

# The Accreditation Journey

Story By The Facilitators

*Edited by Evelyn Blanco*

According to preliminary results for a Student Campus Climate Survey Part 1 conducted in Fall 2013, 56.7%, or approximately 902 students, stated they were “Seriously!” concerned about accreditation at Victor Valley College. It should be noted that despite this resounding result, when asked to describe Victor Valley College in one word, the most common student response was “Good”.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Interim Superintendent/President Peter Allen received a letter moving Victor Valley College from a Probationary status to one of re-affirmed Accreditation. Generally, the college population took this as great news, revealing in the hard work of those who made this possible. Yet, there were some who wondered how this journey into accreditation all began.

In order to clarify some misconceptions and give a deeper insight into this journey, our RamPage facilitators decided to interview Past President of the Academic Senate, Tracy Davis. There all two things that Davis emphasized during this interview, that accreditation is a continual process, and that our accreditation was

never lost or close to being lost rather we were on probation and had to complete more reports showing quantifiable ad qualitative evidence of progress.

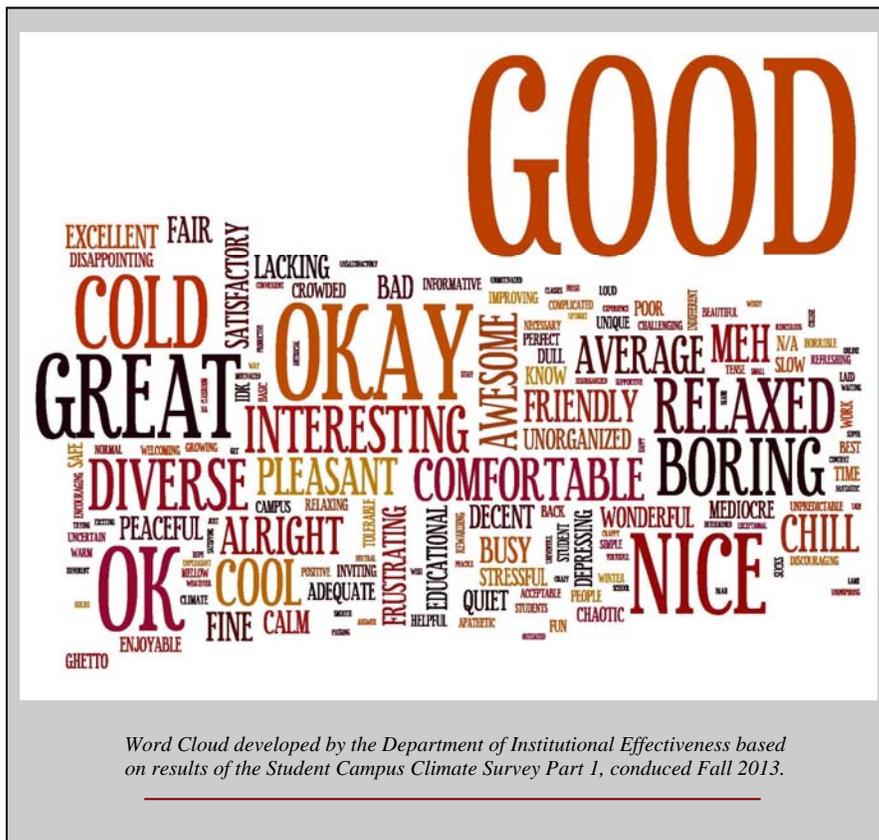
When asked what major changes were made in order to re-affirm our accreditation status, Davis replied that there were three major shifts in the campus community, “1. One of the big changes was what Peter Allen and I have called, a cultural mindset change recognizing the continuity of the accreditation process. We did not understand that assessment was a continual process.”

“2. That accreditation demands data. Its not completely data driven but we need evidence, everything is evidence. You might hear it referred to as an evidence based culture. 3. Outside of changing how we think and showing evidence, is really in my opinion addressing campus climate [this was done through a convocation, and later an in-service day on February 7<sup>th</sup>,

2014]...the idea of bringing everybody together addressed Recommendation 4 but also provided a way for everyone on campus to know each other and learn from each other. The administration and all constituency groups recognize the importance of getting together.”

When asked why Victor Valley College lost its accreditation, Davis promptly corrected the facilitators to explain

that this is a common misconception, “It did not lose its accreditation. We never did.” she stated, “Even our billboard said “We are fully accredited” but we were already accredited. sometimes it changes meanings depending on the words you use. Students can go and look up information on accreditation, it is public information and I would encourage students to do this.”



Word Cloud developed by the Department of Institutional Effectiveness based on results of the Student Campus Climate Survey Part 1, conducted Fall 2013.

## Voting: Why Should I Care?

By Evelyn Blanco

Voter Apathy is the perceived lack of caring among voters during an election. According to Infoplease.com, during our 2012 presidential election year, 53.6% of those registered to vote actually voted.

Numbers drop significantly when it comes to the youngest of the voting population, aged 18-29.

There are many reasons beyond financial resources that increase voter apathy among young voters. Other reasons include a distrust of politicians as well as a lack of knowledge about the issues.

Most popular issues directly affect young (18-29) voters in this nation. During the 2012 election year, the Cable news Network (CNN) did a poll of readers. The top four issues were: Economy, Health Care, National Debt, and Education.

"Youth voters are going to be handling issues such as the economy and national debt for the rest of their lives. When they do not vote, they allow others to set the agenda." – Donovan Rinker-Morris, Political Science Prof.

## Student Self-Efficacy

Balaila Hassan gave information for your consideration.

From the website:  
The National College Access Network (NCAN) focuses on student life.

Student self-efficacy is an individual's belief in his/her own ability in relation to tasks and goals.

Academic self-efficacy stands as a significant dynamic in the college student's success.

"The Role of Social Supports and Self-Efficacy in College Success,"  
(Research to Practice Brief, Fall 2010)  
<http://www.collegeaccess.org/>

## The Joys of Diversity

By Brian Lollock

American Sign Language is a dialect of English. It is part of a culture within a diverse society, which many don't experience for themselves. What makes it more unique and diverse than most, is the nature of the language deaf people use to communicate.

Communication in the hearing world is verbal and non-verbal. Because we pay more attention to non-verbal cues when conversing with others, we can misinterpret what is being said.

Everything deaf people say to each other involves facial expression, which enhances their quality of communicating.

Being aware of the deaf community and acknowledging that it exists, would be beneficial to all. The hearing world needs to know more about the non-hearing world.

For more information: American Sign Language University, <http://www.lifeprint.com/>

## Enter the Internet

By Elia Fuimaono

Social media networking has engulfed the leisure time of the middle class. The *RamPage* should be included.

This publication could be a channel for the voice of students - those who would put their careers on the line to inform the public and become a stronger community. The *RamPage* has that potential.

If the right pieces fall into place, if journalists from Victor Valley College want to practice real journalism; if technology and pen and pad can fuse, it is possible for the *RamPage* to experience a rebirth.

For more information: Victor Valley College *RamPage*,  
<http://www.vvc.edu/offices/rampage/>

A Student Production  
JOURNALISM 108

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Victor Valley College RamPage is a student-run newspaper that aims to inform and entertain the Victor Valley Community. We strive to teach and preserve core journalistic values while supporting the unity of the campus community.*

## International News

### National Election In Iraq; Maliki Looking To Re-new Term

Story by **Brielle Betts**

Minister Nouri-al Maliki is seeking another term in Iraq as they hold national elections the first since U.S. forces pulled out in 2011. American officials would be welcome his defeat, an article from The New York Times says this "American intelligence assessments have found that Mr. Maliki's re-election could increase sectarian tensions and even raise the odds of a civil war, citing his accumulation of power, his failure to compromise with other Iraqi factions — Sunni or Kurd — and his

military failures against Islamic extremists."

Mr. Maliki's strategy of acting tough may score him another term since in the past it has been proven strong intimidating leaders obtain power and keep it when people are to afraid to go against them. "'Voters have no excuse before God and history if they do not make the right choice," Mr. Maliki said in a recent speech. "Iraqis know who is supporting the rebuilding of the country and democracy, and who is supporting terrorism and seeking to destroy the country." with quotes like this Maliki is making sure he instills into the voters what he says is what shall be with him in office another term.

Many describe Maliki to be hard looking and rare to ever catch him with a smile on his face. In 2006 and 2007 Iraq faced

some of its worst violence during the sectarian conflict where thousands were killed. Iraq now is facing the same sort of dilemma during the elections.

AFP's Baghdad bureau has recorded more than 3,000 violent deaths, putting the country on pace for more than 12,000 casualties by the end of 2014. By comparison, AFP recorded less than 7,000 violent deaths in all of 2013. In 2012, the Brookings Institute allied roughly 5,200 casualties among civilians and security forces, and 4,800 such casualties in 2011. All this data is what is driving Maliki and his campaign, making this issue the focal point to get voters behind him. All cars have been forbidden in Iraq in hopes of preventing these statistics to come true.

## News in Brief

Story by **Rebecca Parra**

With so many talks of mega-pipeline projects coming, Canada's government should not proceed unless it gets the consent of First Nations peoples whose land could be affected by such development. In overlooking First Nation Peoples consent Canada has violated their constitutional rights as citizens.



## "The Success Behind the Threads"

Story by **Ivonne Mateos**

Six tank tops, five cities, four tank tops sold to the public, three inspirations, two letters for each of the ambassador's names, and one amazing brand Beyond Aware is a brand that started as a small seed of an idea and blossomed in the sunny high desert in 2007 to create a line of clothing that will one day change young athletes' lives. Arley and Brandon Arsineda started this brand as high school athletes when money was tight and they were not always able to afford the over priced brand name clothing that everyone else was sporting, so they decided to make their own shirts.

Arley Arsineda graduated from Victor Valley College with an A.S. in Business Administration in 2012 and gained an immense amount of knowledge throughout the classes he took while at



Photo courtesy of Ivonne Matteos

VVC. In particular, he mentions Professor Odell Moon, who is easy to see as more than just a teacher, with his distinctive teaching style and large variety of classes. Moon teaches courses in Financial Accounting, Human Relations, Business, and Business Law. Another person that has a huge impact on the brand's decisions is Arley and Brandon's mother, Mrs. Arsineda,

who always tells them the truth no matter how hard it may be to hear.

Over fifty percent of the employed population work in a small business setting according to United States Census Bureau, 2011 Non-employer Statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Forbes.com says that means one in every two people work for a company that has under

five hundred employees worldwide, makes under forty-four thousand dollars in annual revenue, and that is home based. For the Arsineda brothers these statistics sound very enticing and solely encouraging considering the fact that they made their shirts to be money savvy.

As for future plans, both brothers are currently working on their Bachelor's degrees and they hope to one day be able to open up a store front in the prominent Fairfax, located in Los Angeles, California. Once, that is up and running efficiently, they would like to begin a program that gives back to high school student athletes that are struggling financially in order to keep them motivated and striving towards their dreams. Currently Beyond Aware sells hats, t-shirts, tank tops, crew neck sweatshirts, beanies, backpacks, hooded sweatshirts, and jackets. Visit their online store at [beyondaware.bigcartel.com](http://beyondaware.bigcartel.com) and support your local success stories today!

# Victor Valley College Commencement 2014

*Interview with Dr. Jones 2014  
Commencement Speaker*

With Victor Valley College's commencement ceremonies just around the corner, it is nerve-racking for graduating students who are ready to take on the world outside of their first college experience.

Dr. Gregory Jones, who is an instructor for Communication Studies at VVC, will have the honor of presenting the 2014 commencement speech on May 30th in the Gymnasium. Dr. Jones is an alumnus from Mt. San Jacinto Community College and can relate to these graduating students as he was a student speaker at his very own commencement ceremony in 1985. "I remember that excitement when I graduated from Mt. San Jacinto Community College", said Jones.

Although this will be the first time speaking at V.V.C.'s Commencement he has had much experience in the past. Ram Page reporter Abel Perez interviewed Dr. Jones personally to get an inside preview of the highlights that will be covered in his speech. He will be presenting an excerpt from his award winning Toastmasters Speech.

He not only has the experience of speaking at a graduation ceremony in 1985 but he has also competed and won local and regional speech contests sponsored by International Training in Communication (ITC). He competed against six different

countries in delivering a speech with the topic of change during an international competition in Brisbane, Australia.

It was described as "perhaps the best performance in the organization's 70 year history." Dr. Jones' award winning speech was entitled "Every Ending is a Beginning." The speech will cover change and how change should be appreciated.



*Edited by: Amanda Monroy*

## Student Statistics

*By: Elia Fuimaono*

**GENDER BALANCE:** Of the 11,437 students enrolled this past fall, 6,503 were females, and 4,877 were males.

**AGE IS NOTHING BUT A NUMBER:** In both male and female student population from Fall 2013, the biggest age group is the 20 through 24 year olds, and the smallest age group is 35 through 39.

**DIVERSITY IS BEAUTIFUL:** During Fall 2013 our college was made up of African American, Asian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, White (Non-Hispanic), American Indian/Alaskan Native, Filipino, and even some Multi-Ethnic students.

Source: [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu)

## Commencement Schedule

May 30th, 2014

4:00pm Graduates Check-In

4:40pm Graduate Line-up

5:00pm Processional

5:10pm Ceremony Begins

**Your student guides:** Tracy Davis and Lorena Ochoa

### Your Valedictorians:

Katrina Lynn Backus, Brianna Ashley Hernandez, John A. Hill, Andrew Landon Lopez, Andrew Namgoong, Karen Lynn Parrish, Caren Patterson, Julia Rodriguez

# Honoring Our Graduates

Name: Alec Rivera

Major: Botanical Genetic Engineering

Transfer: CSULB

Name: Ivonne Amante

Major: Liberal Arts

Transfer: UCR or UCSD

Name: Angel Rojas

Major: Theatre

Transfer: CSUN

Name: Brian Lollack

Major: Communication

Transfer: CSUSB

Name: Stephanie De La Cruz

Major: Liberal Arts

Transfer: San Francisco State

Name: Dominic Edward Hernandez

Major: Business & Math/Science

Transfer: CSUSB

Name: Javier Sanchez Jr.

Major: Film Production

Transfer: Chapman

Name: Evelyn Blanco

Major: History/Communications/Liberal Arts

Transfer: UCB

Name: James Agor

Major: Business Admin,

Transfer: Cal Poly Pomona

Name: Kanikka Wofford

Major: Mathematics

Transfer: UNLV

Name: Abel Perez

Major: Liberal Arts

Transfer: CSUSB

Name: Isis Fuentes

Major: Liberal Arts

Transfer: Undecided

Name: Mary Williams

Major: Business

Transfer: CSUSB

Name: Alonzo Paulino

Major: Psychology

Transfer: LIU Brooklyn

## Poor Economy Affecting New College Graduates

Story by **Amanda Monroy**

Since the onset of the Great Recession, graduating college seniors are being faced with a situation that has the potential of making or breaking their future career.

When they leave their educational environment will they wind up on the unemployment list and join the millions of Americans unemployed already?

According to analysis done by economists Jaison Abel and Richard Deitz, the quality of jobs held by the underemployed reveals that today's recent graduates are increasingly working in low-wage jobs or working part-time.

All over the United States, "middle class jobs" are being replaced by "low income jobs", this transition is affecting young college graduates more than almost anyone else.

With the current economic situation students may have to reconsider their options of what they want to do after graduation. For all community college transfer students hoping to reach their bachelors and masters degrees they must keep in mind to be flexible and willing to compete in a changing, global economy.

## Profiting From Medical Cannabis

Story by **Abel Perez**

With Colorado's legalization of medical cannabis, it was only a matter of time until marijuana became accessible in vending machines.

According to United Press International, "A Colorado company has introduced the first-ever marijuana vending machine, which will soon be put to use at a dispensary in Eagle-Vail, Colorado." This vending machine that dispenses medical marijuana for general use as long as each individual is over the consenting age of 21.

Colorado found a way to tax medical marijuana but safety and security is a must for this machine. United Press International stated that, "Multiple cameras attached to the machine make sure the person swiping the card is the same person depicted on the card."

These precautions are in place for the accuracy of the identification for the card user. The availability of such machines allows Colorado to gain a profit from medical cannabis.

## Experience at Cal State Fullerton

Story by **Jenny Asendorf**

With the end of the semester rapidly approaching, Cal State Fullerton's excitement for the upcoming graduation date lingered in the air.

At 8:30 AM on April 12, 2014, future Titans arrived in Cal State Fullerton's gym to be informed about the events of the day.

Throughout the campus, Fullerton set up various points of interest for future students. These information sessions provided important information about different departments, careers, and classes offered at Cal State Fullerton.



## First Generation Students Attend College at VVC, While Others From the Los Angeles Area were killed in the process of becoming first generation college students

Story By **Zakia Simmons**

A total of 44 students, traveled from the Los Angeles area to Humboldt State University for a college tour, unfortunately the students did not make it to the college due to a fatal collision on April 11, 2014.

These students would have been the first of many generations in their families to attend college.

When no one else in their families had done so, these students took the necessary steps to become first generation students. They may have paved the way for others in their family to be encouraged or motivated to attend college.

Many students at VVC are low-income and/or first time generation students. I would like to dedicate this article to the Humboldt State University tour group, and to the students at VVC!

## VVC THEATER PRESENTS "ALL MY SONS"

### VVC Brings "All My Sons" To the Stage

Story by Jennifer Asendorf

"Line!" shouted a cast member of the V.V.C. production 'All My Sons' on the evening of April 16. With one week until their final dress rehearsal, the cast and crew still had plenty of work to do.

The set pieces were not finished, actors were missing, and many cast members struggled to remember their lines. The cast and crew of 'All My Sons' only had a couple weeks to pull everything together. When they reached their final dress rehearsal on April 24, all their hard work had paid off. The set resembled the front yard of a suburban American family in the 1940's. The costumes fit the time period and appropriate props were used throughout the play.

The actors did not miss a beat and performed to their fullest on their final dress rehearsal. Playwright Arthur Miller wrote the play 'All My Sons' as a commentary on the hypocrisy of the 'American Dream'.



"Shell Shock in the American Family"

Story by Rebecca Parra

With the world's latest influx of awareness with post-traumatic stress disorder, comes an ahead of its time form of storytelling that V.V.C.'s theater department has tastefully put forth. Arthur Miller's 'All My Sons' is the latest of Victor Valley College's productions and in this reporter's experience, it's best play yet. This family drama takes place in post-World War II Midwestern America where a neighborhood must come to terms with the mysteries of a botched crime and trial as well as a family reeling from tragedy. It's pretty heavy subject matter, but the cast makes the tragic tale as compelling and real as Arthur Miller originally intended. Within the first act I was unsure of whether I was sold on the cast's performances, there was awkwardness in their motions and only the more mature members of the cast seemed to utter their lines with believability, I worried that the younger portion of the cast would never quite catch up. Until the second act, the play's leading man Andrew Lopez showed the true vulnerability and guilt plaguing the character of Chris Keller. Powerful in his delivery and compelling in his character's confusion and actions; heck! He was Chris Keller!

Another spectacular performance was from Glenn Miller (actor who played Joe Keller), who managed to create a character so relatable and likeable regardless of the dark secrets he harbored. The progression of Joe Keller's path to ultimate atonement is a difficult one but one that Mr. Miller, handled in a fashion that made it all look easy.

But the real star of this show was Lisa Wisong-Miller who played Kate Keller. What a powerhouse she is! Bearing the scars of a long suffering mother and wife who seems about ready to collapse under the pain that she's caused and experienced, this is where the beauty of her performance truly lies. Despite her burdens to bear, she is the rock of the Keller family. Keeping all things together even when her heart is distraught. It was an honor to see her portrayal and I hope all who can see this incredible play, make time and watch this must see.

Some of the cast from "All My Sons". Photo Courtesy of Dr. Rude

# GRADUATION

*The future belongs to those  
who believe in the  
beauty of their dreams.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*



MAY 30, 2014 • 5pm