

RAMS

MONTHLY

APRIL 2026



T2D Celebrates Student Success; \$10k Giveaways and RAM Truck Reveal

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**VICTOR VALLEY
COLLEGE**

VVC's Thrive to Drive Celebrates Student Success; Massive Giveaways and RAM Truck Reveal



Victor Valley College's brand-new football stadium came alive Saturday morning as hundreds of students gathered for RAM RUSH, the culminating event of VVC's Thrive to Drive student success program — and one student drove away with a life-changing prize.

Nearly 1,000 students qualified for prizes throughout Fall and Spring semester and more than 600 students were eligible for the grand prize, an all-new RAM 1500 pickup truck courtesy of Victorville Motors. In total, \$10,000 in giveaways were awarded, recognizing students for showing up, staying involved, and succeeding academically throughout the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters.

Students checking at the gates were given golden opportunity tickets that went into the drawings throughout the event. Around 20 students were randomly selected for prizes every 15-25 minutes for \$10,000 in giveaways, including 55-inch flat screen TVs, PlayStations, Nintendo Switches, electric scooters, and hundreds of dollars in gift cards to popular High Desert favorites such as Target, In N Out, Starbucks, and Best Buy.

As the excitement built, five finalists were selected for the main giveaway. Each finalist was called to the stage, where five key fobs awaited them — only one could start the truck.

After the first three keys failed, the crowd held its breath as the final two students approached the vehicle. The winning moment came when Kyle Waggener's key started the truck, making him the official Thrive to Drive grand prize winner.

"My friend told me to pick number 4. My mom's favorite number is 4," Waggener shared. "In my head I knew it was 50/50, but I had a feeling it was the key I chose." Waggener described the moment as one of "disbelief." The win carried deep personal meaning — Kyle is graduating this spring and transferring to Cal State Fullerton. Last year, he was the victim of a hit-and-run that significantly impacted his transportation situation.

The new truck will now allow him to move more easily to Fullerton and focus on his studies as he begins the next chapter of his academic journey.

In addition to the truck reveal, Thrive to Drive also recognized top point earners. The three students with the highest engagement totals received cash prizes, with \$1,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second, and \$500 for third.

More than a giveaway, Thrive to Drive is designed to reward students for meeting academic benchmarks, staying engaged on campus, and building community. Students earn points — and additional entries — by attending events, participating in programs,

and supporting Rams athletics throughout the year. Beyond logistics, the program contributes to a more inclusive environment. Community colleges serve diverse populations, including first-generation students, working adults, and those from underrepresented backgrounds. By leveling the playing field, the program helps create a campus culture where more students feel seen, valued, and capable of succeeding. 60-year-old VVC student Reggie Simpson said "It was awesome! Staff that showed up and it shows they care." VVC Superintendent/President Dr. Daniel Walden stated "Everyone who attended is a winner. When students feel supported in these foundational ways, they're more likely to engage in discussions, join organizations, and invest in their educational journey." "Student engagement is what makes the culture of our campus feel like home," said VVC Associated Student Body President/Trustee Hailey Reyes. "Those who participated had the opportunity to win a Ram truck or over a hundred other prizes. I am so excited to see our Ram Family together celebrating each other at RAM RUSH."

"Thrive to Drive has been about more than just participation," said Kirsten Acosta, Executive Director of the VVC Foundation. "It's about building a stronger, more connected campus community. RAM RUSH represents the culmination of that effort — celebrating our students and the vibrant spirit of Victor Valley College."

RAM RUSH transformed the stadium into a high-energy celebration — complete with music, cheers, and a shared sense of accomplishment — highlighting what's possible when student success and engagement take center stage. For Victor Valley College students, Thrive to Drive proves that showing up matters — and sometimes, it can even put you behind the wheel.

For more information about Thrive to Drive, visit www.vvc.edu/ThriveToDrive.





DID YOU KNOW: Studios are hiring TikTok Kids to sell their movies?



Fan edits of shows like 'Heated Rivalry' are all over TikTok

"Clipping," or paying freelance editors to cut short clips from longer content and post them across TikTok, Reels, and Shorts, has quietly scaled into a full-blown industry. You've probably seen the format: intricate edits that splice together scenes around specific characters or moments, set to trending music with filters and flashy transitions. Some recent examples of studios leaning in:

HBO hired a fan editor full-time after her 'Heated Rivalry' edit hit 4.6M views on X. She was working in financial consulting before HBO DM'ed her.

Last year, Lionsgate hired 15 TikTok fan editors to push clips of 'Twilight' and 'Creed.' One fan-made 'Creed' edit hit 195M views and coincided with a 29% viewership spike on Prime.

For 'Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping,' Lionsgate had fan edits ready to drop the moment the trailer launched. It's baked into the release strategy now.

Warner Bros. used TikTok's Spotlight tool to generate 260,000+ fan videos for 'Dune: Part Two,' making TikTok the top driver to ticket sales on opening weekend.

Disney built a TikTok content hub for 'Avatar: Fire and Ash,' then announced it would start promoting content through vertical video more broadly.

It makes sense why: an Ogilvy survey found that 86% of Gen Z identify as belonging to a fandom, and half say fandoms help them make sense of the world. Studios are just meeting them where they already are.

There's real infrastructure behind all of this now. A startup literally called Clipping generated ~\$7.7M in sales in 2025 with 23,000+ editors on its roster. MrBeast launched his own clipping company, Vyro, last October. Airrack's ClipFarm lists HBO Max as a client for 'Paul American,' and Whop (a creator-focused business platform) ran a campaign seeding clips of Luc Besson's 'Dracula' on TikTok. Nearly all major music studios now use clipping services, and movie campaigns are increasingly following suit.

The appeal is obvious: it's cheap, it scales fast, and it looks organic. The catch is that studios are trading control for reach, handing their IP to freelance editors whose entire incentive is engagement. And the whole point is that the clips don't look studio-made.

Source: readthedallies.com



Producing the Magic: Bradley Reynolds on Theatre, Touring, and Taking Risks



By: Mia Johnson, ASB Public Relations Senator

An Interview with Producer and Actor Bradley Reynolds

I had the privilege of interviewing Bradley Reynolds who is a producer and actor. He produced productions such as "The Notebook" and "Mrs. Doubtfire" both were touring in the US and the UK.

Favorite Musical Experiences

The first question I asked is "While doing research, I noticed you have been in numerous musicals. What was your favorite musical to be a part of whether that be for being an actor or working behind the scenes?"

Reynolds mentioned that "The Odd Couple", "Seussical The Musical", and "George M." are a few of his favorite productions. He stated that specifically for Seussical it was fun to do improv, "The cat sings, acts, dances, uses several dialects, does lots of physical comedy and gets three opportunities to go out into the house and do improv with the audience." He also mentioned that "George M." is "a tour de force role with lots of tap dancing."

Producing The Notebook and Mrs. Doubtfire

The following questions I asked him, "How did it feel to produce 'The Notebook' and 'Mrs. Doubtfire'? Are there any special moments you would like to share from both shows?"

Reynolds mentioned, "Mrs. Doubtfire had a crazy beginning on Broadway because the

shut down happened after our third preview performance. Then there was a successful Mrs. Doubtfire US national tour. Then Mrs. Doubtfire ran for two years in London's West End. And up next for Mrs. Doubtfire is a UK/Ireland national tour opening in August 2026. It has been an exciting roller coaster ride experience. The Notebook enjoyed a Broadway run and embarked on a US national tour September of 2025. I don't know where it will go next. I hope it will follow in the footsteps of Mrs. D and play London and then a UK/Ireland national tour."

Path to Becoming a Producer

The next question I asked is, "Did you always want to be a producer? Who or what inspired you?"

He mentions how at first he never thought he would be a producer. He says how he had no background with raising money and how he didn't have money himself. He described how, "My mentor said, 'It's not as hard as you would think'. I couldn't possibly know till I tried, so I tried. I attend producer meetings, marketing meetings, advertising meetings and believe it or not, 17 years later, raising money is actually a fun challenge."

Advice for Aspiring Producers

The following question I asked, "What advice would you give to aspiring producers?"

He gives the advice of, "Find yourself plenty of mentors who can help guide you. I have many mentors to this day. And find your people, your investor list. My list is made up of friends,

friends of friends, colleagues and friends of colleagues. Never total strangers. Start now and create your possible future investor list." He also mentions asking family and friends who may know people such as investors.

Advice for Aspiring Musical Theatre Performers

The last question I asked was, "What advice can you give to aspiring actors who want to pursue musical theatre like me?"

Reynolds gives the advice of, "If there is anything at all that you could do, do that. But if the ONLY thing you want to do is perform and you have tunnel vision and are totally driven to do it, then there's your answer. It's not easy and, unless you are one of the lucky few, you don't make much money. It's a full time job. You are either working in a show or you are looking for work in a show. You need to continually network with your fellow actors, directors, agents etc. and work to always broaden your network. It's NOT easy, but it's great fun!"

Conclusion

It was an amazing experience to interview him and I hope you enjoyed learning more about Bradley Reynolds!



Learned Ladies Brings Laughter and Drama to the VVC Black Box Theatre



in this play? How does it feel to be in *Learned Ladies*?" Kenzi explained how she is used to doing musicals, so being in a play was an adjustment. She also mentioned the difference in characters, as in *The Prom* she played a teenager, and in *Learned Ladies* she plays an older man and a southern maid. Kenzi explained her difference in approach: "Focusing on the words and getting that down first, then all the extra stuff later. But definitely from the start in *Learned Ladies*, I thought of the words with the accents and how to say them."

The final question I asked Kimora was, "Going from being an actor to assistant directing, how does this transition feel? What advice would you give to people who want to assistant direct?" Kimora explained how they have been in many productions and teched for a few, which helped their process. "I had acted in 14 productions and done tech for four of those." The advice Kimora would give is, "Just go for it! You never know what could come from it."

By: Mia Johnson, ASB Public Relations Senator

Learned Ladies is a story about a family navigating their lives personally and as a whole. It is filled with humorous moments and intense family drama. I had the privilege of interviewing two actors in *Learned Ladies*, Kimora Williams and Kenzi Magana.

Kimora is the assistant director and an actor in the production. They are a first-year student majoring in fine arts. Kenzi portrays two characters in this production. She has been attending VVC for a little over a year and is also a fine arts major.

The first question I asked was, "Why should people see *Learned Ladies*?" Kimora mentioned how *Learned Ladies* is fun and lighthearted. "I'm sure you will see everyone's love for theatre filling the heart of this show!" Kenzi mentioned how *Learned Ladies* is an interesting play. "*Learned Ladies* is a funny French dramatic play, so if you live for drama and want a good laugh, it is a must."

The following question I asked was, "How has the VVC theatre department helped your passion for the arts?" Kenzi explained how she wanted to gain more experience and VVC gave her an opportunity to do so. "VVC is helping me learn more and get more confidence, and showing that I can do more

than musicals." Kimora explained how VVC has such an uplifting community. "I have made many friends in different areas of the department, and we uplift each other in ways that push us to better achieve our goals!" The next question I asked was, "Have you faced any challenges with this production, and how did you overcome it?" Kimora talked about the difficulty of seeing the show not only from the assistant director position, but also as an actor. "At times it was hard to juggle line and blocking memorization while also making sure I was giving the assistance needed from me by cast and crew." They overcame this by observing, taking notes, and improving their performance.

Kenzi discussed her difficulty portraying two different characters, with one being outspoken and the other more reserved and go-with-the-flow. She mentioned different methods of differentiating the characters. "I had to watch a lot of films and videos, trying to find one that I felt fit. After finding it, refining both of them was even harder. I am thankful to have so many supportive people telling me I was doing well!"

The final question I asked Kenzi was, "Going from *The Prom* to now in *Learned Ladies*, what has been your approach



Ryan Sizemore Joins Victor Valley College as Director of Human Resources



Victor Valley College (VVC) is proud to announce the appointment of Ryan Sizemore as Director of Human Resources, bringing nearly two decades of strategic human resources leadership across higher education, public sector, and non-profit organizations.

Sizemore joins Victor Valley College with a strong commitment to advancing institutional excellence through people-centered, transparent, and sustainable HR operations. His appointment reflects the College's continued focus on strengthening internal systems that support faculty, staff, and ultimately student success.

"Returning to higher education has been my professional goal," said Sizemore. "After meeting Monica and the HR team, I was excited by the strong alignment between VVC's needs, the team's direction, and my HR experience and passion."

As Director of Human Resources, Sizemore will serve as a strategic partner to college leadership, aligning workforce strategy with Victor Valley College's mission and long-term vision. He views Human Resources as a critical connector between people, performance, and purpose.

"For Victor Valley College, HR serves as

a strategic partner that connects people, mission, and performance. I envision HR playing a critical role in supporting sustainable growth by strengthening partnerships, developing talent, and ensuring the workforce aligns with the college's long-term vision."

Throughout his career, Sizemore has been recognized for building transparent and sustainable HR frameworks designed to foster trust, clarity, and institutional alignment. He believes this approach is essential to empowering employees to focus on what matters most—student success.

"Transparent and sustainable HR frameworks create clarity and trust," Sizemore explained. "This foundation enables faculty and staff to focus fully on advancing student success, while HR ensures that systems, partnerships, and support structures are strategically aligned with Dr. Walden's vision and goals."

Sizemore brings extensive experience leading HR operations and labor relations in complex, unionized environments across federal, municipal, and non-profit sectors. He emphasized collaboration as a cornerstone of effective labor relations within higher education.

"Regardless of the size of the union or the organization, I believe that collaboration with our union partners is essential to the success of VVC's staff and the fulfillment of the College's mission," said Sizemore.

Operational excellence and modernization will also be central to Sizemore's leadership at Victor Valley College. His background includes leveraging technology, standard operating procedures, and data-informed decision-making to improve efficiency, compliance, and the overall employee experience.

"By leveraging technology to drive efficient HR processes, implementing SOPs, and using data to guide decisions, we improve the employee experience through clarity and consistency," Sizemore said, "while advancing institutional effectiveness through efficiency, compliance, and informed leadership."

Sizemore describes his leadership philosophy as grounded in consistency, trust, and equity. As a trusted advisor to executive leadership, he is committed to delivering fair, transparent, and timely HR guidance across the organization.

"I support leaders, managers, and employees by delivering transparent, fair, and timely HR guidance, ensuring that all individuals are treated with the same level of respect and care while aligning decisions with institutional priorities."

Looking ahead, Sizemore identified alignment and scalability as key priorities for the Human Resources department.

"My immediate priority is to align closely with Monica and the HR team to ensure clarity, consistency, and shared direction. Long term, my goal is to strategically staff and scale HR services to effectively support all employees as VVC continues its anticipated growth over the next 5–10 years."

Victor Valley College welcomes Ryan Sizemore and looks forward to his leadership as Human Resources continues to evolve in support of faculty, staff, and student success.

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)
PRESENTS

FAME FESTIVAL

FINE ARTS - ANIMATION - MUSIC EXPERIENCE

May 1st, 2026

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MUSIC

PANEL 1

DAMON SHARPE *Ariana Grande, Jennifer Lopez, Big Time Rush*

EURO ZAMBRANO *Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan*

NIKOLA CHEKARDZHIKOV *Int'l Classical Guitarist*

ANIMATION, FILM & ART

Panelists could be subject to change

PANEL 2

THOMAS SURPRENANT *Star Trek, Batman Returns, X-Men*

THERESA SHELLCROFT *Feat. in the Smithsonian - Washington D.C.*

SAM PRINCE *The Last of Us, Uncharted, Intergalactic*

CLAY LACEY *Filmmaker, Influencer (90+ million views)*



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