

RAMS

MONTHLY

JUNE 2026



TOYOTA ARENA

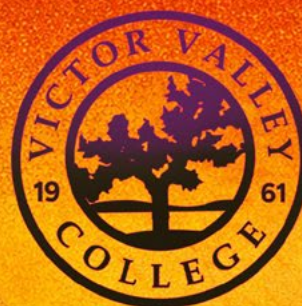
VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT
CLASS OF 2026

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17

VVC IS THE PLACE TO BE

Keep your eyes to the sky,
Never glued to your shoes
from the song "Small Worlds"

vvc.edu



FIRST-EVER VVC Graduation at Toyota Sees Record Breaking Attendance

SPECIAL FEATURE (look inside)

STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING



VICTOR VALLEY
COLLEGE



RECORD SMASH: VVC Class of 2026 Goes Standing Room Only At Commencement

On June 17, 2026, Victor Valley College celebrated a historic and record-breaking commencement at Toyota Arena in Ontario, California. Nearly 1,100 graduates crossed the stage, representing one of the biggest groups of participating graduates in the college's history, out of approximately 2,700 eligible students. Inside the arena, thousands of family members, friends,



faculty, and community supporters gathered to honor the Class of 2026. The atmosphere was filled with energy, love, and emotion as graduates, each with a unique journey, prepared to mark a defining moment in their lives.

As ASB President and Student Trustee Hailey Reyes addressed the crowd, she captured the collective experience of the student body with a message rooted in authenticity and reflection:

"There is no single path that leads us to this moment. No specific timeline for success. No exact blueprint on what our college journey is supposed to look like."

Reyes acknowledged the realities behind Student Success, recognizing peers who worked long hours, raised families, returned

to school after years away, or navigated personal hardships.

"And yet," she said, "they showed up, they kept going, and today, we graduate."

Her message emphasized that uncertainty does not diminish readiness, reminding graduates, "You do not need answers to move forward. You do not need to be certain to be worthy of opportunities... your story has already prepared you for what comes next."

Valedictorian Giselle Flores echoed that sentiment, sharing a deeply personal account of perseverance and growth. Reflecting on her initial doubts about attending community college, she admitted, "I felt embarrassed... like I had let my family down."

But that perspective soon changed.

"Community college didn't hold me back... it built me," Flores said.

The star student reframed setbacks as opportunities, reminding her peers that "rejection was actually redirection," and leaving the class with a powerful affirmation: "Different doesn't mean less. Your path is still valid. You're still capable."

This year's ceremony also marked a historic moment in the nation. For the first time in U.S. history, incarcerated inmates received an in person, higher education. Seven graduates from the Federal Correctional Complex Victorville, one of the largest groups of its kind, were recognized in-person during the event, representing a groundbreaking expansion of access to education. This milestone builds on VVC's partnership with the Federal Bureau of

Prisons, which has expanded to include in-person instruction, workforce training, and pathways for incarcerated students to pursue degrees and certifications. By extending education beyond traditional boundaries, Victor Valley College continues to lead with innovation, equity, and a commitment to second chances. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Victor Valley College is the first college in the United States to offer a furlough program, allowing federal inmates to attend community college classes in person while still serving their sentence.

During the President's Message, centered on resilience and character, VVC Superintendent/President Dr. Daniel Walden reminded graduates that the path forward won't always be easy, but it will be meaningful. "The struggles you face are not always signs that you are on the wrong path, sometimes they are the very things driving you deeper into your purpose," said Walden, "...integrity, honesty, kindness, humility. These qualities often invisible. Graduates, build your lives on qualities that don't require recognition."

As the final graduates crossed the stage and the arena filled with cheers and celebration, the significance of the moment was clear. The Class of 2026 not only set a record in many ways—they embodied resilience, determination, and the power of persistence.

And while their individual journeys may differ, they leave with a shared foundation and a collective truth:

Their stories began at Victor Valley College—but they are far from over.

VVC's Momentum: Growth That's Transforming a Region

Victor Valley College continues to serve as a driving force for opportunity and economic impact across the High Desert. As one of the fastest-growing community colleges in California, the institution remains committed to expanding access to education and workforce development.

The college contributes more than \$553 million annually to the San Bernardino County economy, with alumni earnings and workforce contributions generating over \$398 million each year. Today, VVC proudly serves approximately 24,000 students, continuing its mission to empower lives, strengthen communities, and create pathways for long-term success.



SOME '26 GRAD SNAPS

READ ALL ABOUT IT:

The words that define RAMFAM Class of '26

Here's a glance into the lives of those students that shaped VVC graduates of today, and future leaders of tomorrow!

When I was at my lowest and most vulnerable, VVC gave me the most amazing people that supported me through it. From being a good student, to being homeless, struggling, and bouncing back - graduating wouldn't have been possible without VVC! Thank you to ASB, my family, and my boyfriend Kevin for never giving up on me. **-Morgan G**

Victor valley college has made a difference in my life by making me believe in myself and believe in my goals. With the help of VVC's very own NEXT UP program and my family- especially my son and my partner, my mother, my grandmother, and so many more. I was able to strive for more and envision more and then stand here today having accomplished my goals. I'm forever indebted to VVC, it has a special place in my heart. **-Tamoya E**

I started at VVC over 4 years ago with my mom by my side and every intention of going into the medical field. Now I'm leaving 3 degrees hotter with my associates in Psychology, Criminal Justice, and Liberal Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences. Thank you to Professor Keiry Bourrel for helping me solidify my pursuit of my doctorate in forensic psychology. And I'm hoping my mom is smiling down on me from above because she passed the torch to my Dad and the rest of my family to see me through these degrees as a proud single mom. **-Tiara C**

Victor Valley College has made a positive difference in my life by helping me grow academically and become more confident in myself and my future goals. The professors, more than others have created a supportive environment that encouraged me to keep working hard and stay motivated to not only my goals but my future. I am incredibly grateful to my parents for always supporting my educational journey and encouraging me to take the path that would help me grow the most. VVC has been a place of great personal growth, and I am proud of how far

I have come during my time here. My goal is to enter a nursing program, continue striving toward greater opportunities, and make my parents proud of the woman I continue to become. **-Ruby Q**

I am in the psychology program. When I started at VVC I had classes with no destination . I had became homeless pregnant with 2 kids and I needed to make a different life plan. Trying to keep up with homework, kids , life happening and trying to get a grip all while being alone and growing a new life was not easy. I remembered my mom say to me over the years , that at the time didn't even click to me , " ONE DAY AT A TIME." By the end of 2022 I had been put on an SAP , I was living in a house that was built in the early days so no heat no air conditioner, and barely an electric. I put one foot in front of the other , I tried and kept trying . I focused on my own business and it paid off in the end I am Now about to walk across the stage after being a teen mom, working mom, struggling mom and now an educated mom, a traveling mom and a happy mom I would like to thank my Children for believing in me and pushing me forward and my parents for guiding and encouraging me to do my best and keeping my children while I work and go to school. I love you all and I hope you are proud of me " **-Jasmine J**

Victor Valley College has made a difference in my life by helping me grow both academically and personally. During my time at VVC, I learned the importance of perseverance, patience, and believing in myself even during difficult moments. I'm so thankful for my experience here. I would especially like to thank my dad for supporting me through this journey and never giving up on me. This accomplishment is just as much yours as it is mine. Thank you to my mom for always listening to me and reminding me to keep going when things became challenging. Thank you to my sisters for always cheering me on from the sidelines and believing in me every step

of the way. And last but not least, thank you to Marlene for motivating me throughout my years at VVC. You taught me patience, resilience, and the importance of never giving up. Without all of you, I would not have made it this far. I love you! **-Kristina M**

Victor Valley College shaped me into a more confident, responsible and motivated person. This experiences and lessons I've gained here will stay with me as a continue working towards my future goals. I'm especially thankful for my family who have encouraged me to never give up on my education and to continue on pursuing my dreams. **-Ashley S.**

Victor Valley College was the start of my motivation, the place where I gained confidence and realized I can achieve more and go farther. Every struggle I faced taught me strength, and every challenge reminded me that I'm capable of growing beyond where I started.

To my mom and dad, thank you for every, late-night talk, every "you got this" when I felt like I didn't. Your love is the reason I never gave up. And to my two little brothers, you're my motivation every single day. I want you to see that dreams are possible, that hard work matters and it truly pays off. VVC helped me grow, but my family helped me shine. I'm grateful for every moment, every lesson, and every person who believed in me along the way. SE LOGROOOO!! CHINITA LOVES YOU! **-Dennise L**

VVC ASB made me have a place where I belong. Without ASB, I wouldn't have the accomplishments I have. I want to thank my family, my best friend and my friends. Without you guys, I wouldn't be here at college, let alone graduating. Thank you! **-DeAnn F**

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GRADUATION

RamGrams

I want to say thank you to my family and friends because y'all helped make me who I am today. My experience at Victor Valley College was very meaningful because I got my first job at the EOPS office, and that experience helped me come out of my shell and meet many different people. I also want to give a special shoutout to Umoja because they brought a different kind of energy to campus and made my college experience so fun, especially through the trips and activities. Being at VVC helped me grow as a person and made me even more confident in my dream of becoming a teacher. **-Destiny H**

Victor Valley College gave me the ability to shape my future into something I once believed was impossible, especially during the moments when I doubted myself and questioned whether I truly belonged in college. As a first generation student, balancing work, school, life's hardships, and the loss of my grandmother during my journey often felt overwhelming, but VVC reminded me that resilience can carry you farther than fear ever could. Even though my grandmother will not physically watch me walk across the stage, I know she will be beside me in spirit, proud of how far I've come. I am endlessly grateful to my family, whose love and support carried me through every difficult moment, and to VVC for helping me discover a version of myself I never thought I could become. Thank you. **-Julien P**

Hello my name is Brianna J Figueroa Viramontes . Victor Valley College has made a huge difference in my life by helping me grow both personally and academically. One of the biggest challenges I faced was

balancing school, work, and everyday life, but I stayed motivated because of the support from my family, friends, teachers, and mentors. My mom, dad, sisters, brothers, niece, nephew, and boyfriend constantly reminded me why I started and encouraged me not to give up. VVC helped guide me onto the path I wanted for my future and gave me the confidence to take my first steps toward my career in Child Development. I am proud to be graduating with my associate degree in Child Development, and this accomplishment means so much to me because it represents all the hard work, sacrifices, and dedication it took to get here. Thank you to my parents for never giving up on me and to everyone who supported me along the way. You are all a little piece of why quitting was never an option on my journey. **-Brianna F**

To my mom and dad, thank you for your unconditional love, sacrifices, prayers, and for always believing in me even when things were difficult. Your strength and support have carried me through so much, and I would not be where I am today without you.

To my siblings, friends, and my UMOJA family, thank you for the love, encouragement, and constant support throughout my journey. A special thank you to Brother Hakeem, Ms. Brittany, Ms. Phylicia, Ms. Karina, Ms. Manika Record, and Shanta Persaud for guiding, inspiring, and uplifting me every step of the way. I will always be grateful for all of you. **-Elizabeth E**

Victor Valley College made a huge difference in my life because it showed me that even through challenges, hard work and determination can help you achieve your goals.

Balancing full-time work, family responsibilities, and school was not easy, but it taught me to stay strong and never give up on my dreams. VVC helped shape my future by giving me the confidence to continue my education and build a better future for my family. I am especially thankful to my husband and my kiddos at home for always supporting me, being patient with me, and putting up with the long nights, stress, and busy schedule while I worked toward this accomplishment. **-Elizabeth S.**

College has been a journey, but I couldn't have made it this far with out my family and partner cheering me on along the way. Super thankful to everyone who has stuck by my side through my journey! **-Evelyn C**

My time at Victor Valley College has made a big difference in my life by showing me how strong and determined I really am. During my journey at VVC, I faced many challenges, including going through SAP appeals, losing three family members in November, and being involved in a car accident in March. Even through the pain, stress, and setbacks, I refused to give up because I knew I had bigger goals to accomplish. The support from my family, friends, and instructors helped me continue moving forward, and today I can proudly say that I made it and stood on business. Victor Valley College has helped prepare me for my future in business and my dream of owning my own nail salon one day. Thank you to everyone who believed in me and supported me through the hardest times of my life. **-Danielle W**

2026

TOYOTA ARENA

In spring of 2025 I walked on campus with a purpose, a plan, and a heart full of faith. Victor valley college has made a difference in my life because it helped me to unleash my true potential. Being a student at VVC has pushed me far passed the level of education I ever thought I would be able to comprehend or receive. I wasn't the smartest kid in high school. In fact, I was the 15-year-old pregnant girl with all odds against her. It's been 10 years since I graduated high school and the decision to continue my education at VVC was the best decision I could have made for myself. Yes, I finished my degree in 1 year, I started in spring 2025 and I am finishing in spring of 2026. With hard work and dedication anything is possible! I want to thank all of my wonderful professors for encouraging me and for all of the knowledge that you all have shared with me. I will carry it with me forever! I want to give a special thanks to DR. Jalota for believing in me and pushing me to my full potential in Human physiology. Thank you, sir, I am forever grateful for you! And most importantly, I want to Thank God. Thank you for literally carrying me through this journey and NEVER giving up on me. I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me! Congratulations RAMS! WE DID IT!!!! **-Shantrina B**

Victor Valley College has made a huge difference in my life because it gave me the opportunity to keep going even during some of the hardest moments of my life. Losing my dad was one of the most painful things I have experienced, but I still carry his words with me every day: "Siguele al estudio mija." Those words continue to push me forward when I feel tired, stressed, or unsure of myself. I know he would be proud of how far I have come. As a mother, going back to school has not always been easy, but it has been worth it. One of my favorite memories is my oldest son sitting next to me no while I do my homework, trying to copy my work and learn beside me. Moments like that remind me why I started this journey in the first place. I want my children to see that no matter how hard life gets, education and determination can change your future. I am thankful to God for giving me strength, and I am thankful for my friends, family, professors, classmates, and my counselor, Christian Ramsey, who encouraged me along the way. His support and guidance truly made an impact on my educational journey and reminded me to keep believing in myself. your goals, heal, and build a better future for yourself and your children." **-Regina A**

When I enrolled into VVC I felt like I had no purpose in life. I said let me give this a try let's see what college is all about. I never believed I could actually accomplish this

dream. This journey has not been easy but I knew I had my kids watching me and that gave me strength to push through with hard work and perseverance. Never giving up. With God all things are possible. **-Rachel B**

VVC has made a significant difference in my life as a student parent and former foster youth. Specifically, the programs offered and support given by VVC ensured comfort in the place of my own home, tending to both parenthood and my educational life as I was given the opportunity to attend VVC as a fully remote student. Regarding the challenges I faced during my time at as a fully remote student parent, overcoming them wouldn't of been possible without the support from staff, my professors and their belief in me as a Ram. That being said, I'd like to thank the professors that make being a remote student possible and thank you to my family, my children (CJ and Cash) for being my biggest supporters and motivation to keep going!! **-Mariah M**

VVC has made a significant difference in my life by allowing me to continue my education while I was pregnant and raising a toddler. Managing academic responsibilities alongside the challenges of morning sickness, being a student and a parent, and meeting deadlines required perseverance, but the college's flexible courses and dedicated faculty provided the support I needed to succeed. I am grateful to my parents for their assistance and encouragement, and to my partner for his unwavering support throughout every challenge. My experience at VVC has strengthened my resilience and affirmed my commitment to pursuing a career in Criminal Justice so that I can build a better future for my family." **-Sandy B**

My journey at Victor Valley College began during one of the hardest seasons of my life. My husband and I had lost our business, and one day, with only \$20 left, I told myself I would never allow us to be in that position again. Even without a car and while struggling to make ends meet, I enrolled in college. During that time, my husband was delivering groceries to support us, but after he broke his foot and became bedridden, we lost our only source of income. We struggled to afford basic necessities, and honestly, I did not know what I was getting myself into when I started school. I began relying on the Thrive Market and weekly meals provided at VVC. I sold many of my valuables just to help cover rent, but it still was not enough. I truly believed college was no longer the right path for me. The day I decided to quit, I walked around campus knocking on doors after hours, hoping someone could help. One door opened, and behind it was Director Pablo Saldana. I remember telling

him, "I just needed to release my thoughts and explain what I'm enduring because I can't continue coming to school anymore." What I thought was the end of my college journey became the beginning of a strong relationship with VVC and its staff. Mr. Saldana guided me to resources and support that changed my life. I also want to thank my husband for always pushing me to continue my education despite our circumstances. This is his dream that I am living. And a special, warm thank you to my mother—esto es para ti madre y para mi padre que esta en el cielo. Victor Valley College will always hold a special place in my heart. **-Graciela C**

Victor Valley College changed my life in ways I never expected. As a first-generation student, I carried a lot of fear and pressure, but VVC became the place where I learned to trust my voice, my strength, and my dreams. I faced moments when I doubted myself, yet professors, counselors, classmates, and my loved ones kept lifting me up and reminding me why I started. To my family, friends, and mentors, thank you for believing in me even on the days I struggled to believe in myself. This milestone is ours, and I'm stepping into my future with all your love behind me. **-Paola AV**

Victor Valley College has helped me obtain my first college degree in 20 years. Mr. Sweet and Mr. Lee in the Automotive department have been awesome mentors on my academic journey. My best friend Zari encouraged me to go back to school, and I am grateful for that! Thank you to all my family and friends that have supported my professional development. Final shout out to Mr. Jeremy at Freedom Auto Repair. He is an expert auto advisor mentor. He saw my talent to connect with customers I didn't know I had. **-Cassandra K**

Victor Valley College has changed my life in ways I never imagined. There were many moments when I felt challenged and questioned whether I could make it to graduation, but I kept pushing forward because I knew I was working toward a better future. I am incredibly grateful to my professors for their guidance, patience, and encouragement throughout my journey. Most importantly, I want to thank my family for believing in me, supporting me through every obstacle, and reminding me to never give up. This accomplishment is not just mine—it belongs to everyone who stood by my side, and I will carry their support, Que Vivan los Herrera. I will carry on my family's name with me as I continue my education at California State University, San Bernardino. **-Nicole H**

Choosing to pursue Business Administration at Victor Valley College was one of the best decisions I have ever made for my future. Balancing the rigorous coursework with daily life demands taught me essential time management and strategic problem-solving skills. I could not have reached this milestone without the amazing peers and faculty who fostered such a collaborative learning environment. I would like to extend a special thank you to my family and friends for supporting me through every intense exam and late-night study session. VVC has provided me with both the education and confidence needed to successfully navigate my future career. **-Monica P**

Victor Valley College has made a big difference in my life by giving me the opportunity to continue my education later in life and work toward a better future for myself and my family. As a 48-year-old single mom who graduated from high school in 1996, I found returning to school not easy. I had to balance classes, responsibilities at home, and moments of self-doubt, but I kept pushing forward because I wanted to prove to myself that it is never too late to follow your dreams. Along the way, I received support from my instructors, classmates, my niece JJ, and family, who encouraged me to keep going during difficult times. I especially want to thank my mother for showing me strength and perseverance through every challenge, and my children for always being there for me, encouraging me, and believing in me when things felt overwhelming. My experience at Victor Valley College has helped me grow more confident, motivated, and hopeful about my future and the example I am setting for my children. Finally,

a big thank you to my friend Karla Diaz for helping on this journey. **-Maria C**

VVC has made an impact on my life because its made me strive to be better to accomplish more and I couldnt have done it without the support of these people: My Mom Rebecca, My Dad Jake, My step dad Damon. MY husband Cesar and My in laws Jose, Jessica and Hector. VVC has been an exciting ride and im looking forward to the new experiences life will bring. **-Chloe H**

Victor Valley College has made a huge difference in my life by helping me turn my dreams into reality. Throughout my journey in the Early Childhood Education program, I faced many challenges balancing school, motherhood, and everyday life, but I never gave up. My time at VVC helped me grow into a stronger, more determined woman and prepared me for a future where I can make a difference in children's lives as a teacher. I especially want to thank my parents for always supporting and believing in me, my daughter for being my biggest motivation, and all of my loved ones who stood by me and encouraged me throughout this journey. This accomplishment is not only for me, but for everyone who helped me become the person I am today. **-Da'Knesha M.**

VVC provided me with the opportunity to work towards a better career and future for my family. Thank you to my two sons who spent countless nights waiting for dad to come play. And a huge thank you to my amazing wife who stood by me every step of the way! **-Mathew L**

Victor Valley College made a difference in my life by introducing me to new experiences. I got to be involved in so many things and learn about so much. Thank you to the theatre department, faculty, and fellow art students who made an impact on my time at VVC. You have shaped me as a person and shaped my future as an actor. It was a pleasure to perform on your stages. **-Heaven C**

Vanessa Ridge Major Child development, Victor valley college made a difference in my life, by having access to counselors that set up my whole college plan with patience and answering on time. the writing center and tutors are always there for you and encourage every step of the way. My family and my fiancé and my baby girl I love y'all and through everything no judgment encouragement and keeping faith has brought me this far. **-Vanessa R**

Victor valley college has made a difference in my life by pushing me to achieve my goals. With the help from my counselor, and faculty that work there who have always remained positive and helpful. I want to thank my mom Sonia Carrillo Macias, my older brother Antonio Sandoval, my five older sisters Susana, Maria, Sonia, Ivette and Ivonne and my little sister Arianne for being my side through the painful and stressful moments but staying to see the beauty and gratitude woven into my achievements this is for you guys! **-Vida S**

2026
TOYOTA ARENA

I am graduating with an Associate Degree in math and Science from victor valley College. During my time at VVC, I faced many difficult moments ,but through hard work, dedication, and the support oh my professors, counselors, and family, I was able to continue and achieve this important goal. I am very grateful to all my professors and counselors at Victor Valle College for their patience and encouragement",and those deeply thank my family, especially my beloved children, my husband, and my dear mother, who is no longer in this world. I dedicate this achievement to her with all my heart. My daughter Marilinda would always tell me, "Finish School, Mom, so your grandchildren can go yo your graduation",and those words gave me the strength to keep moving forward and build a better future for my family.-**Emma C**

VVC has made a difference in my life because of the safe space it has provided; food, wellness, financial aid, EOP, Thrive, activities, teachers, counselors. Overall being the only junior college in the high desert has improved with the student services that is amazing. Thank you VVC for making it possible for us to succeed if we seek. My experience at VVC is nothing but good vibes and I am looking forward to a University in the High Desert and on campus housing. -**Delphine B**

Victor Valley College has made a profound difference in my life by giving me the chance to show my two boys, Kaedyn and Kohen, that it's never too late to pursue your passion. Returning to school as a father has been one of the most meaningful decisions I've ever made, and VVC helped me turn that into a powerful lesson for them. I also want to thank my beautiful wife for being the driving force behind this journey. She encouraged me to go back to school when I needed it most, and she has been my rock and unwavering support every step of the way. None of this would have been possible without her love and belief in me. -**Jordan D**

VVC has made a difference in my life with the resources, the friends, and the staff to be there in support of everything going forward in my life. It has been an up and down experience coming into college, and I am glad I chose VVC as my first stepping stone into my career. Alongside VVC making an impact, everyone in my life has been a part of that impact. Thank you to my parents for continuing to push me through the hard times and telling me everything was going to be okay. The biggest thank you to my Savior, Jesus, without Him, I don't know where I would be today, He was there to get me through the storm and change my life completely. And thank you VVC for everything you have offered me and

supported me through -**Mackenzie H**

I want to start by thanking God, my parents, who have always been present despite the distance, and my family here in the U.S. for giving me the opportunity to be here and supporting me in everything I want to do. I would also like to thank VVC for helping me grow in many ways and for bringing important people into my life, including amazing friends, faculty and staff that I have worked with, who have supported and encouraged me throughout my journey. This experience has helped shape who I am today, and I am incredibly grateful to everyone who believed in me and gave me opportunities that helped me grow and succeed throughout this journey. -**Yuliana B**

Losing my dad was one of the most painful things I have experienced, but I still carry his words with me every day: "Siguele al estudio mija." Those words continue to push me forward when I feel tired, stressed, or unsure of myself. I know he would be proud of how far I have come. As a mother, going back to school has not always been easy, but it has been worth it. One of my favorite memories is my oldest son sitting next to me while I do my homework, trying to copy my work and learn beside me. Moments like that remind me why I started this journey in the first place. I want my children to see that no matter how hard life gets, education and determination can change your future. I am thankful to God for giving me strength, and I am thankful for my friends, family, professors, classmates, and my counselor, Christian Ramsey, who encouraged me along the way. His support and guidance truly made an impact on my educational journey and reminded me to keep believing in myself. -**Regina A**

I have had an amazing adventure at VVC. I got my Associates in Psychology and this well help create a better future for me and my children. I would like to thank Lilia Aguirre for believing in me and helping me out. I would like to say thank you to my partner Joey and mother for helping me out. This was an amazing journey. -**Shelly Z**

Victor Valley College has impacted my life greatly by offering many chances for personal growth, academic success, and career development. I have had many great experiences, made many contacts, and met some incredible individuals during my time at VVC. I appreciate all the help and support I have received along the way. I would like to thank my family members, my friends, and my professors for their belief in me and for helping me reach this accomplishment. -**Sinclair A**

Victor Valley College has made a difference in my life by helping me achieve my

educational goals while balancing the responsibilities of being a wife, mother, and grandmother. I overcame challenges such as managing family commitments, work, and school, which taught me perseverance and time management. God, My family, professors, and classmates supported me throughout my journey and encouraged me to keep going. My experience at Victor Valley College has increased my confidence, expanded my knowledge, and prepared me for a successful future in business and real estate. - **Adrian J**

Victor Valley College has given me the motivation and confidence to strive for more in life. As a student who was once unsure of my abilities, I have grown tremendously through the guidance and support of professors such as Dr. Felix Ekpo, who helped me recognize my true potential. Without the encouragement of dedicated instructors like him and the tireless support of the amazing EOPS department, I truly believe I may have given up along the way. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who supported me throughout this journey. To my parents, Deylyne and Tonya, thank you for always believing in me and encouraging me to keep pushing forward. To my wonderful wife Kia, thank you for the countless late nights you spent listening to my term papers and for your patience and understanding during the times when school demanded so much of my attention. Your love and support mean more to me than words can fully express. I am also grateful to my friends who continuously motivated me and to my Pastor, whose guidance and mentorship have helped shape me into a better person. Thank you all for believing in me and standing beside me throughout this journey. I will continue to work hard and make you proud. -**Jayson M**

Victor Valley College has made a difference in my life in ways I never thought were possible. As a first-generation Mexican American student, VVC gave me the opportunity to play college soccer, earn my CNA license, and regain confidence in myself as both a student and person after returning from UC Davis. Through courses like Anatomy and Microbiology, I fell back in love with learning and learned to face the unknown without fear. I want to thank Mr. Myers, Mr. John Simanyi, and Mr. Gibbs for pushing me to keep going and helping me grow my love for science and math, and most importantly my mom, a single mother who sacrificed so much of herself so I could finish school. Because of VVC and the people who believed in me, I will be attending Seattle University this fall to pursue my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. -**Jasmine I**

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RamGrams

As a first-generation Mexican American student, VVC gave me the opportunity to play college soccer, earn my CNA license, and regain confidence in myself after returning from UC Davis. I want to thank Mr. Myers, Mr. John Simanyi, Mr. Gibbs, and especially my mom, a single mother who sacrificed so much so I could finish school, for pushing and supporting me every step of the way. Because of VVC and everyone who believed in me, I will be attending Seattle University this fall to pursue my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. -**Jasmine O**

Victor Valley College served as a pivotal stepping stone during my overseas study journey. It allowed me to discover my inner potential, experience standardized American academic education, and learn how to pursue academic excellence systematically. With the patient guidance of VVC professors and the consistent support of my family, I successfully coped with academic challenges and achieved remarkable progress in my English proficiency. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my academic counselor Lyman Insley. Over my two years of study, he was always accessible whenever I encountered difficulties, resolving my issues efficiently and laying a solid foundation for my academic achievements. I am deeply thankful to my mathematics professors, Jeff Ridge and Said Ngobi, who guided me to explore the profound world of mathematics. I also extend my gratitude to my chemistry professors, Alex Negrete, Sara Rahimnejad, and John Nguyen, for their professional instruction in my chemistry studies. Additionally, I owe great thanks

to my biology professors, Kristy Howard and Archie Meyer, who provided me with invaluable academic and professional guidance. I am also grateful to the VVC Transfer Center for their comprehensive support throughout my transfer process. The staff patiently answered my questions and organized campus tours of Northern California universities, offering me crucial guidance for my future academic planning. Beyond all institutional support, I want to deliver my highest gratitude to my beloved mother, who has financially supported my overseas education unconditionally. I also thank all my relatives and friends who have always encouraged and accompanied me along the way. Without their support, I could not have overcome obstacles and come so far. -**Zherui Li**

Victor Valley College has made a meaningful difference in my life by giving me a place where I felt welcomed, supported, and encouraged to grow. One of the most impactful parts of my experience has been being a member of the UNIDOS Club, where I found a strong sense of community and pride in my culture alongside students from many different backgrounds. The friendships, mentorship, and encouragement I have received through UNIDOS have inspired me to pursue my goals and continue striving for success. I would also like to thank my family for their constant support, sacrifices, and belief in me throughout my educational journey. -**Daisy G**

First, I want to give a huge thank you to the EOPS and ACCESS employees, especially

Tamala. Thank you for always helping me and helping me figure things out when I did not know what to do or where to start. I also want to give a big thank you to ACCESS faculty member Sherry for helping me plan my educational path and guiding me through the tough parts of college. There were times when I struggled and did not know how to handle things, but with the support of these two programs, I do not think I would have made it this far. They helped me from day one, and I will forever be grateful. Another huge thank you goes to the one and only Mr. Jared. The first day I entered his class, I had no clue what to expect. I was scared but excited at the same time. In my head I kept thinking, "Oh man, I'm going to fail. I'm not going to pass this." But Jared reassured me that I could do it. -**Christina M**

Victor Valley College became more than just a school to me; it became a second home. Through stressful days, long nights, and nonstop laughter in RMGT, I found support from Chef Ty, Chef Rick, Clem, Pamela, Marcelina, my fellow students, and especially my family, who always reminded me not to give up. VVC helped me grow stronger, more confident, and more determined to chase my goals. I'm grateful for every lesson, memory, and person who made this journey unforgettable. -**Jai'Ahna J**

2026

TOYOTA ARENA

Victor Valley College has made an huge but positive difference in my life, by giving me the opportunity to grow my education while working full time and also being a dad and husband full time. I'd like to thank my wife Leslie, who's been there supporting me since day one and making me a dad to our beautiful daughter and son, Annalisa & Ares, I'd like to thank my in laws Ammy & Milton for helping me when I needed an extra hand. And to my professors, who helped me reach to my full potential in earning my degrees in Criminal Justice & Liberal Arts, allowing me too get closer in becoming a future California Highway Patrol. Thank you VVC!!-**Anthony M**

During my journey at VVC, I had the honor to have amazing professors who were patient with me, willing to help in all areas of school and personal life. Everyone at VVC played a role in my accomplishment. Thank you to all those who guided me as best as possible. Thank you to my husband, who kept encouraging me not to give up! And foremost importantly, thank you God for giving me the strength, courage, and wisdom to complete this chapter. I never saw this in my future, but here we are 4 years later! -**Cecilia H**

Gracias Mama y Papa Por Sus Sacrificios y Apoyo Esto Es Para Ustedes Un Logro Más Los Amo Muchísimo.....

-**Jocelin A**

The faculty here are amazing. From the EOPS counselors I had that worked endlessly to get me to this point, to every single professor I had in my time here. Every professor was extremely supportive and flexible with my schedule as long as I was willing to put in the work. Good professors are crucial in anyone's college career, and this school is full of them. The counselors I had were nothing but motivating and helped to attack any problems I had at new angles. All information desks were extremely helpful and went above and beyond with their guidance and suggestions. From the staff we see daily to those who work behind the scenes I am very grateful to them all. I wouldn't be who I am today without the community I have built and VVC was a large part of that. I'm grateful for all the resources and opportunities that were available and cannot thank the staff, my family, and friends enough.

-**Melanie S**

This degree has been a long time coming, and I'm proud of myself for making it here. Even as an online student, I felt supported through the community and culture at VVC especially the Umoja Program, which truly embodies unity, empowerment, and Black excellence. I want to thank my mom, my brother, my grandmother family, friends, and mentors for keeping me grounded and on track.” -**Latanetta J**

In 2023, I graduated put of high school and moved up here to the high desert. I knew I

wanted to do community college but I didn't know where to start; until I drove past Victor Valley College on my way to Burlington. I applied and immediately started classes. My three years here was not easy, I went through a terrible car accident and I fell into debt; I thought I had to drop college temporarily. If it wasn't for the support of my friends, boyfriend, and family, I would not have made it here today. I graduated on time with not just their love and support but also with the presence of my counselors, manager, and peers. I grew into a better person here at VVC, I went from being so quiet and secluded to taking lead in group projects, as a peer mentor, and as a friend. I will miss VVC and the ducks but I am so much more excited to continue my academic journey. Once again, special thanks to those who stood by me, I love you guys. -**Leslie V**

Victor Valley College has made a tremendous difference in my life by giving me the opportunity to pursue my education while raising my son, Cassian. When I started school, he was only one year old, and the flexibility of VVC's online classes allowed me to balance being a mother, wife, and student. I chose to continue my education not only to achieve my own goals, but also to show Cassian the value of hard work, perseverance, and the importance of education. Through determination and support from those around me, I have been able to build a stronger future for my family. I want to thank my husband, Roman, for his encouragement, unwavering patience, and belief in me throughout this journey, as well as my family for their constant love and support. This accomplishment is one I hope makes Cassian proud and shows him that with dedication, anything is possible. -**Elisa A**

Victor Valley College has been a great experience for me. Starting at VVC as a first-gen in my family was truly a great experience. The professors that I had were truly amazing, I cannot complain about any of them. My first two years of college were exactly how I expected them to be and that's thanks to VVC. I want to give thanks to my friends and family that helped me out throughout these years. Without their support I wouldn't have been here pursuing my dream. Thank you to my sister, Genesis, my parents, and my best friend who got to experience this journey with me, Jasmin. And thank you VVC!

-**Diana M**

Victor Valley College is a place where people dive deep into subjects they're passionate about, learn critical thinking skills, and connect with professors and classmates who can become lifelong mentors or friends. Plus, it often leads to new career paths and helps people build a solid foundation for their future. It's pretty

amazing to see how much people grow during those years! I liked to give a special thanks to my grandma Stephanie for taking care of me my whole life, Her nino Uncle Steve for being with us every step of the way, and my siblings for being the shoulders I can cry on. -**Angelina L**

When I first came to Victor Valley College, I did not know where to start or what my future would look like. VVC helped me find my path and gave me the confidence to keep pursuing my goals. Through the support of my family, friends, EOPS counselors, and professors, I was able to overcome challenges and continue my journey to the University of California, Irvine. I dedicate this achievement to my mom and dad, who have always given everything for me and supported me every step of the way. -**Stephanie S**

Victor Valley College showed me that I can do hard things too. This was my 5th attempt at college. I always felt that I was not smart enough and when things got tough, I got lost. Victor Valley College was a different experience, from the community in the umoja center, to my amazing counselor Manika, who made sure I finished, it has truly been life changing. I really want to thank my bestfriends, mom and sister for not allowing me to give up. And to my Son Jayden, you have always been my why, the reason why I do this. I love you

-**Chanell B**

Victor Valley college has made a difference in my life because getting an education is very important to me, especially being that I am a first generation student. I have experienced downfalls such as having to drop courses in a semester due to my health and well being, however, this did not stop me and here I am today, getting my degree and for that reason I want to thank my mom. Everything I have done leading to this point is for her because she is everything to me and I know that she is proud of me and I will continue to make her proud. I want to thank VVC and its supportive staff and the amount of resources they have to ensure student success. -**Maria H**

Without Victor Valley College I wouldn't be who I am today. This community gave me the confidence to believe that I am capable of anything and that I will forever have a family that is here to support me. Thank you for being the place where I grew from a child with dreams into a graduate ready to pursue them. Forever and always a proud Ram!

-**Hailey R**



Victor Valley has made a difference in my life because it gave me an opportunity to do better for myself and my family! Thank you to my husband and kids for being my biggest support system! -**April V**

Victor Valley has made a difference in my life because it gave me an opportunity to do better for myself and my family! Thank you to my husband and kids for being my biggest support system! -**April V**

My family has always motivated me to always try my best and give it my all. My mom, dad, my two younger sisters, and grandma would always tell me, "Ponte las pilas." Same with my friends and boyfriend who always inspired me to be kind and never dim my light for anyone. Lastly, I would like to thank the Communication Center that gave me the opportunity to make a lasting impact in my own way; by being a tutor in public speaking. -**Yuliana S**

Having my family stand behind me while I continued my education was extremely encouraging. Being able to stay focused while still being the best mom and role model I could be was always my top priority. I couldn't give up because I had so many little eyes watching me every move. As a mother of seven, I can say the journey has not been easy, but it has been well worth the struggles and sacrifices we have all made together. Earning my Associate of Science degree has brought me one step closer to achieving my goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

Victor Valley College has made a tremendous difference in my life by giving me the opportunity to grow both personally

and academically. The support and encouragement I received from instructors, classmates, and staff helped me believe in myself even during the most difficult moments. As a busy mother balancing family, school, and everyday responsibilities, I felt overwhelmed at times, but VVC gave me the tools and confidence to keep moving forward. Every class I completed reminded me that my dreams were possible with hard work and determination. I also want to thank the instructors and faculty at Victor Valley College who inspired me, supported me, and pushed me to do my best. Their dedication has truly impacted my life and helped shape the future I am working toward for myself and my children. I hope my journey shows my kids that no matter how difficult life may seem, perseverance and education can open the door to endless opportunities. -**Alexis M**

As a first-generation student, there were many times I felt lost, overwhelmed, and afraid of failing because I was trying to figure everything out on my own. There were moments when I doubted myself and questioned if I was capable of continuing, but with the guidance and support of a counselor at VVC, Joanna I was able to continue pushing forward. My journey at VVC shaped me into a stronger and more confident person and gave me hope for a future I once thought was out of reach. None of this would have been possible without my mom and siblings, who sacrificed so much for me every step of the way. From staying awake with me during long nights of studying, to taking me to school, to reminding me not to give up when I

felt exhausted and defeated. They are the reason I kept going and the reason I believed in myself. Above all, I thank God for never leaving my side. Through every struggle, every tear, every sleepless night, and every moment I felt like giving up, God gave me the strength to continue. Looking back on my journey at VVC fills my heart with gratitude because it was not only a chapter of education, but a chapter of growth, love, sacrifice, and hope.

-**Juanita E R**

Victor Valley College had made a tremendous difference in my life by helping me persevere through some of my most challenging years. While attending school, I balanced being a wife, raising two children, working part time, and grieving the loss of my mother. There were moments when I wanted to give up, but the support of my husband, friends and close family kept me moving forward. My experience at VVC strengthened my passion for becoming a Spanish teacher and serving future generations of students. VVC has given me the confidence and foundation to continue my education at CSUSB and pursue my teaching credential. A special thank you to my husband for his endless love, patience, and support throughout this journey. Thank you for encouraging me during difficult times, believing in me when I doubted myself, and helping me balance school, work, and family. I would not be where I am today without you by my side! -**Evelyn S**

What a ride it has been, it has been full of ups and downs but wouldn't change it because it has shaped me to the person I am today. These years at VVC took me on some fun adventures that I will never forget. I appreciate everyone that helped me on this chapter in my life, and I am truly thankful for the people that helped motivate me and believed in me. I want to give a special thanks to my parents and the rest of my family for being there for me no matter what. Now it's on to the next chapter in my life and I am truly blessed and excited for what is to come next, my best and favorite quote will always be "keep moving forward," and it's true no matter what life will bring me I will always remember to keep moving forward.

-Alexander C

Im grateful that I got the chance to get 2 Associate degrees the same time I graduated high school, its truly a blessing. I wanna thank my mom, dad, and sister for always being there for me and cheering me on when I needed it. I'd also like to thank my high school teacher, and counselor as well as all the professors I've worked with during my almost 3 years here at VVC for helping me out and for being amazing at what they do.

-Kendra F

Today is proof that with support, determination, and opportunity, anything is possible, thank you to VVC for being part of my journey. To my son, you are my greatest inspiration and I hope this achievement shows you anything is possible with hard work and determination. To my Parents, thank you for the endless love and support, I wouldn't be here without you. To my Love thank you for standing by my side through every challenge and through every victory with me.

-Daniela U

Victor Valley College has profoundly shaped my academic journey and personal growth, becoming a place of transformation, resilience, and unwavering support. I still remember my first day on campus—nervous, excited, and feeling like a child experiencing school for the first time all over again. My mom walked me to my first class, just as she did when I was younger, and her hug before I stepped inside reminded me that I was not beginning this chapter alone. That moment set the tone for the years ahead: I would work hard, but I would never walk this path without the people who believed in me.

-Alondra H

The challenges I overcome was taking that long step towards my future and show I'm am something in this world, having courage, discipline becoming a stronger person for my self. Here at Victor valley college It open my eyes and show me open opportunities to take the risk and never look back. It made me the better self version of myself. I couldn't had done it without this person, Thank you "Selina."

-Jonathan L

Victor Valley College has made a difference

in my life by helping me work toward my educational and career goals while balancing life as a mother of four. There were many challenges along the way, but the support of my boyfriend and children helped me stay motivated and keep pushing forward. Graduating this summer is a proud accomplishment, and I am excited to continue at VVC in the CNA program and work toward becoming a nurse. Thank you to my family for believing in me and supporting me throughout this journey.

-Geneva

Victor Valley College made a significant difference in my life by providing me with accessible, affordable pathways to higher education. When I first got to Victor Valley College, I told my classmates that, if Victor Valley College shut its gates, it could be its own country, just like the Vatican. As a migrant student coming from Syria, a non-traditional student, and a returning adult student, I have overcome many barriers. I was extremely interested in learning US English at higher levels, the culture, and the history of my new homeland (the USA). I proudly dedicate my graduation with honors to my family, wife (Salwa), children (Mania, Diana, and Youssef), and granddaughter (Joelle). I would like to express my thanks to anyone who made an impact, be it family, friends, faculty, staff, or fellow students.

-Elias B

Victor Valley College made a huge difference in my life by helping me set my goals straight in what I want to do in my career, and with the help of the Professors and staff here, I was able to complete all of my goals. One of the things I am gonna miss is the campus itself, the type of environment it provides is so calming, and all the wildlife is something I'm gonna miss, like feeding the ducks and koi fish. I want to thank all those who helped me, starting with my friends and family, for their endless support, making sure I never gave up on my future career, I will also like to thank and congratulate everyone here today, We finally made it, and remember "Courage isn't having the strength to go on – it is going on when you don't have strength"- Napoleon Bonaparte

-Adrian M

To VVC, thank you for pushing me beyond my limits, for making me, who is a mom of 3 believe she CAN do it! Thank you to my husband for believing in me and being my back bone throughout these last 2 years. Cheers to all the graduates, RRT here I come!!

-Tamara Z

Attending VVC was a transformative experience that provided me with the foundational skills, lifelong connections, and confidence I needed to shape my personal

and professional trajectory. My challenges were situations that tested my abilities, designed to push my limits for personal growth. My future time at VVC helped me learn many different things. I like to give thanks to God, my two sons, my family and friends, and to all my supporters. My Counselors, Instructors, PTK Advisor, Tutor, Building 21, ASB, Library, and many others here at VVC. Thank you.

-Jackie H



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION:

Harmony Thompson’s Rise at VVC



By: Andrew Caravella

For Victor Valley College ASB Fine Arts Senator Harmony Thompson, the journey to self-expression hasn’t always been easy—but it has been transformative.

Raised in the High Desert since the age of five after moving from Pasadena, Harmony found her early sense of belonging through the arts. At Encore High School for the Arts, music became more than just a passion—it became a safe space.

“My favorite part of high school was music,” she recalls. “My teacher, Mr. C., really fostered a supportive community. My classmates were fun and creative—it was such a welcoming environment.”

That sense of belonging would later shape her decision to get involved at Victor Valley College. But her first year at VVC came with personal challenges.

“I was in a co-dependent relationship that held me back emotionally, mentally, and physically,” she shares. “But I knew I wanted to join ASB.” Determined to grow, Harmony stepped into student leadership with intention.

“One of my main drives was to improve my communication skills,” she says. “I wanted to be a better advocate—not just for my peers, but for myself.”

Navigating Identity and Family

Harmony’s awareness of her identity started early. Even in elementary school, she remembers feeling different, though she didn’t have the words for it yet.

“I watched a lot of Shake It Up on Disney Channel, and I loved Zendaya,” she says with a laugh.

By middle school, her understanding became clearer.

“I was really into Euphoria. Every Sunday, I was amazed by that show. That’s when I knew I was more interested in the same sex.”

She came out to her family in the summer of 2019, an experience she describes as difficult. “It wasn’t good,” she says. “My parents took my phone away for a week. My grandma asked when I decided I was gay. I told her, it’s not a choice—I just realized it.”

Since then, conversations around her identity at home have remained limited. “They know, but we don’t talk about it,” she explains.

Harmony was primarily raised by her aunt and grandmother after her mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia and her father was not present during early custody proceedings. Today, her relationship with her father has shifted.

“As an adult, he’s the most supportive of me,” she says. “Who I am doesn’t bother him at all. I just hope one day my family can come around.”

Finding Freedom at VVC

At VVC, Harmony found something she didn’t always have growing up: the ability to be fully herself.

“What Pride means to me now is completely different,” she says. “When I was younger, I didn’t get to celebrate it. Now, I feel a sense of freedom.”

On campus, she has been able to express herself openly.

“I don’t have to hide who I am. I feel more open now.”

Content note: The following section references mental health challenges.

Harmony is also open about the struggles she has faced.

“When I was younger, a lot of my struggles were suicidal in nature,” she shares. “That’s why I remind people—it’s not the end of the world. You have to keep going.”

Her message to other LGBTQ+ students is simple, but powerful: “Ask for help. VVC has resources that can guide you in the right direction.”

Creativity as a Calling

As ASB Senator for Fine Arts, Harmony has used her voice to uplift others while continuing to grow creatively herself.

She recently launched Harmony’s Hits, VVC’s first-ever student-run podcast, where she dives into the pop culture she loves—from music and film to storytelling.

“It gives me an outlet to talk about what I’m passionate about,” she says.

Harmony is graduating from VVC with a degree in Fine Arts and will transfer to California State University, Los Angeles to study film and television production. Her ultimate goal is to become a director.

“I want to create projects that tell meaningful stories,” she says.

Building Community Through the Arts

Harmony has already made a lasting impact at VVC. She helped launch the college’s first-ever F.A.M.E. Festival (Fine Arts, Animation, Music Experience), a multidisciplinary celebration of student creativity.

“Originally it was supposed to be a film and music festival,” she explains. “But it grew into something bigger.”

The event brought together multiple artistic disciplines in one space.

“For a first-time festival, it went really well. I hope it becomes a tradition.”

Looking ahead, Harmony hopes to expand inclusive programming on campus—including the possibility of a drag show.

“It would give students a safe space to be themselves,” she says. “Some people don’t have that opportunity off campus. Events like that can empower students and help them feel stronger in the community.”

A Lasting Impact

When reflecting on her time at VVC, Harmony points to mentorship as one of the most valuable parts of her experience.

“The mentors I’ve had here have shown me how to be professional,” she says. “They’ve prepared me for what comes next.”

For Harmony Thompson, Pride is no longer something she had to hide from—it’s something she lives fully. Through leadership, creativity, and resilience, she continues to find her voice—and help others find theirs.

AROUND THE HORN AT VVC

Pride, Workforce, and opportunities for VVC students



CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

By: Professor Jose Luna

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the history, contributions, resilience, and diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other LGBTQ+ individuals and communities. Pride Month serves as an opportunity to reflect on the importance of belonging, respect, and inclusion. It also reminds us of the many individuals who have worked to advance equality, visibility, and understanding while helping create communities where people can live authentically and with dignity.

As we recognize Pride Month, we encourage members of our campus community to learn about the experiences, perspectives, and contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals and to continue fostering an environment where all students, faculty, and staff feel welcomed, valued, and supported.

Thank you for helping make our college a place where diversity is celebrated and every member of our community has the opportunity to thrive.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

By: Dave Nunez

On May 26, 2026, faculty and staff from Victor Valley College’s Workforce

Development, Non-Credit, and Construction Technology programs had the opportunity to tour the CEMEX Quarry in Apple Valley to gain a deeper understanding of the workforce needs of one of our valued employer partners and to showcase how VVC programs can help meet those needs.

CEMEX Plant Manager Brad Evans and Stephanie (Vida) Pazarin hosted the team, providing valuable insight into CEMEX’s operations, workforce demands, and future opportunities. The tour was led by Frank Castanos, Executive Director of Workforce Development, and Dr. Richard Radcliffe, Director of Non-Credit Programs, alongside Dave Nunez, Program Manager of Workforce Development, Jeff Parker, Construction Technology Faculty, and Robert Hewitt, Non-Credit Faculty.

During the visit, VVC witnessed a live limestone shelf blast, learned about the process of transforming limestone into cement and concrete, and toured several areas of the operation, including the control room, maintenance facilities, and support departments that keep the plant running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Additionally, the tour provided an opportunity for both organizations to identify areas of alignment and explore future collaborations that will strengthen workforce development opportunities in the High Desert region.



Learning in Action: VVC Students Attend Hands-On Conference in Los Angeles

By: Andrew Caravella

Victor Valley College students recently traveled to Los Angeles City College to attend the Focused N F.I.T. For A Different World Conference, hosted by actress Victor Valley College students recently traveled to Los Angeles City College to attend the Focused N F.I.T. For A Different World Conference, hosted by actress and philanthropist Dawnn Lewis through her nonprofit, A New Day Foundation. The conference is designed to help students become Financially and Technologically Informed, offering hands-on workshops in health, finance, cybersecurity, and leadership.

For VVC student Zherui Li, the experience stood out immediately. “The energy and atmosphere throughout the day were really engaging,” Li said. “It made the whole conference feel fun and personal, rather than just a typical formal event.” The trip itself created opportunities for connection before students even arrived. While the bus ride ran longer than expected, students kept the mood light and positive, turning the commute into part of the experience. Once on campus, Li said the interactive workshops delivered practical takeaways—especially the technology session. “It taught me practical knowledge about how to defend ourselves... and protect personal digital information effectively,” Li shared.

The day also delivered memorable moments, including raffles and live engagement with attendees. Li even had the first ticket drawn, winning a Marvel-themed prize. Li described the experience as meaningful and memorable. “I left feeling excited and motivated by the experience,” he said, reflecting on one of his final opportunities to participate in a VVC student trip beyond the classroom.



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