

JAN 2025

RAMS MONTHLY



VVC to Host annual Child Development Conference

Workshops for Providers & Future Educators



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Jimmy Carter

BLM Approves Land Sale for Barstow Rail Project, 20,000 Jobs to be created

The ‘BIG’ Project will need workers, are you interested?

BARSTOW — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has approved the sale of approximately 30 acres of public land in San Bernardino County to Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF). The land will be used to support the Barstow International Gateway, a \$1.5 billion, 4,500-acre integrated rail facility designed to revolutionize supply chain logistics, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance operational efficiency across the U.S.

Project Overview

The Barstow International Gateway, located on the west side of Barstow, will feature a state-of-the-art rail yard, intermodal facility, and warehouses to streamline the movement of goods. This facility will enable the direct transfer of international cargo arriving at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach onto trains for transport through the Alameda Corridor to Barstow.

At the Gateway, cargo will be processed using clean-energy-powered equipment, repackaged into domestic containers, and efficiently staged for transport via BNSF’s rail network to destinations across the country. Westbound freight will undergo a similar process to optimize its movement to the ports and other California terminals.

Addressing Critical Supply Chain Needs

Currently, most international cargo is trucked from the ports to warehouses in Los Angeles or the Inland Empire for sorting, creating inefficiencies, excess truck traffic, and environmental impacts. By processing cargo directly at the Barstow facility, the project will:

- Reduce truck traffic and freeway congestion in the Los Angeles Basin and Inland Empire.
- Streamline the transfer of cargo between ships and rail, improving efficiency regionally and across the national supply chain.
- Enhance fluidity across BNSF’s rail network, expediting operations at intermodal hubs in the Midwest and Texas.

Environmental and Community Benefits

The project is expected to significantly alleviate port and highway congestion, reducing the environmental footprint of freight



transportation. Communities surrounding the ports and warehouses will benefit from fewer truck trips and lower emissions, aligning with regional sustainability goals.

BLM’s Role in the Sale

The BLM identified the 30-acre parcel, valued at \$98,000, as suitable for private sale due to its isolation and limited public access. The sale complies with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and related regulations.

Documents related to the decision, including the environmental assessment, are available at the BLM National NEPA Register and the Barstow Field Office at 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, Calif. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding federal holidays. For more information, call 760-252-6000.

The Barstow International Gateway is poised to be a transformative step for the supply chain industry, benefiting logistics, the environment, and the economy on both regional and national levels.

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VVC to host 3rd Annual Child Development Conference, Emphasis on Diversity

Event will provide a platform for educators, students, and community members



educational practices.

Professional Growth Opportunities

The conference offers professional development certificates, which can be used to meet requirements for Child Development Permits. Organizers emphasized the importance of addressing bias in early education, noting that children develop awareness of fairness and stereotypes at an early age. “Teaching these topics sensitively and age-appropriately can foster empathy, acceptance, and critical thinking skills while reducing harmful behaviors such as bullying,” said organizers.

Schedule and Location

The conference begins with breakfast and registration at 7:30 a.m., followed by the keynote presentation at 8:30 a.m. Breakout sessions will be held throughout the day, with lunch and networking opportunities scheduled from 12:30 to 1:50 p.m. The event will conclude at 4 p.m.

The conference will take place at VVC’s Student Activities Center (Building 44) and Performing Arts Center (Building 54). Free parking is available in Lot Q, with \$2 parking available in other campus lots.

Registration Details

Registration is open at www.vvcfoundation.com/cdc. For additional information, contact Heather Hammond-Williams at 760-245-4271, ext. 2776, or via email at heather.williams@vvc.edu.

Victor Valley College encourages educators and community members to attend this impactful event. By addressing DEIA in the classroom, the conference aims to create a more inclusive, supportive, and equitable learning environment for children across the High Desert region.

Victor Valley College (VVC) is set to host its 3rd Annual Child Development Conference on Saturday, January 25, 2025, focusing on the theme of “Diversity.” This year’s event will provide a platform for educators, students, and community members to enhance their professional skills, network with experts, and explore strategies for fostering equity and inclusion in early childhood education.

The conference, hosted by VVC’s Child Development Program, aims to address critical issues related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in classrooms. With a rural High Desert community that experiences unique challenges—such as high levels of poverty, trauma, and linguistic diversity—the conference will provide educators with essential tools to better serve children and families.

Keynote Speaker and Highlights

Dr. Amanda Wilcox-Herzog, chair of the Department of Child Development at California State University, San Bernardino, will deliver the keynote address, “Addressing Bias in Practice: The Foundation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.” Dr. Wilcox-Herzog

brings a wealth of experience in early childhood development and education, emphasizing anti-bias strategies and teacher development.

In addition to the keynote, attendees can participate in a variety of breakout sessions and interactive workshops led by local and regional experts. Topics include:

Creating Equitable Learning Environments: Focused on supporting young boys of color in early education.

Cultural Diversity in the Classroom: Strategies for building inclusive environments that reflect diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Positive Child Guidance for Neurodivergent Children: Research-based practices to support autistic and neurodivergent preschoolers.

Breaking Gender Stereotypes: Teaching strategies that promote inclusivity and challenge traditional norms in early education. Participants will also gain hands-on experience through activities such as building inclusive classroom libraries, utilizing baby sign language, and exploring trauma-aware

We’re on YouTube!
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VA Expands GI Bill Benefits that could benefit VVC Veterans with Multiple Periods of Service



WASHINGTON D.C. — In a significant policy update, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced an expansion of GI Bill benefits for Veterans who have served multiple periods of military service. This decision follows a 2024 Supreme Court ruling that directed changes to the benefit award process, enabling eligible Veterans to access up to 12 additional months of education benefits.

Under the prior policy, Veterans with at least two periods of service were limited to a combined total of 36 months of GI Bill benefits, shared between the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The new policy removes this restriction, increasing the maximum to 48 months for qualified individuals.

This policy change impacts Veterans who completed at least two qualifying periods of service, one earning eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill and the other for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The VA estimates this adjustment could benefit as many as 1.04 million Veterans and beneficiaries. As part of the initiative, the VA has launched a targeted outreach campaign to ensure Veterans are informed of their potential eligibility.

"This policy will not only help Veterans who apply for GI Bill benefits in the future — it will also allow VA to provide additional benefits to many Veterans who used GI Bill benefits in the past," said Joshua Jacobs, Under Secretary for Benefits. "Every Veteran has earned the right to get a good, affordable education — and under this new policy, many Veterans will get an additional 12 months of GI Bill benefits."

Of the eligible Veterans, approximately 660,000 will have their claims automatically processed by the VA without requiring further action. The remaining individuals will be contacted directly by the VA to assist with filing a claim for the additional benefits.

In addition to increased benefit durations, the VA is reinstating expired Montgomery GI Bill benefits for eligible Veterans who switched to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Veterans will receive their remaining Montgomery GI Bill entitlement plus an additional 90 days, with the application deadline set for October 1, 2030.

This expansion of benefits underscores the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to supporting Veterans and their families as part of the Unity Agenda. In 2024 alone, the VA provided over 900,000 Veterans and their

families with financial assistance for education and job training, helping them pursue new opportunities with minimal out-of-pocket costs.

For Veterans studying at Victor Valley College (VVC), this policy update presents a valuable opportunity to further their education and career goals. Eligible VVC student Veterans are encouraged to check their benefit status and take advantage of the additional 12 months of GI Bill support. For assistance, Veterans can contact the VA directly or reach out to VVC's Veterans Resource Center.

Since its creation, the Post-9/11 GI Bill has provided over \$143 billion in benefits to more than 2.7 million recipients. This latest policy enhancement ensures that Veterans who served their country are further empowered to achieve their educational aspirations.



FAREWELL, JIMMY

Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, passed away on December 29th at the age of 100. He was the first former president to reach 100 and, alongside his wife of 75 years, Rosalyn, held the title of the longest-married presidential couple in U.S. history.

Before entering politics, Carter worked as a peanut farmer and served as a U.S. Navy lieutenant. Despite facing health challenges in recent years, he remained dedicated to public service and philanthropy. Carter is remembered for his work as a mediator, humanitarian, and champion of social justice.

During his presidency from 1977 to 1981, Carter achieved numerous accomplishments, with a particular focus on expanding education and advocating for social progress. He established the Department of Education, emphasizing the federal government's role in improving educational access and standards nationwide. This initiative aimed to provide greater support for students, teachers, and schools, especially in underserved communities.

After leaving office, Carter continued to contribute through the Carter Center, a nonprofit he founded to promote democracy, human rights, and social welfare worldwide. The center has worked in over 80 countries to resolve conflicts, advance democracy, and combat diseases. Carter's efforts earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his contributions to global peace and conflict resolution.

His accomplishments both in and out of office highlight his unwavering dedication to creating a better, more just world.

Source: The Carter Center



HOW TO ORDER SEMESTER PARKING PERMITS

Victor Valley College requires virtual parking permits for students, staff, and faculty. Students, staff, and faculty must use PAYMYCITE.com to order their parking permits online. Parking permits are now virtual, meaning no paper permits or window stickers will be issued.

ORDER SPRING 2025
Parking Permits starting
Monday, February 10, 2025



VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE'S NEW VIRTUAL PARKING SYSTEM WILL GO INTO EFFECT FOR THE SPRING 2025 SEMESTER, REPLACING THE USE OF PHYSICAL PARKING DECALS.

ALL STUDENTS CAN REGISTER AND ORDER THEIR VIRTUAL PERMITS BEGINNING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025

USE PAYMYCITE.COM TO ORDER YOUR STUDENT VIRTUAL PARKING PERMITS.

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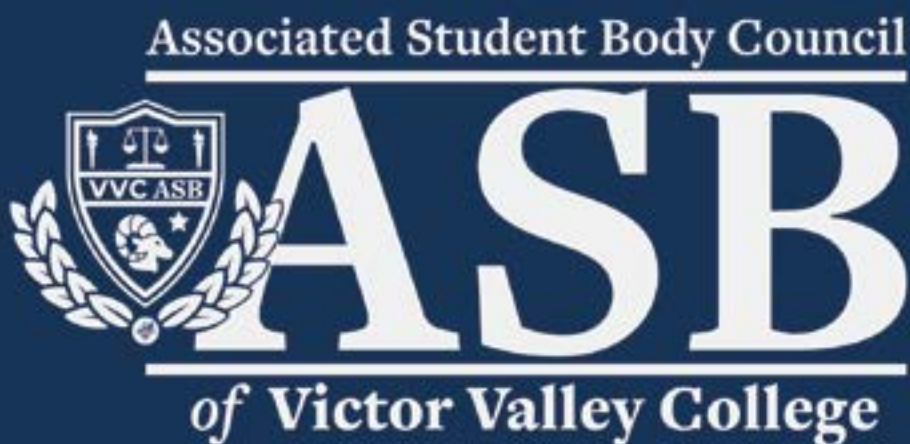
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