

MAY 2024

# RAMS MONTHLY



STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE



## VVC Nursing Receives National Recognition in Disaster Preparedness

*Department honored at National Student Nursing Convention*

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# TikTok Challenges U.S. Government's Ban: What You Need to Know

## TikTok is taking the Feds to court, who will win?

In a legal showdown that could shape the future of online expression, TikTok Inc. and its parent company ByteDance Ltd. are taking on the U.S. government over what they claim is an unconstitutional ban on the popular video-sharing platform.

The dispute centers around the Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, which specifically targets TikTok, a platform used by 170 million Americans for sharing videos and connecting with a global audience of over 1 billion users.

Critics argue that the Act unfairly singles out TikTok, effectively silencing millions of voices on the platform. While the Act's sponsors frame it as a regulation of TikTok's ownership due to its ties to ByteDance Ltd., TikTok contends that the demands of the Act are neither feasible nor constitutional.

At the heart of the matter is the Act's requirement for a "qualified divestiture," essentially forcing TikTok to sever ties with its parent company or face shutdown. TikTok asserts that such a divestiture is logistically, commercially, and legally unworkable, effectively leading to a ban on the platform.

Furthermore, TikTok argues that the Act represents an overreach of governmental power, violating the First Amendment's protections of free speech and expression. By targeting a single platform without concrete evidence of wrongdoing, TikTok claims that the Act sets a dangerous precedent for government intervention in online speech.

TikTok points to its voluntary efforts to address government concerns, including investing billions in technological and governance protections. Despite these efforts, TikTok claims that Congress opted for a punitive approach, ignoring less restrictive alternatives and betraying its discriminatory purpose.

The legal battle comes after years of tension between TikTok and the U.S. government, with previous attempts to ban the platform halted by legal challenges. Now, as TikTok seeks to overturn the Act, the case could have far-reaching implications for online freedom and government regulation of digital platforms.

Towards the end of April 2024, the U.S. Senate approved legislation aimed at encouraging TikTok's China-based parent company,



ByteDance, to sell the popular video-sharing platform or face a ban.

The legislation, part of a broader \$95 billion package providing foreign aid to Ukraine and Israel, passed with a decisive 79-18 vote and was signed shortly after by President Joe Biden.

The decision to attach the TikTok bill to the high-priority package came after negotiations between House Republicans and the Senate, where an earlier version of the bill had encountered obstacles. Originally, the bill mandated a six-month timeline for ByteDance to divest its stakes in TikTok, but concerns over the complexity of such a deal prompted a revision.

The revised legislation now grants ByteDance nine months to sell TikTok, with a possible three-month extension if a sale is underway. Additionally, the bill prohibits ByteDance from retaining control over TikTok's algorithm, a crucial component responsible for curating content based on user interests.

While proponents of the legislation argue it is necessary to safeguard national security and address concerns over foreign influence,

opponents warn of the potential disruption to the lives of content creators who rely on TikTok for income. With millions of users and a thriving community of creators, TikTok has become a cornerstone of digital expression for many.

As the legislation heads to implementation, legal challenges are expected to mount, further intensifying the uncertainty surrounding TikTok's future in the United States. For now, the fate of the platform hangs in the balance, awaiting the outcome of legal battles and the impact of legislative decisions.

**FOLLOW VVC ON SOCIAL**



**@VVCedu**





# Hi!

## I AM VALAREE BRIDGEWATER, AND I AM AN RN APPRENTICE.

I am 20 years old and currently in my second semester at Victor Valley College (VVC) in the registered nursing apprenticeship program. I am so happy to be attending VVC, as it is close to home, has amazing faculty, and has one of the best nursing programs in California.

I was inspired to pursue a career in healthcare during my high school anatomy class. Learning about the body and how it works sparked my interest enough to take medical classes after high school. This made me fall even more in love with the idea of helping and taking care of people.

My advice to anyone interested in joining an apprenticeship program is: do it! While in school, I learn about topics in lectures that are useful to my chosen career path, such as disease processes, nursing interventions, and common medications for different illnesses. I then get to apply what I learn in the classroom every day at work alongside nurses who help me perfect my skills.

One of the challenges that I have come across while completing the program is being able to balance work, school, home, and my own needs. I have learned that it is okay to walk away and take a break. Even if it's just to run errands, do chores, or even go to a coffee house and study with friends. It makes a difference when feeling overwhelmed.

By the time I finish my program, I will be well-prepared and set up to be successful in the field. Being an apprentice allows you to apply yourself in real-world situations and practice your skills every day at work. If I had to do everything all over again, I wouldn't change my mind about becoming an apprentice. Being in the LAUNCH program has helped me become more confident in my skills while taking me a step closer to becoming the best nurse I can be!



In celebration of Youth Apprenticeship Week

**LAUNCH**  
**YOUTH**

**#YAW2024**

# VVC Remembers its longest serving trustee: Dennis L. Henderson

The longest serving Victor Valley College Trustee, Dennis L. Henderson, passed away on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Henderson was elected first in 1997, Dennis as an esteemed member of the Victor Valley Community College District Board of Trustees. He leaves behind a legacy of remarkable service and achievement within his community.

Originally hailing from Detroit, Michigan, Dennis Henderson's life journey took him through Florida and Southern California, where he eventually settled in Apple Valley with his beloved wife of many years. Together, they raised three children and cherished two grandchildren.

Dennis Henderson's life was marked by an array of noteworthy accomplishments. He was a man of many talents, having built three houses and even piloted the iconic Goodyear blimp.

He engaged in conversation with notable figures like Ronald Reagan, Rick Nelson, and John McCain.

Notably, Dennis Henderson achieved a rare feat of winning every case he pursued with the District Attorney.

His distinguished career included

six years of dedicated service in the U.S. Navy. He later ventured into entrepreneurship and law enforcement, serving as a Los Angeles County Sheriff for four years and subsequently as a San Bernardino County Sheriff for 22 years. For 12 of those years, he applied his expertise as a detective specializing in crimes against children.

Dennis Henderson's commitment to education was equally profound. He imparted his knowledge and experience as an instructor at VVC for six years and dedicated eight years to teaching at the San Bernardino County Basic and Advanced Academies.

In his pursuit of knowledge, Dennis earned an Associate of Arts degree from Compton College, a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Cal State Long Beach, and a Master of Science in Business from the University of Redlands.

Dennis Henderson's impact on the Victor Valley Community College District and the broader community is immeasurable. He will be remembered for his unwavering dedication, diverse achievements, and the profound influence he had on those fortunate enough to have known him.

"[Dennis was] such a model of excellence and a perfect example of

extraordinary VVC educators we have at this community college," said social media user Chris Garcia.

"We have lost a friend and a true leader in education. Dennis, we thank you for your 20 years of service and we will continue to work as a team whose primary goal is our students' success, and the creation of local economic opportunities when they graduate," said VVC Board of Trustees President Joseph W. Brady."

Funeral arrangements and details for commemorating Dennis Henderson's life will be announced shortly. He is survived by his loving family, friends, and a community forever touched by his contributions and compassion.

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*"We have lost a friend and  
a true leader in education.  
Dennis, we thank you for  
your 20 years of service..."*

*Joseph W. Brady*

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**DENNIS L. HENDERSON**  
1947 - 2024

**VVC BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBER**  
1997 - 2024



## Revving Up Relationships: VVC Shifts Into High Gear with Auto Industry Leaders



Victor Valley College (VVC) recently hosted a luncheon, bringing together top community partners from the Auto Industry in the High Desert. This past month, the spotlight was on the automotive sector, attracting leaders from renowned dealerships, including Victorville Auto Group, Valley Hi Toyota, Nissan, Kia, Honda, Sunland Ford, and Browning Auto Group.

The event provided a platform for meaningful dialogue between VVC's Automotive Department staff and industry leaders, fostering closer connections between the college's educational programs and the local automotive industry. VVC is dedicated to delivering exceptional instruction, aiming to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in various employment sectors within the High Desert.

These engagements help VVC progress towards enhancing curriculum and aligning with industry demands. Currently, VVC offers 13 certifications of achievement and two associate degrees in automotive technology, underscoring a commitment to comprehensive, career-focused education.

In addition to strengthening existing programs, VVC has introduced a new Learning Aligned Employment Program (LAEP) to automotive leaders. LAEP provides funds to allow eligible students opportunities to earn money by

working with industry leaders. This program helps students offset educational costs while gaining valuable, career-related experience in their fields of study.

For employers, the benefits of LAEP are significant. VVC reimburses non-profit employers up to 90% of the salaries paid to student interns, and 50% for for-profit businesses. This initiative not only supports students financially but also ensures that employers have access to a well-prepared and highly skilled workforce.

Victor Valley College is committed to meeting the needs of industry partners by continuously adapting educational offerings.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics in California are essential professionals who diagnose, adjust, repair, and overhaul automotive vehicles. This role excludes specific positions like Automotive Body Repairers, Bus and Truck Mechanics, Diesel Engine Specialists, and Electronic Equipment Installers. Typically, employers look for candidates who have completed post-secondary vocational training, ensuring they possess the necessary skills and knowledge. The wages for these professionals in California, as of the first quarter of 2023, average \$29.39 per hour, with earnings ranging from \$21.34 at the 25th percentile to \$35.35 at the 75th percentile.

The employment outlook for Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics indicates a slight decline. Between 2018 and 2028, the number of positions is expected to decrease from 80,200 to 79,500, representing a 0.9% drop. Despite this, there will be approximately 77,050 job openings during this period due to turnover and the creation of new jobs. The primary industries employing these professionals include automotive repair and maintenance, automobile dealerships, and automotive parts and accessories stores, highlighting the demand across various sectors.

In addition to the technical skills required, Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics in California must meet certain licensing requirements. These include certifications such as Brake/Lamp Adjuster and Smog Check Technician, issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Automotive Repair. These licenses ensure that technicians adhere to state regulations and standards, providing quality service to customers. This profession values independence, support, and practical problem-solving skills, making it ideal for individuals who enjoy hands-on work and continuous learning in the evolving automotive field.

Source: [edd.ca.gov](http://edd.ca.gov)



# Victor Valley College Nursing Department Honored as Top Disaster Preparedness Organization



In the field of healthcare, preparedness is paramount. When the unexpected strikes, having well-trained professionals ready to respond can make all the difference. Recently, the Nursing Department of Victor Valley College (VVC) showcased their excellence in disaster preparedness on a national stage and emerged triumphant.

This past April, the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) hosted its annual convention in Orlando, Florida. Among the attendees were representatives from VVC's Nursing Department, who made their mark by being awarded top honors as the best Disaster Preparedness organization in the country. This accolade is a testament to their commitment to raising awareness of disaster plans and ensuring their community is equipped to handle any crisis.

The NSNA convention drew nearly 40 students from various corners of the United States, providing an invaluable platform for networking, learning, and skill development. VVC's nursing student representatives seized the opportunity to engage in a wide array of discussions and workshops, ranging from epilepsy awareness to hands-on narcotic training and neuroassessment.

One particularly enriching experience was a panel discussion on emergency nursing

certification, where VVC students had the chance to glean insights from seasoned professionals, including a flight nurse and an ER nurse. Such interactions not only broaden their knowledge base but also inspire them to excel in their chosen field.

Tiana Gray, Chair of VVC's Nursing and Allied Health Department, shed light on the department's dedication to disaster preparedness, "Our Nursing Program participates in a multidisciplinary Disaster Drill. We set up and run 'hospitals' and triage and care for patient victims who come into our hospitals in large quantities. Margaret was a student who participated last year and she wrote up a very detailed report of our participation in the disaster drill, including costs, staff, and all the components of the drill."

During a recent CNSA meeting on campus VVC student Margaret Sandige, who attended the convention simply said "When the nation needs nurses for emergency disasters, [it] think about Victor Valley College."

In 2023, RNcareers.org recognized VVC's Nursing Department's excellence, ranking it #12 among 160 nursing schools in California and #51 out of over 1,700 nursing programs nationwide. With a commendable three-year average NCLEX-RN passing rate of 97.05%, VVC exemplifies academic rigor and student

success, earning them an overall grade of A.

The NSNA, as the host of the convention, plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of nursing. Comprising over 60,000 members nationwide, it serves as a platform for student nurses to connect, learn, and advocate for their profession. Through initiatives like the annual convention, the NSNA fosters professional development, leadership skills, and a sense of camaraderie among aspiring nurses.

VVC's Nursing Department's recognition as the best Disaster Preparedness organization underscores their unwavering commitment to excellence and community service. As they continue to nurture the next generation of healthcare professionals, their impact reverberates far beyond the confines of the classroom, ensuring a safer and more resilient future for all.



VVC CNSA PRESIDENT/NURSING STUDENT  
MARGARET SANDIGE



# MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

In the United States, May holds a deeply significant role as Military Appreciation Month, a period dedicated to recognizing and honoring the immeasurable sacrifices and invaluable contributions of military personnel and their families. Throughout this poignant month, communities across the nation join together in a collective expression of gratitude and solidarity towards those who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces. From heartfelt community gatherings and patriotic parades to virtual tributes and outreach campaigns, Americans from all walks of life come together to celebrate the unwavering commitment, resilience, and bravery exhibited by their service members.

Moreover, Military Appreciation Month serves as an important platform to raise awareness about the multifaceted challenges faced by military families and veterans. It's a time to acknowledge the profound sacrifices made by service members, including the toll on their mental and physical well-being, as well as the strains experienced by their loved ones. By shining a spotlight on these challenges, communities can foster greater understanding and empathy, working towards ensuring that the support and appreciation for the military community extends far beyond the confines of May. Through ongoing advocacy, initiatives, and support networks, Americans can reaffirm their commitment to honoring the sacrifices of their service members and providing them with the care, recognition, and support they rightfully deserve throughout the year.





# From Battlefield to Classroom: VVC Spotlights U.S. Vets on Campus

## Frank Ayapantecalt



In celebration of Military Appreciation Month, Victor Valley College is proud to shine a spotlight on one remarkable student, Frank Ayapantecalt. At 32 years old, Frank's journey from a U.S. Navy veteran to a dedicated VVC student is nothing short of inspiring.

Frank, who served as an E4 in the Navy, spent his military career aboard the U.S.S. Hartford, a Los Angeles Class submarine. Interestingly, Frank's military adventure began on a whim. Growing up, he didn't have much interest in the military. It was actually a friend's idea to take the ASVAB and get out of class early that led him down this path. Seizing the opportunity to skip high school for the day, Frank took the test and astonishingly scored an impressive 87%, qualifying him for the prestigious nuclear program. His choice to serve on submarines stemmed from a dislike of heights, leading him to the depths of the ocean instead.

From 2011 to 2016, Frank served on the Hartford, where he specialized in sonar operations. His submarine adventures are filled with fond memories, especially his tours in the U.K., though he admits Scotland wasn't his favorite. His most memorable experience was his very first deployment, initially planned as a 30-day mission but extended to over 100 days at sea. A standout moment of his service was participating in a National Geographic documentary. Frank and his crew navigated to the North Pole and dramatically punched through the ice on camera, showcasing the prowess and resilience of their submarine.

Now, as a student at Victor Valley College, Frank brings the same dedication and spirit to his studies. His story is a testament to the incredible experiences and skills veterans bring to our campus. VVC is honored to have Frank as part of our VVC community and celebrate his contributions both in the military and now as a student.

## Zach Smith



Victor Valley College proudly honors U.S. Army veteran and dedicated student Zach Smith for Military Appreciation Month. Zach's remarkable journey from the battlefield to our campus exemplifies resilience, dedication, and the spirit of service.

Zach, who retired as an E5 after nine years in the Army, served a memorable tour in Afghanistan in 2010. Specializing as a tank mechanic, Zach's skills were crucial both during his military service and in his civilian career. His transition from military to civilian life was seamless; he recalls, "I got out of the Army on a Friday, I started on the trains by Monday," referring to his work with BNSF on the railroads. His Army training provided a solid foundation for his post-military career, showcasing the enduring value of military skills.

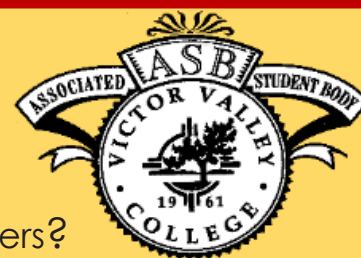
During his time in Afghanistan, Zach faced intense situations, including a bombing that occurred just 50 feet away. Despite the daily dangers, he adapted to the environment, noting that being shot at became a routine part of life. Growing up in Indiana, Zach's military service took him across the globe, from the Middle East to South Korea, and various U.S. bases including Fort Sill in Oklahoma and Fort Irwin's National Training Center in the High Desert. His extensive experience and travels have enriched his perspective and resilience.

Now at Victor Valley College, Zach is not only advancing his education but also giving back to the veteran community. He works part-time at the Veterans Resource Center on the lower campus, where he provides crucial information and support to fellow veterans. His role at the center ensures that veterans at VVC have access to the resources they need to succeed. Zach's journey from Army service to student and advocate embodies the dedication and strength that we celebrate this Military Appreciation Month. Thank you, Zach, for your service and continued commitment to helping others.





# STUDY-A-THON



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

Join the Math, English and other Departments for tutoring and workshops on

**FRIDAY, May 31, 2024 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<br>Moore<br>ATC-155       | Math 270<br>Viehweg<br>ATC-157  | Math 227<br>Schellhous<br>ATC- 156     | CT 107<br>Bonato<br>Bldg. 30-5 | Math 105<br>Moore<br>ATC-155       | Math 120<br>Viehweg<br>ATC-157                        | Math 228<br>Schellhous<br>ATC-156   | CT 107<br>Bonato<br>Bldg. 30-5 |
| Math 105<br>Mecklenburg<br>ATC-142 | Math 226<br>Simanyi<br>ATC-146  | Math 132<br>Ramirez<br>ATC-132         |                                | Math 105<br>Mecklenburg<br>ATC-142 | Math 226/227<br>Simanyi<br>ATC-146                    | Math 132<br>Risinger<br>ATC-132     |                                |
| Math 120<br>Rocha<br>ATC-145       | Math 104<br>Talley<br>ATC-133   | Chem. 100/201<br>Montgomery<br>ATC-145 |                                | Math 231<br>Rocha<br>ATC-145       | Math 120<br>Duchesne<br>ATC-125                       | Math 104<br>Talley<br>ATC-133       |                                |
| Bio. 107/211<br>Jalota<br>ATC-177  | Chem. 202<br>Negrete<br>ATC-125 | Psych. Stats 215<br>Luna<br>ATC-171    |                                | Bio. 107/211<br>Jalota<br>ATC-177  | (2:30 pm – 4:00 pm)<br>Chem. 281<br>Nguyen<br>ATC-170 | Psych. Stats 215<br>Luna<br>ATC-171 |                                |

## 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM LUNCH

provided by Casa Maguey Restaurant  
taco and desert bar, Boba, and  
homemade French Crepe.

**Tickets Required for Student Attendees**



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

## Engagement Centers

BLAR (ATC-171): Board Games/resilience tools. Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm

HASS (ATC-176): Re-Center and Plan Your Study Schedule – Let’s talk study techniques including using the Pomodoro method, understanding your learning styles, prioritizing mental breaks, and stress relief with coloring, puzzles, tactile activities.  
Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

PSIT (ATC-170): De-Stress Center – come relax with peaceful stress relief activities. Time: 9:00am – 11:30pm

Art workshop (Art-6): Relax with painting/drawing by Professor Rowland from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.

## Writing Center

### Workshops ATC-143

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

## TASC Lab Tutoring:

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Biology

10:30 AM – 3:30 PM: History/Psychology/Physics

10:30 AM – 6:30PM: Chemistry

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM: ASL

## Communication Center

### Workshops ATC-126

8:45-9:15 or 1:00 – 1:30: Getting to know Power Point and An Effective Visual Aid

9:15-9:45 or 1:30 – 2:00: Tutoring assistance for visual aids/slideshow development/fine-tuning

9:45-10:15 or 2:00 – 2:30: Overcoming Speaker Anxiety and activity

10:30-11:30 or 2:30 – 3:30: Presenter Showmanship and independent feedback sessions on presentation/speech delivery

1:15-3:45: "Ask the Professor: What's on the exam?" Q&A Session

8:45 – 11:00 & 2:30 -4:00: Communication Final Exam Prep

Scan the QR Code to  
sign up for workshop  
and lunch ticket





THE GREAT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

**RAFT RACES WAR**



 REGISTER NOW!

May 31st, 2024 | 12-4pm

Questions? Contact Fine Arts Senator Jacob Kleinsmith at jacobk6479@student.vvc.edu



 **VVC ASB PRESENTS**

**END OF YEAR FAIR**

**FRIDAY BLDG. 21  
MAY 31ST ATC  
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**FREE ENTRY**

*Events*  
Raft Races, Dunk Tank,  
Pie the Staff, Tricycle Races,  
Sweet Treats, Clubs, Games,  
and more!



 *a Celebration of*  
**Learning & the arts**

Friday, May 31, 2024

the Art of Learning  
**Study-A-Thon**  
8:30am - 4:00pm



the ARTS of  
Visual & Performance  
**Student Art Show  
& Musical Performances**  
12:00pm - 6:00pm




**TACO BAR**



**FREE** lunch  
will be provided  
ATC Courtyard 11:30am - 2:30pm

**ALL  
THESE  
EVENTS  
HAPPEN  
ON  
MAY  
31ST!**

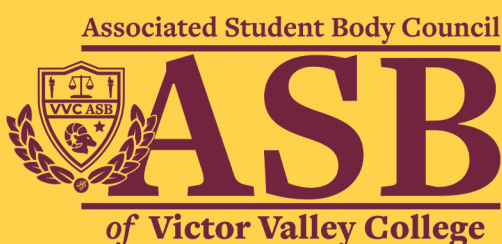




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