

RAMS

MONTHLY

JULY 2025



VVC Invited To Return To Nationally Recognized Metallica Scholars Initiative

STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING

ASB Retreat
4

\$268k in
Scholarships
5



VICTOR VALLEY
COLLEGE

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

By. Professor Jose Luna

Observed each July in recognition of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

This month provides an opportunity to celebrate the diversity, achievements, and contributions of people with disabilities while reflecting on the importance of accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunity for all.

Disability is a natural part of the human experience and represents one aspect of the rich diversity within our campus and our communities. Disability Pride Month encourages us to recognize the value of different perspectives, challenge stereotypes, and continue fostering environments where every individual feels respected, supported, and empowered to succeed.

As we begin this month, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to creating a welcoming and accessible campus for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Through empathy, understanding, and inclusive practices, we can continue building a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Wishing everyone a meaningful Disability Pride Month.



Community College Abortion Pill Bill Passes State Assembly; Moves to Senate

If approved, the measure could expand health services offered at 2-year college campuses

By: Andrew Caravella

A proposal moving through the California Legislature could significantly expand healthcare services available at Victor Valley College and other California community college campuses in the next couple of years.

Penned as Assembly Bill 2540 (AB 2540), it would require 2-year colleges in the state with student health centers to provide access to medication abortion services starting in 2029. The bill states that it would only become law if the state provides allocated funding for implementation. According to a recent article by Cal Matters, the bill would also require colleges to increase student awareness of those services through campus communications, informational materials, and student health center websites.

Authored by Assemblymember Catherine Stefani (D–San Francisco), AB 2540 seeks to extend healthcare access that is already available to students attending University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) campuses. Since 2023, UC and CSU student health centers have been required to offer medication abortion services. AB 2540 would expand those requirements to California's community colleges.

Supporters of the bill argue that community college students often face barriers to reproductive healthcare, including transportation challenges, limited financial resources, work schedules, and concerns about privacy. Those voices say providing services through campus health centers could reduce those obstacles and improve access to care for students who may otherwise delay or forgo treatment.

The bill would allow colleges flexibility in how services are provided. According to legislative analyses, campuses could utilize on-site healthcare providers, telehealth services, or partnerships with external medical organizations to meet the requirement. (*Source: California Assembly Committee on Higher Education analysis of AB 2540.*)

At the same time, the proposal has drawn concerns from some community college



leaders and healthcare administrators. Critics have questioned whether all colleges have the staffing, clinical capacity, facilities, and funding necessary to implement the services effectively. Others have raised philosophical or ethical objections to expanding abortion services on community college campuses. *Source: CalMatters reporting; legislative testimony and committee analyses.*

The legislation also includes accountability measures. If enacted, state agencies would be responsible for assisting colleges with implementation and reporting to the Legislature on service availability and readiness across the California Community Colleges system.

As of July 2026, AB 2540 has passed the California Assembly and is advancing through the State Senate. If approved by the Senate and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, the measure could become one of the most significant student health center expansions affecting California's community college system in recent years.

For California's 116 community colleges—including Victor Valley College—the

bill highlights an ongoing statewide conversation about healthcare access, student wellness, and the evolving role of campus health centers in supporting student success.



ASB Retreat Lays Groudwork; preps for Year of Student Success



Before the Fall 2026 semester begins, marking 65 years of student success at VVC, the Associated Student Body (ASB) takes part in a tradition that helps shape the future of student life on campus: the annual Big Bear Retreat. This four-day leadership experience brings student leaders and VVC administrators together to collaborate, build relationships, and develop goals that reflect the diverse needs and voices of the college's student body.

Far more than a getaway, the retreat is an intensive series of workshops designed to challenge students to think critically, step outside their comfort zones, and learn how to work effectively as a team. Throughout the week, ASB members participate in leadership exercises, networking opportunities, strategic planning sessions, and discussions focused on student success, campus engagement, and advocacy.

VVC ASB Senator Lilia Johnson says that the retreat inspired her to lead with creativity, collaboration, and purpose, "I'm excited to share new ideas and opportunities with the Fine Arts community and continue to build new connections across campus."

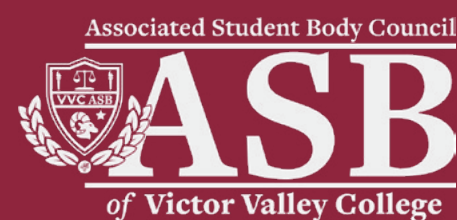
This year, the newly elected 2026–2027 ASB team demonstrated just how passionate they are about serving their fellow Rams. Through brainstorming sessions and collaborative workshops, students generated nearly 500 ideas and goals designed to improve the

student experience at Victor Valley College.

After careful discussion and prioritization, those ideas were refined into approximately 10 major goals that will guide ASB's work throughout the upcoming academic year. Surrounded by Big Bear's towering pines and mountain scenery, students strengthened their bonds as leaders while developing a clear vision for the future. The result is an energized ASB team ready to turn ideas into action, champion student voices, and launch initiatives that will make a meaningful impact across campus. As the new school year begins, students can look forward to seeing these goals come to life through programs, events, and projects designed to help every Ram succeed.



Create and start a club at VVC



Have an idea you're passionate about? Victor Valley College students have the opportunity to turn their interests into organizations by starting a student club. Whether it's based on academics, culture, community service, gaming, wellness, or a unique hobby, clubs help create connections and build a stronger campus community.

Starting a club is a great way to develop leadership skills, meet new people, and create opportunities for fellow students. Many of VVC's active organizations began as a simple idea shared among a small group of students who wanted to make a difference on campus.

The process starts with gathering interested members, identifying a club purpose, and working with the Student Life Office and Associated Student Body to become an officially recognized student organization. Once established, clubs can host events, recruit members, and contribute to the vibrant student experience at VVC.

Don't see a club that matches your interests? Create it. The next successful student organization, campus tradition, or community movement could begin with your idea. For more information on starting a club, contact the Student Life Office and take the first step toward building something that lasts.

Interested in more info? Stop by the Associated Student Body office in Building 44 (Student Activities Center). ASB is located on the second floor and will be happy to assist with all of your club interests needs!

Foundation Awards More Than \$268k in Scholarships, Celebrates Grant Success



CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATES AT THE TOYOTA ARENA FOR COMMENCEMENT IN JUNE 2026

The Victor Valley College Foundation is continuing to make a difference in the lives of students through scholarships, emergency assistance, and workforce development funding that supports educational and career success across the High Desert.

During the July 2026 VVC Board of Trustees meeting, Foundation Executive Director Kirsten Acosta highlighted the Foundation's annual Scholarship Ceremony, where nearly 400 students received scholarships totaling \$268,050. The event brought together students, donors, family members, and community supporters to celebrate academic achievement and recognize the impact of philanthropic giving at Victor Valley College. "Since my time with the foundation [this is] the most students and the highest number of awards given out," said Acosta. "And we plan to increase that every year."

For many students, scholarship support helps offset the rising costs of college and provides the financial flexibility needed to stay focused on coursework, career preparation, and educational goals. The ceremony also served as a powerful reminder of the generosity of donors who

continue investing in the success of VVC students.

Beyond scholarships, the Foundation highlighted several grant-funded initiatives that are helping students overcome barriers and access new opportunities.

Among them is funding that supports emergency assistance for Fresh Success students, helping address basic needs challenges and food insecurity. Additional funding is also supporting students enrolled in Certified Nursing Assistant programs by helping offset the cost of educational supplies and resources needed for training.

The Foundation also celebrated the continued success of the Metallica Scholars Initiative, now entering its fifth year at VVC. The program supports career and technical education pathways, helping students gain the skills needed to enter high-demand industries and strengthen the local workforce.

Another major achievement is a \$1.2 million award supporting the Victor Valley Adult Education Regional Consortium, which focuses on expanding healthcare

career pathways for English language learners throughout the region. The initiative strengthens connections between adult education programs and VVC's healthcare training opportunities, creating pathways into careers such as medical assisting, phlebotomy, pharmacy technology, and community health work.

Together, these scholarships and grant-funded programs represent more than financial support—they represent opportunities. Whether helping a student remain enrolled during a financial hardship, pursue a healthcare credential, or prepare for a career in the skilled trades, the Foundation continues to play a vital role in advancing student success.

As Victor Valley College prepares for another academic year, the Foundation's ongoing investment in students demonstrates the power of community partnerships and philanthropy to transform lives and create pathways to brighter futures.

VVC Invited To Return To Nationally Recognized Metallica Scholars Initiative



VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE'S METALLICA SCHOLARS HONORED AT ALL WITHIN MY HANDS BENEFIT CONCERT IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

Victor Valley College (VVC) is proud to announce it has once again been asked to participate in the eighth year of the prestigious Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI). Supported by a generous \$15,000 grant aimed at enhancing student opportunities in industry recognized training and certifications within its equipment operation, safety, and workforce readiness programs. As a 6-time MSI participant, Victor Valley College has received \$205,000 in support of career and technical education programs throughout the initiative's existence.

VVC's Frank Castaños, Executive Director of Workforce Development said, "Victor Valley College is honored and excited to continue the Metallica Scholars Initiative for another year in service to our community. Through our partnership with All Within My Hands (AWMH) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), hundreds of students have gained access to industry-recognized training and certifications that prepare them for high-demand careers. This initiative has provided students with a pathway to meaningful employment while also encouraging continued college education. We are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to expanding our impact by serving even more members of our community in the year ahead."

All Within My Hands (AWMH), the non-profit, philanthropic organization created by the

members and management of Metallica, proudly announces the eighth year of its Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI) with its largest grant to date: over \$3.3M. 18 new US schools will join the returning 75 colleges in the fall for a total of 93 in the program. In addition, later this year, the Metallica Scholars Initiative will also expand to the United Kingdom in partnership with Capital City College Group in London.

AWMH continues to work closely with its long-time partner, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Launched in 2019 by All Within My Hands, MSI's core focus is supporting conventional trades, including welders, plumbers, and electricians, while also adding fields that will generate the jobs of tomorrow. The workforce initiative continues to evolve, supporting diverse fields for students interested in gaining the skills and training necessary to establish meaningful careers that provide family-sustaining wages. Year 8 includes a wide range of fields, including nursing and healthcare, optical systems technology, automotive repair, maritime manufacturing, firefighting and EMT, pipefitting, and agricultural pathways.

Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President and CEO, AACC, said, "The continued growth of the Metallica Scholars Initiative is a powerful testament to what's possible when visionary philanthropy and community colleges come together around a shared mission. Through

this partnership, 13,000 community college students have already been supported across the country, earning the skills needed for in-demand careers with family-sustaining wages. This latest, generous investment by Metallica's foundation will reach more learners, while strengthening the workforce pipelines that power local economies. We are proud to partner with All Within My Hands to scale this impact, ensuring even more students have access to life-changing opportunities in the skilled trades and beyond."

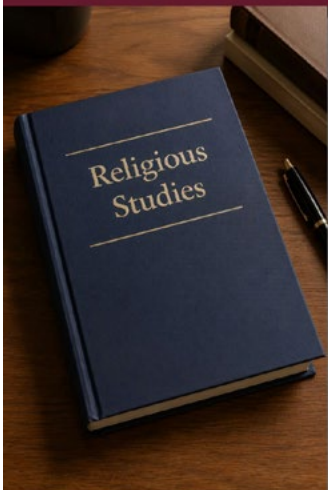
The initiative's eighth iteration also marks the renewal of AWMH's partnerships with Carhartt, Wolverine, CNH Construction, and Upstaging, Inc., as well as the addition of the Foundation's newest partner, ServiceTitan. These corporate partners complement the Foundation's Executive and Advisory Board Members and the broader Metallica Family, all of whom have played a role in advancing AWMH's mission and driving its success.

Peter Delgrosso, Executive Director, AWMH, said, "Metallica Scholars Year 8 will see our largest-scale growth yet, as we anticipate supporting close to 4,000 new students in the United States and more than 1,000 learners in the UK. This represents an approximate 40% increase in our student body, something we are incredibly excited about. Supporting people of all ages entering and ascending through trades is the right thing to do, not just domestically, but also abroad. Our Metallica Scholars have demonstrated resilience and a strong determination to succeed, which in turn motivates us to match their ambition."



CLASS ALERT!

Fall 2026 Starts Aug 24



Intro to Religious Studies
RLST-101
Online
On Campus - M/W

Religions of Mid East & West
RLST-110
Online

Religions of South & East Asia
RLST-111
Online

Religion and Society
RLST-113
Online

Philosophy of Religion
RLST-117
On Campus - T/Th



More Information : INFO@VVC.EDU

CLASS ALERT!

Classes Start Aug 24 & Oct 19



Intro to Philosophy
PHIL-101-70006

Intro to Logic
PHIL-109
Sections: 70000,
70001, 70002 &
70004

ONLINE ONLY!



More Information : INFO@VVC.EDU

PHOTO 110

INTERMEDIATE PHOTOSHOP



COMPOSITING

LIGHTING EFFECTS

SHADOW EFFECTS

SMART OBJECTS

MASTERING SELECTIONS

AND MORE...

FALL SEMESTER
August 24 - December 12

PHOT-110-70000: Intermediate Photoshop

ONLINE

VVC.EDU

Info@vvc.edu



Basic Skills Program
GED Prep Classes



BSKL 0100 is designed to review test-taking, math, reading, writing, science, and social studies skills to prepare students to pass a California-approved High School equivalency test.

NO PREREQUISITES!

ESTIMATED LENGTH OF STUDY:

• One semester class!

REQUIRED MATERIALS & COST:

• Free GED study software

FREE!
\$0



More Information
(760) 245-4271 | INFO@VVC.EDU

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE



PHIL-118-70000

Fall 2026 Term
Online course
8/24/2026 - 12/12/2026
Taught by Dr. Vecchio

THINK DEEPLY.
EXPLORE BOLDLY.
DISCOVER TRUTH.

QUESTION. OBSERVE. EXPLAIN.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Photo 106

INTRODUCTION
to
Photojournalism

Fall 2026
Tuesday / Thursday
4:20 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.
August 25 - Dec 10

Learn:

- Visual storytelling
- "Get the moment"
- Report the news

CSU
TRANSFERABLE



ENROLL
NOW!
VVC.EDU



VICTOR VALLEY
COLLEGE



ESL CAFE & WORKSHOP



Join us to learn how to register for your classes and use Canvas!

Choose the date that works best for you

Victor Valley College:

Wednesday July 29th, 2026

9:00am to 11:00am

Bldg. 63 (lower campus)

Victor Valley College:

Wednesday August 19, 2026

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Bldg. 63 (lower campus)

Workshop Highlights

- ✓ Step-by-step guidance
- ✓ How to log in and navigate your student portal
- ✓ We'll address any questions you have regarding your registration and schedule

Join us for coffee and
valuable information!

Sign Up Now!



MORE INFORMATION



(760)245-4271 ext.2687



ESL@vvc.edu



Victor Valley College Bldg.64



NATIONAL ANTHEM **AUDITIONS**

JULY 29 & 30 – 10:00AM & 4:00PM
Bldg 44 SAC – 2nd floor

***Must sing
acapella***

***Solo, Duos & Trios
ONLY***

***Lyrics must be sung as written
(no alterations)***



We're looking for singers at various
events in the 2026–2027 academic year!

