

Your monthly newsletter from the Executive Team at Ventura College.

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August 2021 Newsletter

President's Message

Dear Pirate Crew,

Ventura College's voyage into the 2021-2022 academic year

Koffee with Kim (one hour)

Tues. Aug. 31 at 9 a.m.

Wed. Oct. 13 at 4 p.m.

Thurs. Nov. 11 at 3 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 26 at 9 a.m.

Tues. Mar. 22 at 3 p.m.

Thurs. Apr. 21 at 9 a.m.

Ventura College's voyage into the 2021-2022 academic year has begun. I continue to be amazed by the ability of our crew to stay on course providing high-quality instruction and services to help students achieve their academic goals. This certainly has not been easy for any of us. Thank you! Thank you for continuing to get up each morning, spending multiple hours on the computer in Zoom meetings and/or classes, reaching out to students who were struggling, providing "high fives" to recognize student successes, and continuing many more acts of kindness and support of our students. You are true champions!

Humans are well equipped to react to brief stints of stress and disorder, not the sustained uncertainty of a pandemic. This has required each of us to dig deep and draw strength by remembering the importance of each of our roles at the college and our impact on student success. I could not be prouder of the work that you, our VC Pirate Crew, have done during the past 17-challenging months. This history makes my next request even harder because I am asking you to continue navigating these challenging circumstances for an indefinite period. Realistically, nobody knows when the pandemic will subside. The ambiguity is infuriating! Regardless, our students deserve our best efforts. Please remember to take care of yourself and lean on your colleagues as we move forward together.

Healthy Return to Campus

Over the summer, the college has been tirelessly working to prepare for a safe return. HVAC systems have been improved upon, buildings/offices have been cleaned, plexiglass partitions have been put in place, protective equipment and supplies have been ordered, additional screening sites opened, and much more. I want to thank the Pirate Crew members who have helped make this happen, especially, Facilities Maintenance and Operations, Student Health Center staff, and Sue Royer. [View this video](#) related to returning safely to campus.

Also, our I.T. crew has worked on campus during the entire pandemic to ensure technology resources for our students and employees are available and functioning properly. Many of our on-campus computers have not been touched in over a year. This required the I.T. crew to update each computer on campus. I greatly appreciate their efforts as I write this message on my computer. Thank you!

On August 10, the VCCCD Board of Trustees voted to mandate vaccinations for all employees and students (Board Policy 3506). Essentially, by October 15, all employees will be required to have verified vaccinations completed or an exception approved from Human Resources. Any individual accessing on-site and in-person instruction and services will also have the same vaccination requirements. I realize many of you may have mixed feelings related to the vaccine mandate. We know that the vaccines are not a panacea due to evidence of breakthrough cases, but vaccinations are proven to reduce COVID symptoms, hospitalizations, and deaths. In my opinion, the mandate is a step in the right direction to keep all of us healthy and safe.

Important VC work

This academic year promises to be busy with important work related to our themes of trust, transparency, celebration of successes, and SIDE (Social Justice, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity). A few notable endeavors include-Cultural Curriculum Audit, working with SIDE Consultants, Facilities Master Planning, and revising our Mission. Please save the dates included in this message.

Although the waters continue to be choppy, I have every confidence our Pirate Crew will be able to excel in our work to better the lives of our students and community. Again, I am pleased to welcome each of you and our students to the 2021-22 academic school year.

Captain's Chat (1.5 hours)

Tues. Oct. 19 at 3 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.

Thurs. Apr. 7 at 2 p.m.

Open Executive Team Meeting (1.5 hours)

Mon. Nov. 8 at 2:30 p.m.

Mon. Mar. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Celebration of Successes

Holiday Gathering

Thurs. Dec. 9 at 11 a.m.

End of Year Celebration & Retiree Recognition

Thurs. May 5 at 11 a.m.

**Visit
VC News
for More
Stories**

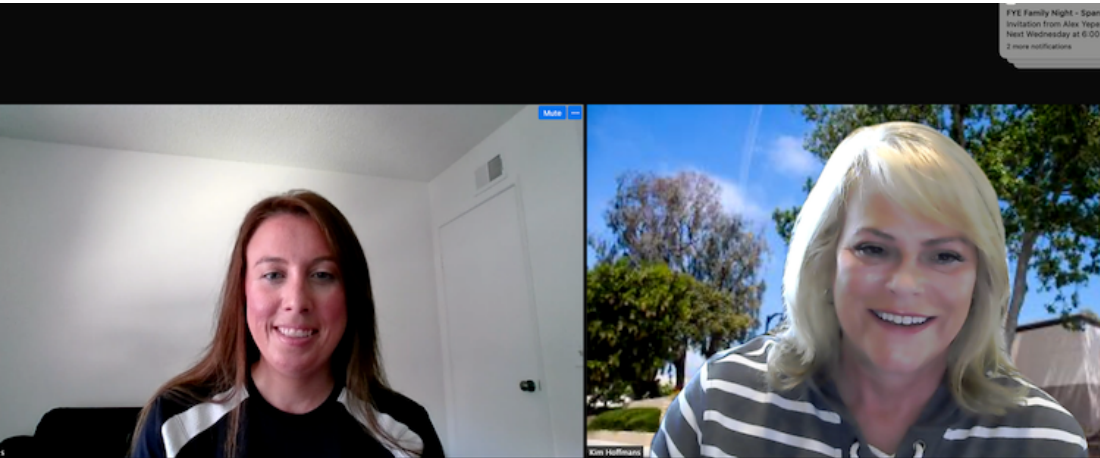


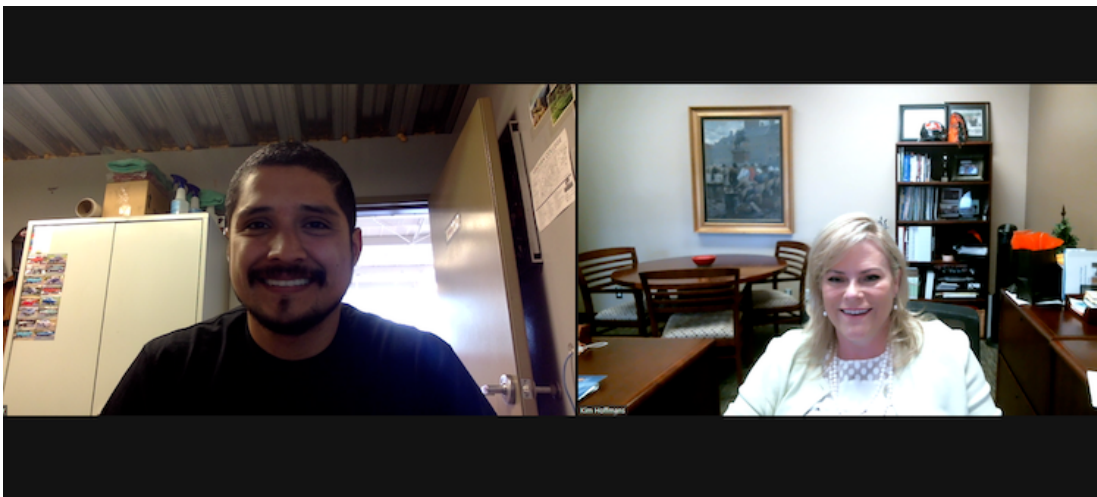
**Download
the NEW
logo here!**

22 academic school year.

Best wishes,

Kim





Pirates Posing with the President

Highlighting new employees, the following Pirates posed with the President are as follows:

Michael Hayden, Admission and Records Technician (top left)

Bryan Salazar Pazmino, Office Assistant, Foster and Kinship Care Education (top right)

Ashley Harris, Accounting Technician

Leslie Piña, Office Assistant, EOPS

Oscar Quintero, Instructional Lab Technician I, Automotive





COVID-19 Health Screening

All Ventura College employees, students, and visitors are required to undergo a COVID-19 screening process before entering any campus facility. Masks must be worn at all screening locations. (CalOSHA Standards 3205, (c)(2)(B))

Watch the video above for screening instructions.

Ventura College Screening Locations and Hours*:

East Parking Lot (Drive-thru)

- Hours as of 8/16/21: M-Th 6 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., F 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Applied Science Center (in front, walk-up)

- Hours as of 8/16/21: M-F 6 a.m. - Noon

Athletic Event Center (in front, walk-up)

- Hours as of 8/16/21: M-F 6 a.m. - Noon

*Hours are subject to change.

You will need to complete the following steps before coming to campus:

- **Step 1:** Download the MyVCCCD mobile app on your smartphone.
 - If you don't have a smartphone, you can complete the Home Health Screening Online.
 - If you don't have an internet device, you can complete the pre-screening self-assessment on-site: Ventura College Home Health Screening
- **Step 2:** You may upload a picture of your vaccination card under "Report Vaccinations". This is an option to verify your vaccination status.
- **Step 3:** Please take the daily At Home Pre-Screening Survey before arriving on campus.
 - You may get a reminder daily to complete the screening, but you only have to perform the screening if you are coming to campus.
- **Step 4:** You will now receive a Health Pass. To find the pass, go to the profile section, click on "Health & Wellness", and then "My Health Pass".
- **Step 5:** Be sure to use your app to scan the QR code posted at every building in which you enter. This will assist with contact tracing if necessary.

If you are **RED**, please stay at home, contact your supervisor and the Student Health Center.

If you are **BLUE** or **GREEN**, you are cleared to come to campus to complete the screening process and receive a wristband indicating that you have been screened.

For more detailed information, [visit the Healthy Return to Campus webpage](#).



Service Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of Academic Senate and Classified Senate Service Awards, announced at All College Day!

Academic Senate

Service to Students: *Rubisela Gamboa*

Service to Faculty: *Colleen Coffey and Kammy Algiers*

Service to College: *Kelly Peinado*

Service to Community: *Dan Walsh*

Senate President Award for Merit: *Sharon Oxford, Ali Olsen-Pacheco, Matthew Moore*

Classified Senate

Service to Students: *Libby Fatta*

Service to College: *Lisa Smith*

Service to Classified Professionals: *Adriana Parsons*

We appreciate everything you do!



Ventura College is offering financial support for students

Ventura College has some amazing financial opportunities in store for students as they navigate their educational journey here at Ventura College. Here are the details:

- \$1,000 for all students affected by COVID with 6+ units enrolled for Fall. Awards will be issued based on a demonstrated need.
- Welcome back to the 805 with \$805! Students that have not attended since 2020 and re-enroll in 6+ units for the Fall semester will be welcomed back to Ventura College with \$805. This award will be prioritized by need, while funding lasts.
- 42% of Fall Classes are ZTC (Zero-Textbook-Cost).
- Students who wish to enroll in a payment plan through the Student Business Office will not need to pay the \$15 payment plan fee.
- Students do not need a parking permit for Fall 2021.
- Students can receive a \$100 Bookstore Voucher to use for anything sold in-store by verifying their vaccination status on the myVCCCD app. Students must have already been verified by Student Health Center which means they have received a "blue" pass in the app. Medically exempt students may receive verification from the Student Health Center to present to the bookstore to receive this voucher. Students may receive the voucher in the Bookstore now through September 2 and redeem it through September 30.

Thank you for spreading the word. If students have any questions, please do not hesitate to refer them to Financial Aid.



Set Sail for Success at Ventura College

Ventura College hosted a Set Sail Saturday on August 7 in the Learning Resource Center where staff and faculty assisted students in completing their registration needs. Students received personalized assistance from representatives in Student Services, Admissions and Records, Counseling, Financial Aid, and Tutoring Services. Thirty students were successful in completing their enrollment needs. Thank you to all staff and faculty who were able to attend and help our students embark on their journey for Fall at Ventura College. For more information on upcoming Set Sail Saturday events please visit www.venturacollege.edu/setsailsaturday or contact us at (805) 289-6420.



Welcome Back Days Fall 2021

To welcome our students back to campus, ASVC will host a two-day event on Monday, August 16 and Tuesday, August 17 at Main Campus from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the Bookstore Quad, MCE/MCW Quad, and MESA Quad and East Campus from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Students are invited to pick up a free meal from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the MCE/MCW Quad at Main Campus and from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at East Campus on both days.

VC staff and Faculty will be manning booths at the various campus locations, greeting students, and answering questions. Students will also receive their #VCPiratePride T-shirts and other Ventura College swag. For more information, please contact Libby Fatta at lfatta@vcccd.edu.



The Veterans Administration New Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) is Now Offered at Ventura College!

Veterans experiencing unemployment due to the COVID pandemic are among some of the hardest-hit populations in our country. The national jobless rate for all veterans increased to 6.5 percent in 2020 and to 7.3 percent for veterans who served in the Gulf War era according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As part of the American Rescue Plan of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package designed to help individuals and businesses recover from the effects of the pandemic, VRRAP was enacted by the VA in March 2021. The goal of VRRAP is to fund quick education and training certificate programs for high-demand jobs for veterans who are unemployed because of COVID.

Specifically, veterans who are between the ages of 22 and 66, who are unemployed due to COVID, are not significantly impacted by disability and have no other VA benefits remaining, may qualify for up to 12 months of paid tuition and fees which also includes a monthly housing allowance.

Ventura College is a VRRAP-approved institution of higher learning who is championing this unique opportunity in Ventura County. "The Ventura College Veterans Resource Center (VRC) is excited to offer 23 certificates of achievement programs that include some of our most popular programs like Automotive Technician, Accounting, Construction Management and the new Veterinary Assistant program," commented Jordana Ybarra-Telias, VRC Program Coordinator.

VRRAP is a rapid training program designed to be completed within 12 months and lead to immediate, gainful employment. "We carefully selected programs we felt could be completed within the tight 12-month timeline and that directly related to high-demand jobs as determined by the Department of Labor," Ybarra-Telias added.

VRRAP is unique because it provides new funding for veterans who have no remaining VA benefits to use for education. "As the VRC Coordinator, it breaks my heart when a veteran comes into our VRC and tells me her GI Bill expired before she was able to use it. Or the father who transferred all his GI Bill benefits to his children, but wasn't able to afford to attend college himself. VRRAP may be able to help those veterans to quick employability."

Under the VRRAP program, the VA pays approved colleges directly for a participating student's tuition and fees on a milestone basis. The college receives VRRAP funding when the student enrolls, when they complete the program and when they secure gainful employment.

"Similar to most VA programs, there are specific eligibility requirements and rules to follow. Our job at the VRC is to explain everything to the student, help them navigate college every step of the way—from their VRRAP application to VRRAP graduation."

"VC offers several VA programs as well as other educational funding resources from Federal, State and local entities," Jordana added. "The VRRAP doesn't cover the cost of textbooks, however, VC has a zero-textbook-cost program and other resources to help with educational expenses."

At the VRC, we work closely with our students to make sure they access all the resources and benefits they are entitled to. The VRC supports all military-related persons seeking higher education and a good job.

For more information about the VRRAP program at VC, contact Jordana Ybarra-Telias at **805 289-6060** or email vcvets@vcccd.edu and say "I'd like to know more about VRRAP".

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY



Do You Have an Interest in Supporting our Brand-New Veterinary Technician Program at VC?

Do you have an interest in supporting our brand-new Veterinary Technician Program at Ventura College? Do you have a friendly pet that loves people and other animals?

The Veterinary Technology program depends on live animals for teaching purposes. The students require dogs, cats, reptiles, pocket pets and birds for use in their lab classes. All animal use will be compliant with the Animal Welfare Act with oversight of Ventura College's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The classes are taught at East Campus, Monday through Thursday and pets would need to be dropped off and picked up at that location.

[View PDF for more information](#)



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](#)

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

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