

Your monthly VC Update. May 13, 2022 | [View in your browser](#)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dear Pirate Crew.*

**Hard to believe** that Ventura College will finally, after two years of drive-thru celebrations, conduct an in-person graduation. I cannot contain my excitement!!! I have dearly missed seeing our students and employees celebrating the successes of our students at graduation.

This virus has changed our lives in countless ways. Although, this has been a challenging time, we have found some positive silver linings which will strengthen the college moving forward: high-quality virtual instruction and services, increased access/participation with HyFlex classes and meetings, improved safety measures (cleaning, sanitization stations, UV HVAC, and more), and increased paperless processes to name a few. Also, Ventura College has demonstrated a "can do attitude," thoughtful planning, resilience, the ability to work collaboratively, and the capacity to be nimble in our response to unsafe environmental conditions. Cheers to us!

This year, I have the good fortune of attending two graduations. First, I attended my son's graduation from medical school. Thank you for allowing me to be a proud mother for a moment. He had multiple points in his journey that could have deflected his path to completion. I admire his determination and I am very thankful his dream has come true. Second, I will attend our **Ventura College ceremony celebrating the graduation of over 2,100 students**. Many of these students may have never taken a class on our campus and in

**2,100 students.** Many of these students may have never taken a class on our campus and in spite of this will graduate and transfer to universities or begin new careers. Our students have overcome barriers and persevered to complete their education during this tumultuous time. Their accomplishments are only possible due to the **dedication of the Ventura College faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and the Ventura College Foundation staff and donors.** Thank you all for being strong role models and being supportive of our students! You pushed through your own fatigue and struggles because of your steadfast dedication to our students and the college mission to place “students at the center of their learning experience, supporting them in achieving their personal, academic, and career goals in an anti-racist, liberating, and inclusive environment.”

As Ventura College began our pandemic journey, our **goal was to maintain continuity of student learning while ensuring the safety and protection of everyone on our campus.** Congratulations, we have successfully navigated these turbulent and uncharted waters. I want to personally **thank each of you again for your contributions in helping us achieve our goals,** maintain operations, and reimagine the educational experience for our students in a transformative way. Our employees are all leaders who truly help keep the Pirate Ship on course as we continue to provide our students with high quality education and services to achieve their dreams.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay strong,

*Rim*



## Ventura College Celebrates Classified Professionals Week!

This is an important time where we get to celebrate our classified professionals who are always working so hard behind the scenes, on the front lines and in the classroom. Our classified staff help so many of our academic staff, administrators, students, and communities and we would be lost without them!

**All Week Long - May 16 - 20** Show your appreciation for fellow classified members and [submit a few words](#) to show them your appreciation. We will be posting this on a special classified professional newsletter for all to see the week of May 23rd. **Submissions are due by Friday, May 20th at 5 p.m. so don't delay on getting in your special shout out!**

**Tuesday, May 17, 8 a.m. - 10: a.m.** Join us for a **Grab and Go Breakfast in Guthrie Hall**. Breakfast and coffee will be provided and we will have opportunities for you to give a video shout out to your fellow classified professionals.

## CREW'S CALENDAR

### MAY EVENTS

5-16 thru 5-20-22 - **Classified Appreciation Week**

5-16-22 Monday - **Nursing Pinning Ceremony** 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center

5-19-22 Thursday - **Graduation Ceremony** 10 a.m. at the VC Sportsplex

5-23-22 Monday - **Pathway to Law School Scholars Celebration** 5:30 p.m. at the Applied Science Center Room 130

5-23-22 Monday - **4 and 6 week Summer Session** begins

### JUNE EVENTS

6-10-22 Friday - **Paramedic Graduation** - 3 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center

6-13-22 Monday - **8 week Summer Session** begins

6-20-22 Monday - **4 and 6 week Summer Session** begins

### JULY EVENTS

7-11-22 Monday - **4 week Summer Session** begins

# POSING WITH THE PRESIDENT

Highlighting new employees, the Pirates who posed with the President are as follows (from left to right, top to bottom):

- **Adrienne Arguijo-Morgan, *HSI STEM Grant Director***
- **Claudia Solorzano, *Financial Aid Specialist***
- **David Casas, *Fiscal Services Supervisor***
- **Jose Delgado, *Financial Aid Specialist***
- **Simanu Faasua, *Office Assistant (Health, Kinesiology, Athletics, and Performing Arts)***
- **Tamishiah Allen, *Office Assistant (Civic Center)***







## FACES IN THE CROWD

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

This month's highlights include: Mia Mosqueda (Student), Sandy Mason (Admin Assistant for Visual Arts, Ethnic Studies, Library, Languages, Social/Behaviorial Sciences), Adrienne Arguijo-Morgan (Grant Director, HSI-STEM), and Dan Clark (Physiology, Anatomy, Biology, and Biotech Professor)

[Read their unique personal stories on the VC Newsroom](#)





# EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



For the first time in almost three years, we get to celebrate our graduating class in person! Our commencement ceremony is THE event of the year and definitely calls for all hands on deck! [Please sign up here](#) to help us make this celebration extra-special for our grads.

**NOTE:** Campus offices will be closed to public services until 1:00 p.m. on May 19 so that we may all lend a hand and congratulate our Class of 2022.

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Helping Students in Need

The VC Basic Needs Office continues to focus on helping students address food insecurity through our Food Pantry and CalFresh Application assistance. In April, VC Basic Needs held two drive-thru events, with each event providing free groceries, essential supplies, and a hot meal to over 150 students. These drive thru pantries have been so essential to helping students, they have been extended through the summer! Our upcoming events will be June 14th, and June 28th. Students can also stop by the Basic Needs Office during regular office hours to pick up a bag of groceries and other supplies. Students eligible for CalFresh can stop by the Basic Needs Office in-person or join one of our weekly Zoom Workshops and receive one-on-one assistance with their CalFresh application. Don't forget! Student must apply annually to maintain their CalFresh eligibility. For office hours and workshop links, [please visit or website.](#)

Over 640 attend Pirate Day!

## Over 640 attend Pirate Days!

Ventura College has welcomed 14 Ventura County High Schools with over 640 incoming Pirates over five Pirate Days this past month. Pirate Days is an opportunity for applied students to get information about our student services, get help preparing their Fall 2022 schedules, receive assistance with financial aid awards and registration. When students left the event, they completed a review of their financial aid package, attended their first counseling workshop, prepared a schedule of classes, made an appointment to come back to register and witnessed the #VCPiratePride at VC. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and it felt great to have students back on campus. Pirate Days will continue during the month of May on a smaller scale for our local continuation and alternative high schools

## Students get ready to SET SAIL!

Set Sail Registration Days were held May 3-6, 2022. This event serves as a one-stop shop for all things "Becoming a Pirate" with both in-person and virtual services available. The event coincides with a county-wide marketing campaign that includes postcards, video, and social media to promote enrollment for Ventura College. During the week, we offered a central spot for students to check-in with student ambassadors serving as triage for the event. The student service areas held extended hours Monday-Thursday of that week.

## VC Dream Resource Center Soft Opening

The VC Dream Resource Center held its soft opening during April. Located in the BCS Building, the center offers resources and assistance to all Dreamer and undocumented students. Representatives from Admissions & Records, Counseling, Financial Aid, and VC East Campus are available throughout the week to assist students. Appointments with UFW Foundation's legal team will also be available in the coming months providing FREE immigration legal services directly to VC students. All consultations are completely confidential, in accordance with California Professional Rules of Conduct for attorneys. Services include: Immigration eligibility consultations, DACA Renewal information, Naturalization, family-based immigration along with other immigration services.

## Campus discussions for Inclusive Student Center

In working with the Executive Team at VC, along with the President, we have begun the conversations on campus as they pertain to the creation of a student space on campus that celebrates cross-culturalism, multiculturalism, diversity, equity, inclusion, and intersectionality. A name for this center has yet to be named by the students, but we have enlisted the assistance of the USC Race and Equity Center to help us facilitate the discussions with the campus to ensure that all voices are heard. The campus has held two campus wide forums facilitated by the Chief Learning Officer of the Race & Equity Center, Jade Agua. The conversations have been rich and the campus is pulling together the ideas from the various constituencies to determine next steps, including our next campus wide discussion. The campus already received resolutions in support of a center from the Academic Senate and ASVC and a permanent location has been included in the proposed Facilities Master Plan.

## New Students get help with Financial Aid

During the month of April, Financial Aid participated in VC Pirate Days helping hundreds of high school seniors prepare for starting college in the Fall. Students from 13 local high schools visited the Financial Aid Office and were able to confirm that their financial aid is properly set up and ready for disbursement in the Fall. We also continue to award HEERF Grants to students enrolled in 6 units or more. As of April 8, 2022, Ventura College has disbursed a grand total of \$11,759,979 to 7,339 students. The Ventura College Student Emergency Grant (VCSEG) is also available to VC students who are facing a temporary financial hardship because of an emergency or crisis situation. For more information about any of our student grants, [please visit our webpage.](#)



## Students invited to De-Stress

May 10, 11 and 12, the ASVC held several De-Stress for Success events including 2 mindfulness workshops, a drive-thru food pantry with free lunch and VC swag, plus an arts and crafts area featuring a tie dye station on the Guthrie lawn. The De-stress events were planned to help students reduce academic anxiety, improve focus and relax during finals week.





## Over 300 attend Career Fair & Job Expo

The VC Career Center hosted their first in-person Career Fair & Job Expo in over 3 years in the Bookstore Quad. This year's Fair & Expo was attended by over 300 students and 150 high school students and community members looking to fill one of over 500 positions available in the region. The Career Team hosted a number of workshops prior to the Fair including "Prepshops", resume workshops, and "Meet the Employers" where employers were in attendance to discuss their opportunities more in depth.

This year's event was supported by a number of faculty champions and campus staff who encouraged their students to attend. Ventura County has a number of employers who look to our campus to fill roles that are vital to our community such as manufacturing, healthcare, and social service organizations. The Career Center staff is excited to welcome employers to campus monthly when the Fall 2022 semester begins.



# NEWS & INFORMATION

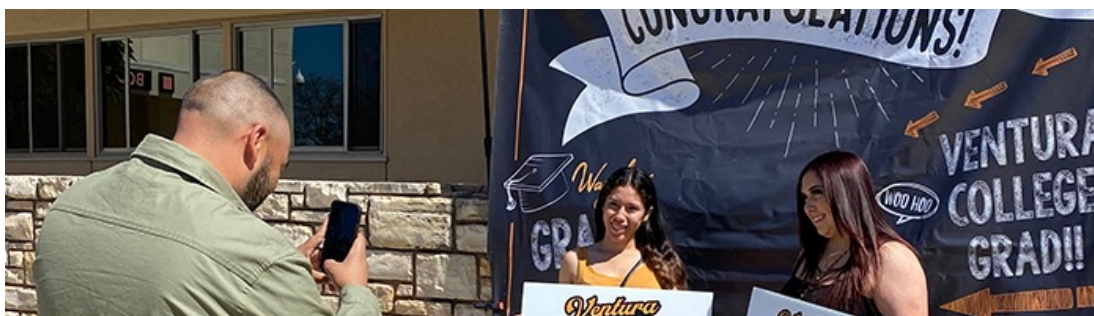
## Cafeteria Grand Re-opening!

Over 100 students, staff, faculty, and administrators joined the Associated Students of Ventura College and celebrated the Ventura College Cafeteria Grand-Reopening on Tuesday, April 19, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Guests of the event participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and received a free chicken lettuce wrap, and chance to win a succulent plant. The cafeteria will remain open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and closed on Fridays for the rest of the Spring semester; and will close over the Summer and reopen in Fall 2022.



## Grads get ready!

Graduates were able to pick up a 2022 graduation lawn sign, purchase graduation regalia (caps, gowns, and tassels), and ask questions regarding our graduation celebration activities at the Grad Fair on Tuesday, April 12. There are over two-thousand 2022 VC Graduates, and we look forward to celebrating them this May 19 at the Commencement Ceremony. Graduates who may have missed the grad fair are welcome to stop by the Student Activities Office Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm or Friday 8:00 am-12:00 pm to pick up a 2022 graduation lawn sign.





## Student Election Results

In April, three Ventura College students were elected to serve for our VC Associated Student government. Their new positions begin June 1. [Learn more about the student candidates below!](#)

- ASVC President: Jessica Janett Flores Esquibel
- ASVC Director of External Affairs: Robert Williams
- ASVC Director of Public Relations: Martha Garcia

## Earth Day at VC

ASVC and the Earth Day planning group celebrated Earth Day on April 20 at the ASC Quad by planting in the campus garden and participating in a campus clean-up. Participants received a free breakfast burrito and reusable water bottle. Several local organizations provided information on sustainability, and over 60 students, staff, faculty, and administrators volunteered at the event that day.



## VC Architecture students compete!

Ventura College Architecture Students competed in Cal Poly's 47th annual Design Village competition bringing home an Honorable Mention award for "Best Design Thinking." The three-day event took place over Earth Day weekend, April 22, 23 and 24, in the hills adjacent to the Cal Poly SLO campus (Poly Canyon). The landscape is converted into a temporary city of unique, student-built shelters. Entrants bring designs that must be reconstructed in 12-hours or less, use off-the-grid electricity and provide shelter to the team for three days and two nights.

Hosted by Cal Poly's College of Architecture & Environmental Design, this year's theme was "Eternal," lasting or existing forever, without end or beginning.

The team would like to express thanks to the Associated Students of Ventura College, Marc Whitman Architects, and The American Institute of Architects Ventura County for their support.

The Ventura College team members were Charlotte Doolittle, Paul Battier-Staeheli, JJ Lowe, Jasmine Vargas, Anna Wang, Micah Seeing and Amberlee Palma. Faculty advisors were Curtis Cormane and Ralph Fernandez.



## Distance Education Summit hosted at VC

The Districtwide Distance Education Summit was hosted at Ventura College on April 26, 2022. The format was HyFlex which means that attendees were able to participate either online or in person. Over 165 people from all over the district registered for this sold out event, with a third

of them attending in person. The keynote speaker was Maritez Apigo – a Professor of English and DE/OER Coordinator from Contra Costa College – and the sessions ranged from ‘Lessons Learned from Teaching HyFlex’ to ‘Using Padlet in the Classroom’ to ‘Guidelines and Tips for Deploying Accreditation-Ready Online Classes’. It was a perfect Ventura day for outdoor dining and fun games were provided by the ASVC. Recordings of all the sessions will be made available via the SharePoint in the near future.



## Modified Bookstore Hours

The Bookstore will have reduced business hours during the summer sessions. For the first week of each session (week of May 23, week of June 13, and week of July 11), the bookstore will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 a.m.

All other weeks during the summer, their hours will be:

- Monday and Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday and Thursday - 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

## Thank you for your service!

On May 5th, we celebrated the end of the academic year and recognized our VC Retirees. The event was HyFlex, with an in person celebration in Guthrie Hall and approximately 25 employees attending via Zoom. We recognized and thanked the following employees for their service to the college:

- Amy Madsen ~ 30 Years of Service
- Barbara Arriaga ~ 5 Years of Service

- Dan Kumpf ~ 10 Years of Service
- Eva Martin ~ 25 Years of Service
- Greg Gillespie ~ 9 Years of Service
- Jeanine Day ~ 10 Years of Service
- Kelly Wellman ~ 7 Years of Service
- Laura Brower ~ 23 Years of Service
- Lydia Cosentino ~ 33 Years of Service
- Lydia Morales ~ 31 Years of Service
- Mark Pauley ~ 37 Years of Service
- Michael Bowen ~ 31 Years of Service
- Nancy Fredrickson ~ 23 Years of Service
- Robert Lawson ~ 21 Years of Service
- Tricia Bergman ~ 9 Years of Service
- William Hendricks ~ 32 Years of Service



The VC Veterans Center celebrated their graduates with a special end-of-year banquet which was held in the newly revamped cafeteria. Veterans dined on yummy food and were awarded their graduation stoles. Congratulations to all of our Veteran Graduates!

their graduation stories. Congratulations to all of our veteran graduates!



Associated Students of Ventura College had their end of year celebration on May 13. It was a wonderful way to conclude the academic year.

## VC FOUNDATION

### **\$192,556 Awarded to Vet Tech Program**

The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) awarded \$192,556 to the Ventura College Foundation to help support Ventura College's Veterinary Technology Program. The two-year vet program is a partnership between the Ohana Pet Hospital and the college that began in 2021 and takes place adjacent to Ventura College's East Campus in Santa Paula.

The VCCF conducted an Animal Welfare Needs Assessment for Ventura County. This assessment showed, among other things, the need for more veterinarian professionals including qualified vet technicians in Ventura County.

Over \$125,000 of the grant will go towards the purchase of veterinary technical equipment for the teaching lab. Another \$66,000 will help pay for two part-time instructional assistants for an academic year.

New equipment includes a digital x-ray machine, a surgery table, surgery lights, and an anesthesia machine--all delivered in time for the fall semester.





## Thank you Pirate Community!

Thank you VC Pirate community, who came together during our VC Pirates Provide 24 Hours of Giving on March 23-24th, to remove financial barriers and support student success!

Over 70 donors came together to generously donate \$31,944 for our Inaugural Giving Day! These funds go directly to Ventura College programs and Ventura College Foundation initiatives that help students succeed in their higher education endeavors!

You can still join in and support student success with a [gift today by clicking here](#) or [learning more here](#) about giving on an ongoing basis through our Giving Every Month (GEM) Society.

Ventura College and its students are a source of inspiration, a symbol of our community's strength, and a driver of economic development in our region. Your support provides the "margin of excellence" that makes this possible. Thank you again for your commitment to our students, Ventura College, and our mission.

INAUGURAL GIVING DAY  
**VC PIRATES PROVIDE**  
24 HOURS OF GIVING

**Thank You!**

**TOTAL RAISED**  
**\$31,944**

VenturaCollegeFoundation.org/day-of-giving/

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ventura College is happy to bring Professional Development opportunities to staff, faculty, and administration to help develop new skills and stay up to date on current trends that are always evolving within our campus community. Upcoming event information can be found in the VC CANVAS Classified Professional Development Corner, SharePoint, and the Master Calendar. For On-Going PD specific information, please email contact person listed. Please visit us at [Professional Development | Ventura College](#) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

- **August 10** - Flex Day
- **August 11** - All Campus Day
- **Fall 2022** - [CCAR](#) (Cultural Curriculum Audit and Revision) - For more information please contact [Heather Aguilar](#) or [Jenna Garcia](#)

## Past Events and Recordings

- Spring 2022 - [Diversity in Culture Festival](#)
- Spring 2022 - [Distance Education Summit](#)

## Where to find Professional Development Information

[VC Classified Professional Development Corner](#)

[VC Professional Development Coordinating Council SharePoint](#)

[Professional Development | Ventura College](#)



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](#).

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