lasting impression on students and staff, sparking meaningful conversations about financial literacy and the path to financial freedom.

As part of VVC's commitment to holistic student success, the Spring Semester Speaker Series aims to provide enriching educational experiences that inspire personal and professional growth. By inviting distinguished speakers like Chris Hogan to share their expertise and insights, VVC seeks to equip students with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Chris Hogan's visit to Victor Valley College exemplified the college's dedication to fostering a culture of lifelong learning and empowerment. Through engaging and informative seminars, Hogan challenged attendees to embrace financial responsibility, seize opportunities, and chart a course toward a brighter financial future.

Finding Focus: Amethyst A. Woodard's Path to Success at VVC



AMETHYST (LEFT) IN THE BAHAMAS DURING AN EXTERNSHIP FOR CULINARY SCHOOL

In the realm of Victor Valley College, there's a rising star whose journey from Long Beach to Inglewood has now found its focus in the Inland Empire. Amethyst A. Woodard, a dedicated student at VVC, is not just studying real estate but is also a force of nature, breaking barriers and reshaping her destiny.

Born in 1987, Amethyst is says she's proudly the middle child on her mom's side. Growing up, she was known for her quirky, flamboyant, and outspoken personality. Despite projecting a timid demeanor at times, Amethyst went through rebellious teenage years, sharing, "I would steal snacks because growing up with three of us meant we always had to split/divide snacks, junk food, and I would always go ham!"

Raised by a mother who worked three full-time jobs while pursuing a Ph.D., Amethyst absorbed the strength and resilience that characterizes her today. Reflecting on her past, she acknowledges the transformative power of her mother's advice about the importance of moderation, especially considering the health history on her dad's side.

Amethyst's journey took a turn when she decided to shed 100 pounds and subsequently enrolled in culinary school. With a vision to own a restaurant, she aimed to provide a creative sanctuary in the food world while giving executive chefs and leads the creative control she values.

At one point in her journey, Amethyst attended the world renowned former Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Pasadena, California. That lead to an externship which gave her the opportunity to practice her culinary art in exotic

places like the Bahamas.

However, her entrepreneurial spirit didn't stop there. Aware of the challenges in the restaurant industry, Amethyst is now delving into the world of real estate, studying to obtain a degree at Victor Valley College.

Amethyst's path intersected with her introduction to Victor Valley College. Not long after her discovery of the campus, she found herself drawn to the college during the winter session, seeking a change and breaking free from a cycle of self-sabotage.

In her own words, "I'm here on earth to CHANGE THE WORLD 1 PLATE AT A TIME."

Amethyst just recently wrapped her Winter session where she studied a couple classes including Art History and Personal Community Health. Staying fresh and current in her pursuit of knowledge, she's now into her Spring semester, studying Real Estate. However, it's not a complete career change for her. Amethyst is still practicing culinary arts.

While her meal prep and catering company experiences seasonal slowdowns, Amethyst allocates her time positively, ensuring that her passion for food remains legendary.

As Amethyst A. Woodard navigates her path at Victor Valley College, she stands as a testament to resilience, transformation, and the pursuit of dreams. Keep an eye on this powerhouse who is changing the world, one plate at a time.

On your 2nd or 3rd Career Path? THAT'S OK!



Navigating a career change can be a daunting prospect, especially as we approach our 30s or 40s. However, a recent article from Franklin University offers invaluable insights into making this transition with confidence and clarity. Titled "How to Change Careers at 30 or 40," the piece serves as a beacon of guidance for those contemplating a shift in professional trajectory later in life. It encourages readers to embark on a journey of self-reflection, skill assessment, and strategic planning to align their careers with their passions and aspirations.

One of the key takeaways from the article is the importance of recognizing and leveraging one's existing skills and experiences. Rather than viewing past career paths as limitations, individuals are encouraged to identify transferable skills and explore new opportunities that resonate with their interests. Additionally, the article underscores the significance of networking and mentorship in facilitating successful career transitions. By building meaningful connections within their desired industries and seeking guidance from experienced professionals, individuals can gain valuable insights and navigate the complexities of change more effectively.

An August 2023 article from Apollo Technical reported that about 52% of American employees were considering making a career change last year and 44% were already in the middle of planning their change in careers.

CNBC reports that the average person switches careers around 39 years old, the switch could indicate that people begin to feel stagnant in their current field by the time they reach a "mid-career point."

As the workforce continues to evolve, this resource offers a timely reminder that it's never too late to pursue a career path that brings fulfillment and purpose.



Victor Valley College's Black Student Union Presents:
BLACK EXPO



- MUSIC
- FOOD
- GAMES
- VENDORS!

**FEBRUARY 29, 2024,
10 AM - 3 PM
VVC STUDENT ACTIVITIES
CENTER BLDG 44
INSIDE & OUTSIDE**

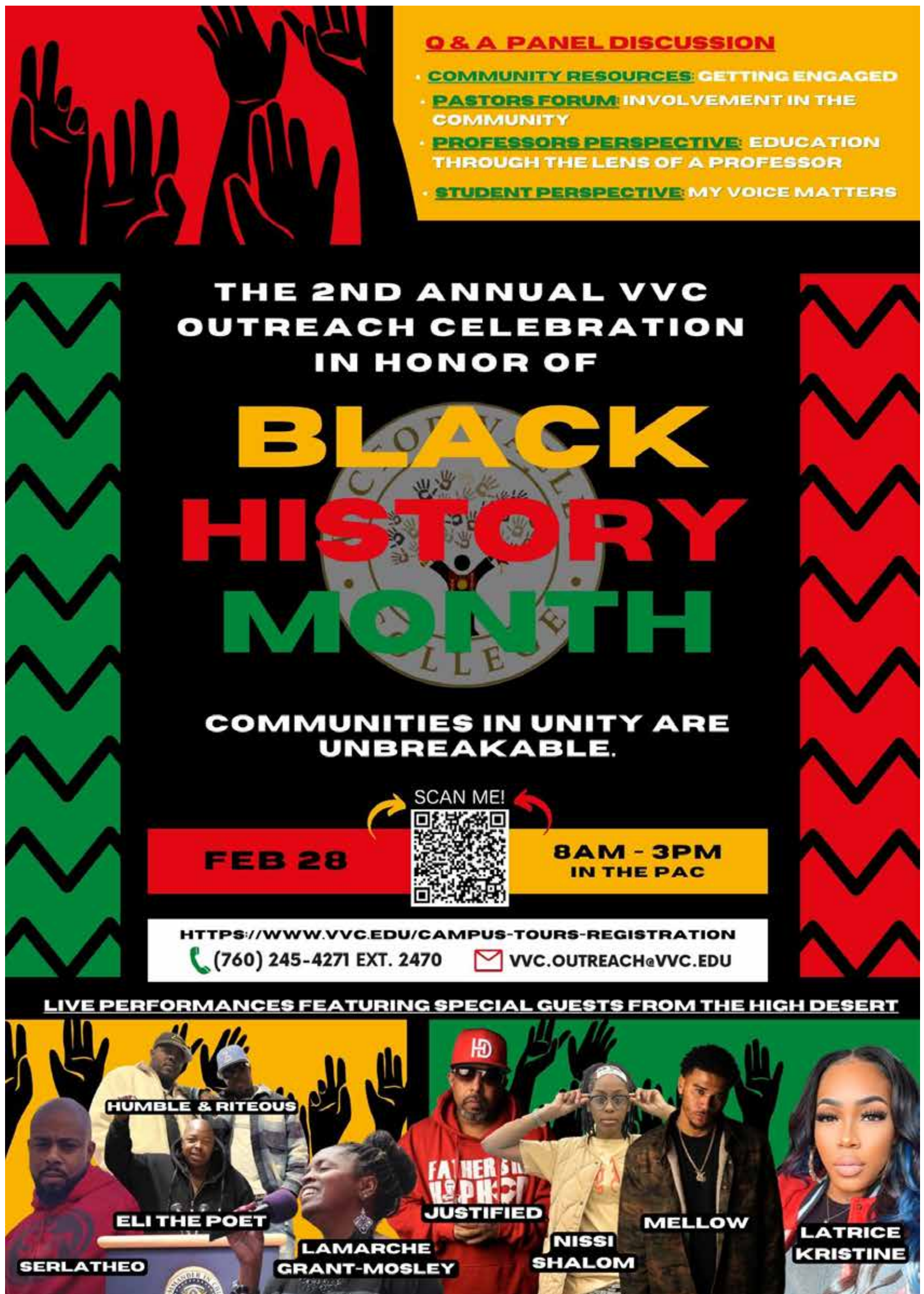
TO REGISTER AS A VENDOR



**ALL AGES ARE
WELCOMED!**

TO JOIN B.S.U





Q & A PANEL DISCUSSION

- **COMMUNITY RESOURCES:** GETTING ENGAGED
- **PASTORS FORUM:** INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY
- **PROFESSORS PERSPECTIVE:** EDUCATION THROUGH THE LENS OF A PROFESSOR
- **STUDENT PERSPECTIVE:** MY VOICE MATTERS

**THE 2ND ANNUAL VVC
OUTREACH CELEBRATION
IN HONOR OF**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**COMMUNITIES IN UNITY ARE
UNBREAKABLE.**

SCAN ME!

FEB 28

**8AM - 3PM
IN THE PAC**

[HTTPS://WWW.VVC.EDU/CAMPUS-TOURS-REGISTRATION](https://www.vvc.edu/campus-tours-registration)
 (760) 245-4271 EXT. 2470 VVC.OUTREACH@VVC.EDU

LIVE PERFORMANCES FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS FROM THE HIGH DESERT

SERLATHEO **ELI THE POET** **HUMBLE & RITEOUS** **LAMARCHE GRANT-MOSLEY** **JUSTIFIED** **NISSI SHALOM** **MELLOW** **LATRICE KRISTINE**



Spring 2024 Workshops

Transfer 101

Interested in transferring to a four-year university? Come and learn about the different systems of higher education, transfer requirements, application process, and resources available to assist you on your transfer journey.

Thursday, February 29th

2:00-3:30pm

ATC Bldg. 21, Rm. 126

Wednesday, March 13th

4:00-5:30pm

One-Stop Bldg. 23, Rm. 08

Thursday, April 4th

2:00-3:30pm

Virtual: Register Here

Wednesday, May 8th

3:00-4:30pm

One-Stop Bldg. 23, Rm. 08

UC Transfer

Admission Guarantee

UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (UC TAG) offers guaranteed admission to one of six participating UC campuses. Come learn about eligibility requirements, and see if you are eligible to TAG a campus.

Wednesday, March 20th

2:00-4:00pm

ATC Bldg. 23, Rm. 08

Wednesday, April 24th

4:00-6:00pm

One-Stop Bldg. 23, Rm. 08

Thursday, May 23rd

2:00-4:00pm

ATC Bldg. 21, Rm. 126

Appealing Your University Admissions

Come and learn about drafting your appeal letter to colleges about reconsidering your admission. We will cover the appeal process and some scenarios in which students appeal their admission decision.

Wednesday, February 21st | 4:00-5:30pm | Virtual: Register Here

Thursday, March 7th | 2:00-3:30pm | ATC Bldg. 21, Rm. 126

Wednesday, April 17th | 3:00-5:00pm | One-Stop Bldg. 23, Rm. 08



(760) 245-4271 ext. 2138



transfer@vvc.edu



Bldg. 23, Rm. 05

SPRING CLUB RUSH

Food, Fun, Opportunity Drawing

Music Club  <i>"A place for music lovers!"</i> Every Wednesday @12:30pm Bldg. 20 Rm. 3 Advisor: Erik Calvese at erik.calvese@vvc.edu President: Bryan Mahaffey at bryan313@student.vvc.edu	STEM SISTERS  Every 1st & 3rd Monday @11am STEM Engagement Center (Bldg. 21 Rm. 177) Advisor: Anna Smith at anna.smith@vvc.edu President: David Smith at david201@student.vvc.edu	Model United Nations  Every Wednesday @9:35am Liberal Arts Building (Bldg. 50) Advisor: Karim Kazzam at karim.kazzam@vvc.edu President: Grace Hickey at grace110@student.vvc.edu
VVC Inter-Varsity  <i>"Connecting students to Christ"</i> Every Tuesday @12:45pm Student Activities Center (Bldg. 44 Rm. 213) Advisor: Robert Moore at robert.moore@vvc.edu President: Caleb Reed at caleb427@student.vvc.edu	Pre-Health Scholars  <i>"Empowering future medical professionals"</i> Every other Friday @12pm STEM Engagement Center (Bldg. 21 Rm. 170) Advisor: Norman Johns at norman.johns@vvc.edu President: Kijalyn Howard at kijalyn01@student.vvc.edu	Ready Rams  <i>"Learning to Lead!"</i> Every 1st and 3rd Monday @11:30AM Bldg. 44 Rm. 13 Advisor: Manuel Gaytan at manuel.gaytan@vvc.edu President: Yehia Alcafelge at yehia99@student.vvc.edu
ASL Club  <i>"Bridging the gap between the hearing and the deaf"</i> Last Saturday of the Month @4pm Cafeteria (Bldg. 44) Advisor: Joseph McCoy at joseph.mccoy@vvc.edu President: Karen Bahig at ksbahig8117@student.vvc.edu	BSU Black Student Union  Every Friday @5pm Student Activities Center (Bldg. 44) Advisor: Rebekah Richards at rebekah.richards@vvc.edu President: Haseeb Criver at haseeb2807@student.vvc.edu	Adventurers Fantasy Club  <i>"The only limit, is your imagination"</i> Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday @ 2PM - 4:30 PM Bldg. 44 Rm. 201 Advisor: Robert Rumbarger at robert.rumbarger@vvc.edu President: Aaron Houston at aaron5033@student.vvc.edu



February 20th & 21st
Student Activities Center
10 am - 2 pm



Career Preparation and Exploration Fair for KIDS & ADULTS



Presented in Partnership by



February 29th, 2024 10am-12pm

located at
Millionaire Mind Kids

15579 Eighth Street
Victorville, CA 92395

Come learn about Career Preparation and Exploration programs by both Millionaire Mind Kids offering programs for youth 3-20 years old, and credit and non credit programs offered by VVC.

FREE

Learn About Programs In

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Aviation | ☐ Health |
| ☐ Business | ☐ Construction |
| ☐ Public Safety | ☐ Restaurant |
| ☐ CDL | ☐ Welding |
| ☐ Automotive | ☐ Cosmetology |
| ☐ other programs | |

Open to the Public

Victor Valley College
Performing Arts Center
Presents



Art provided by
tps Creative
Expressions inc.

Art Gallery Open House

Curated pieces in
celebration of Black
History Month

Sponsorship From
DVLProject.com



Building 54 PAC Lobby Light Refreshments will be served

Victor Valley College ★ ESL Level 1

Join us to take a Level 1 English as a Second
Language class at Victor Valley College

Acompáñanos a tomar una clase de Nivel 1 de Inglés
Como Segundo Idioma en Victor Valley College



**FREE
GRATIS**

Feb. 24 - Jun. 8, 2024
Main Campus, Bldg 21
Ctr 126

**Saturdays 8am-12:30pm
Sabados de 8am-12:30pm**

ESL-010.1-33197

18422 Bear Valley Rd Victorville, CA 92395

Contact Us for Questions

Contactenos con preguntas (760) 245-4271 ext 2349, ESL@vvc.edu



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2024
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TODAY!**

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USE THE QR CODE
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