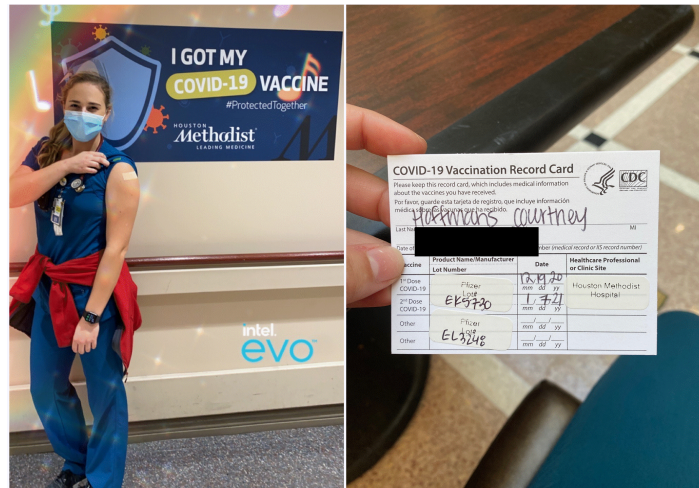


Your monthly newsletter from the Executive Team at Ventura College.

[View online version](#)



January 2021 Newsletter

President's Message

Dear Pirate Crew,

Welcome back from what I hope was a safe and restful holiday. I enjoyed the break with my family. We were able to play games, watch movies, and complete a

1500-piece puzzle. However, the celebration of the season was missing due to not being able to spend time with friends and socializing.

Unfortunately, my daughter was not able to join us because she works as a Registered Nurse in an ICU in Houston, Texas. Sadly, she has taken care of many patients whose lungs were thrashed due to Covid and now they need a lung transplant. She has called me many times in tears due to having to perform post-mortem care on too many people. It breaks my heart the toll this is taking on her and her healthcare colleagues.

Covid is serious and I urge you to please protect yourself and get vaccinated when it is made available! Fortunately, higher education has been placed on Phase IB, Tier 1 list in the **priority for vaccinations**. Currently, Ventura County is vaccinating Phase IA, Tiers 1-3 with education in the next round. I look forward to the opportunity to be vaccinated to ensure my health and the safety of those around me. Here is a link to an article with information about a recorded Ventura County Townhall event hosted by Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin.

On Monday, our nation celebrated **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** and his role in advancing our society in recognizing the value of everyone, the pursuit of social justice, and equality for all. I can only reflect on how disappointed Dr. King would be if he was alive today to witness the violence, insurrection, and civil unrest in our country, such as the siege on the Capitol. The behavior of these individuals and supremacist groups is intolerable. Civility and respect must be regained in our country.

There has never been a more relevant time to celebrate the life, the work, and the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As I reflect upon the words of the late Dr. King, I am struck by how poignant his messages continue to be today.

On Justice

First and foremost, Dr. King reminded the world that **"injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."** As we respond to the coverage of the insurrection upon the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, and reflect on the inauguration of a new Presidential administration, we must set our intentions for a campus culture that will proactively support and advocate for justice, for our students and employees on our campus, and in our community. I am grateful to have these words of wisdom from Dr. King at the forefront of my mind as I humbly set out to lead our flagship college that has served our diverse community for 95 years.

On Education

Martin Luther King, Jr. also reflected upon the importance of education, a message I believe to be decisively important during this time of pandemic despair and racial and socio-economic injustice. **"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."** Now more than ever, it is imperative to support a campus culture of open discourse, transparency, and problem-solving that places us on the SIDE of Equity and Antiracism.

On Doing Right

The great Dr. King could not have known that, nearly 60 years after his "I Have a Dream" speech, our world would face a pandemic that would ravage millions of global citizens and propel us into economic and societal crises. As I ask myself when it will be over, when we can safely invite VC community members back to campus, and how we can achieve this goal together, I appreciate Dr. King's reminder that **"we must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right."** COVID-19 has disproportionately harmed our communities of color; our BIPOC colleagues and students are registered for classes at lower rates – slowing their achievement of their career goals. Our BIPOC community members are also disproportionately more likely to be found in our hospital ICUs and among those under- and unemployed. I struggle to accept the notion that in time we will be back together in our classrooms, gathering in our quads, and walking across our campus. Although as a nurse, I recognize with a tincture of time that a person can improve their healthiness and wellbeing. To improve our situation, we must be intentional and take the time needed to plan so we may do right by our college community as a whole. I appreciate the wise words of the late, great Dr. King, and I welcome my VC community's thoughts and creative solutions to meet the needs of our students and improve our institution in this challenging time.

On Hate and Love

Finally, I had joyfully embarked upon the new year with the dream that 2021 would be a better year, a year of hope, and a year of renewed inspiration. Within a week, my hopes were initially dashed. Thankfully, my research on Dr. King allowed me to stumble upon one more piece of profound wisdom that I intend to keep at the forefront of my actions in 2021, "hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." I commit my work and myself to love – love for my family and love for our students and our campus community – and I ask my colleagues and VC family to do the same. There is light at the end of this long tunnel, and while I cannot alone point you to where it is illuminating, I hope you all will join me in seeking it out this year together.

College events in the near future that I hope you will consider attending include:

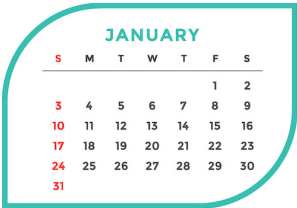
- **Koffee with Kim** on Wednesday, January 27 at 9:00 am
- **Captain's Chat** on Wednesday, February 10. Possible topics to be discussed may include: VC Mission, Vision, and Values; Student Survey results related to Covid, and an update on Being on the SIDE of Antiracism

I close with one more quote from the man celebrated on Monday.

"We cannot walk alone,"

Stay healthy and safe, best wishes, and Happy New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim". The script is fluid and cursive, with the 'K' being particularly large and stylized.



**Koffee with Kim
(one hour)**

Wed, Jan 27 at 9:00 am
Tues, Mar 23 at 3:00 pm
Tues, April 20 at 9:00 am

**Captain’s Chat
(1.5 hours)**

Wed, Feb 10 at 2:00 pm
Thurs, April 1 at 2:00 pm

**Open Executive
Team Meeting
(1.5 hours)**

Mon, Mar 8 at 2:30 pm

Celebration of Successes

End of Year Celebration & Retiree Recognition – Thurs, May 6 at 11:00 am

**Visit
VC News for More Stories**



Download the NEW logo here!



California Community Colleges Board of Governors Honors Colleges with 2020-21 Exemplary Program Awards

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The California Community Colleges Board of Governors has recognized the Sierra College Undocumented Student Center, the Santa Barbara City College wellness center and the Ventura College Faculty Academy Program with its Exemplary Program Award for employing an equity-first approach while transitioning to a virtual environment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The California Community Colleges has been at the forefront of meeting seemingly insurmountable challenges being faced during this deadly pandemic, and we are proud to honor these deserving recipients of the Exemplary Program Award for not letting anything get in the way of serving their students," said Board of Governors President Pamela Haynes.

Sponsored by the Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges, the Exemplary Program Award was established by the Board of Governors in 1991 to recognize outstanding community college programs. The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges selects annual themes, with the theme for the 2020-21 awards being "Equitable Practices in a Virtual Educational Environment."

Sierra College's Undocumented Student (Undocu) Center was recognized for continuing to provide an inclusive and safe educational environment for undocumented students and students of mixed-status families on a virtual platform. UndocuAlly trainings, public charge policy workshops, peer educator scholarships, guest presentations, and the Undocu Student Guide Training collaboration with student services departments were among the highlights.

Santa Barbara City College's wellness center (The WELL) seamlessly transitioned its in-person program to a virtual platform, resulting in approximately 6,000 students finding resources and services on its website from January to October of 2020. The WELL offers holistic health and wellness workshops, skills building, group counseling and related services and has had an interactive virtual presence since January, 2019. The experience proved critical during a transition that ensured students had equitable access to health and wellness education through remote learning.

Ventura College's Faculty Academy Program encourages faculty from different disciplines to discuss pedagogy, promote student engagement in a culturally inclusive manner and address equity gaps. While the transition provided an opportunity to continue a student's educational journey, it also introduced a host of equity and access concerns, misperceptions around students' technology abilities and unique challenges for some student populations. The Faculty Academy allowed participants to engage with these issues and experiment with ways to better serve students online.

Honorable mentions went to College of the Canyons for its noncredit program, which has expanded equitable educational opportunities in an online environment in part by training 65 faculty to teach in a remote fashion over the past two years; and to Oxnard College's Public Safety Department for having one of few college Fire Academy programs able to immediately transition to a hybrid format during the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtually every student in the spring 2020 cohort successfully pass the course and state certification testing.

Faces in The Crowd

VENTURA COLLEGE



Faces in the Crowd - January 2021

Highlighting the amazing Administration, Faculty, Classified Professionals, and Students that make up our pirate family.

This month's highlights include:

Grant Jones, I.T. Director (Administrator), Brandon D'Amico, General Counselor (Faculty), Alan Wood, Instructional Lab Technician for Physics, Engineering, and Geosciences (Classified), Lisa Marie Ruiz (Student)

[Read their Unique Personal Stories on the VC Newsroom](#)







Admissions & Records

The Admissions & Records Office will continue to offer online support through Zoom. Through Zoom you can video chat with an Admissions & Records staff member.

- Video Chat Us | Join the Waiting Room
- Zoom Video Chat Hours
- Monday through Thursday: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Friday: 10:00 am – 12:00pm

VC Pirate chatbot is live for Admissions & Records Office! The chatbot is here to help answer questions in English and in Spanish.

Savannah McMichael has joined the Admissions & Records Office as a Student Services Assistant provisional employee and please also welcome Betzabeth Arteaga Zavala as our new student worker.

We have an AMAZING team ready to answer all of your questions at vcadmissions@vcccd.edu – so when in doubt – please email us or call [805-289-6457](tel:805-289-6457).



Ventura College Celebrates 95 Years

While our celebratory gatherings remain virtual, our campus is dressing up with a fresh set of banners celebrating VC's 95th Anniversary! Funding for this project was approved through the Program Review process. Heartfelt appreciation goes out to:

Kerry Mehle at Moorpark College for printing and sewing these commemorative banners,

Janeene Nagaoka at the District Office for creating the artwork and incorporating some of the historical photos, and

Martin Navarro and his team for managing the installation of these new banners.

Looking forward to these fresh banners welcoming students and employees back to campus later this year!



Science Building HVAC Project Update

The renovation of the HVAC system in the Science building is a complicated project that is resolving many of the heating and cooling challenges within the building. The original timeline for completion has been extended due to COVID-related delays in manufacturing and delivery. Work on the roof will continue through the end of February (weather permitting), and system testing will take place through the end of March. At this time, we anticipate gaining full access to the building shortly after Spring Break.



Online Student Connect Support is Available to Help YOU!

Student Connect will continue to offer video chat support through Zoom.

- Students can Join the Waiting Room from our webpage, link found here: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/5088763555#success> from our webpage
- Zoom Video Chat Hours

Monday through Thursday: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am – 12:00pm

VC Pirate chatbot will be going live soon for Student Connect! The chatbot will be available 24/7 to answer questions in both English and in Spanish and will help us better serve our students.



Library Assistance Spring 2021

Librarians are providing library information and instruction through a variety of ways during Spring 2021. Please contact a librarian if you are interested in scheduling synchronous Zoom library orientations, or if you are interested in learning more about the available information that can be integrated into Canvas. You may also request a librarian to be “embedded” into your Canvas course! A librarian will work with you as a collaborator in your Canvas course, which will allow them to provide library and information literacy support for students directly within your Canvas learning environment. Some examples of this support includes: moderating a discussion board, adding a library module to your course, or offering drop-in Zoom sessions. The librarians will work with you to determine the best ways that they can help to provide the support that your students need. Email vclibrary@vccd.edu for more information.



MESA Program Accepting Applications for STEM Students

The MESA program is accepting applications for any STEM major who is interested in being part of our program. Why join? Our program offers tutoring, academic support, industry networking opportunities, and internship information. Please contact April Montes amontes@vcccd.edu for further information.



SHARING THE VC FOUNDATION'S IMPACT IN 2019-2020

As the year 2020 came to a close (whew!), we wanted to share with you the tremendous impact your support for the Ventura College Foundation had on so many students. The pandemic may have slowed us down now and then, but it didn't stop us from advancing our mission!

From our textbook lending library to the hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded, the Foundation was able to help over 5,000 students with the education they need to be our community's next generation of workers, volunteers, and leaders.

BY THE NUMBERS VC FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION PROGRAM	NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	SUPPORT AMOUNT
VC Promise Programs (1st & 2nd Year Paid)	1,899	\$84,577.50
SCHOLARSHIPS		
Scholarship Students Awarded	427 Scholarships Awarded to 247 students	\$699,971 .00 (The most ever awarded)
TEXTBOOK SUPPORT		
Semester Lending Library	2,448	\$40,000.00
Reserve Library	736	
TOTAL VCF 19/20 PROGRAM SUPPORT	5,330	\$824,548.50

This is just a snapshot of your impact achievements. For a full picture of all the numbers, [click here](#).

We are so thankful for every VC employee donor who contributed to this success!

Deans Council Managers Bridge Gap to Preserve Classified Scholarship

Dean's Council Managers came together to ensure the Classified Scholarship was still available in 2021 when they learned that the scholarship might not be offered due to diminished donations during COVID. The VC Dean Team worked together over the break to come up with approximately \$850 to cover the difference needed to support the scholarship. When the scholarship deficit was shared with the Deans, they could not have responded faster or more generously! "We cannot do what we do at the college without our amazing classified professionals!" and "I donate every year at our auctions - this year we missed that chance. I can't wait to help the scholarship with a donation now that it is needed more than ever!" and "Count me in - any amount to get there, I am in!" were some of the things the team said when they committed to making a donation.

If you would like to donate to the Classified Senate Scholarship, click on the following VC Foundation donation link: <https://venturacollegefoundation.org/donate/>

On the Giving Page "Please Direct My Gift to the Following" Drop Down Menu, please Select "Scholarship*".

In the "*Please Specify Designation" Text Field, please type, "Classified Senate Scholarship".

To set-up a monthly recurring credit card donation or payroll deduction for the Classified Senate Scholarship, please contact the VC Foundation's Development Manager, Julie Harvey at jharvey@vcccd.edu or Ext. 6502.



Financial Aid Update

Happy Holidays from The Financial Aid Office! We are now offering FAFSA/CA Dream Act application assistance through Zoom drop-in hours. Assistance is available on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, and Wednesdays from 10:00am-12:00pm. Check out our Financial Aid website for the link. As of November 25, 2020, Ventura College has disbursed \$1,867,750 in CARES Act Emergency Grants to 2,487 students and an additional \$78,750 in Disaster Relief Emergency Aid to eligible students enrolled in Fall classes. Have questions? Email us at vcfinancialaid@vcccd.edu or call (805) 289-6360.



Diesel Mechanic Program

College and university courses combine hands-on learning with classroom teaching. Our Ventura College Diesel Mechanic Program was recognized in "Service Truck Magazine."

[View Article as a PDF here](#)



Pirate Pop Up Pantry

On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, the Associated Students of Ventura College partnered with the Basic Needs Office for a drive-thru food pantry to celebrate Welcome Back Days. Students received groceries, back-to-school supplies, VC Swag, and a free cheeseburger lunch! The event was held at VC Main Campus from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and at the Ventura College East Campus (VCEC) in Santa Paula from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. These pantry events are open only to VC students.



FYE

Welcome to Spring 2021! The First Year Experience (FYE) Team has an exciting semester ahead for the current cohort of students offering interactive workshops and providing creative ways for students to become familiar with our amazing VC resources. FYE will be outreaching to new incoming students & their support system to help our new students get prepared and excited for college. If you are interested in the FYE Program or have any questions please feel free to contact us at [\(805\) 289-6438](tel:8052896438).



PERFORMING ARTS

A bold operatic and cinematic performance, Angel's Bone by Du Yun premiered on January 3rd! Our latest E-performance was a collaborative effort with VC singers, choir, and orchestra. Also, be sure to watch our weekly blend of live and pre-recorded music, theatre, and dance performances by our talented students on Mondays at Noon via Zoom.

IN THE HEADLINES

Our very own Clayton Guiltner (Theatre Arts professor) was interviewed on Spectrum News1 and shared about the state of the theatre industry during Covid.

[Watch the episode of Hollywood Reimagined: What Does the Future Hold for Entertainment?](#)



Stay Connected & Informed While Working From Home

The [VCCCD Employee Facebook page](#) is a way to connect with your campus and District colleagues. Post a favorite photo of your at-home office buddy or best tips for working at home. It's a great way to stay connected with your colleagues and also a place to share the benefits and challenges of working from home. We are all in this together and sometimes, a little encouragement brings a bright and needed spot to our day. Post something today!



Pirate Treasure

A Pirate Treasure is a way to recognize colleagues and say thank you for outstanding support to our college community. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs to acknowledge your peers.

[More Information on our Website](#)

VCCCD College Students Ride the Bus for Free!

Great news! The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) approved the extension of the College Easy Ride program for another year.

This e-mail has been sent to @, [click here to unsubscribe](#).

Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003

