

Your monthly VC Update. **March 11, 2022** | [View in your browser](#)



Koffee with Kim (1 hr)

Tues. Mar. 22 at p.m.

Thurs. Apr. 21 at 9 a.m.

**End of Year Celebration &
Retiree Recognition**

Thurs. May 5 at 11 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Pirate Crew.

Spring is in the air with the promise of sunshine and warmer weather on its way. As I walk the campus, I smile at seeing several students wandering around, chatting with friends, and sitting at picnic tables. March means VC is in the middle of our semester with Spring Break only a couple of weeks away. Springtime and hope are connected for me as flowers start to bloom, so do my spirits.

Recently, Ventura College has been recognized for many positive accomplishments offering hope for continued successes and demonstrating our college's excellence in instruction and services.

- Top-10 Finalist for the [Bellwether Award](#)
- Top-150 Community Colleges in the Nation with the [Aspen Prize](#)
- Recipient of a **\$5 million Title III, HSI, STEM Grant**
- Recognized as **#37 in total Latinx enrollments and #27 for Total Latinx Associate Degrees granted** for 2-year colleges by [Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine](#).
- Recommended by the California Department of Finance for over **\$62 million to pay for construction of student housing** on campus. Associated article in [EdSource](#).

During my short 20-minute commute to work, I often listen to audio books. Currently, I am listening to Atlas of the Heart by Brené Brown, author, researcher, and scholar. She says, "Hope is a function of struggle... forged when our goals, pathways, and agency are tested and when change is actually possible."

The path for achieving the above recognitions has not been smooth sailing. Often the seas are turbulent which can blow the Pirate Ship off course. One of the strengths of Ventura College is a steadfast focus on our goal of providing high-quality and affordable education to transform students' lives. I believe in the "agency" or ability of VC employees and have every confidence together we can overcome struggles to create the necessary coordinates to success.

Although we have accomplished much this year, there is still much more needed to ensure student success, such as assisting our students with basic needs (food and housing insecurity), academic success (completion and retention), fiscal support (financial aid and scholarships), mental health, and an inclusive-welcoming-antiracist learning environment.

March is, also, the month VC celebrates Women's History and Cesar Chavez.

Women's History Month

The first Women's History Day was in 1909 in New York City to celebrate the end of garment factories where women worked in poor conditions for 16 hours a day. In 1987 women

factories abuse or teenage girls working in poor conditions for 12-hour days. In 1987, women activists lobbied for Congress to declare March as Women's History Month. Although women were celebrated annually, they were not given the right to vote until 1920. Native Americans, Black women, Asian Americans, and Latinx women were excluded from the basic right of voting until 1965, when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act eliminating discriminatory practices like literacy tests. Please join me in celebrating the history, contributions, and struggles women have overcome to contribute to society. **Women's Leadership Panel on March 23rd, 2022, at noon via [Zoom](#).**

Cesar Chavez Day (March 31)

Mexican American labor and civil rights leader, Cesar Chavez, was a steadfast advocate for improving working conditions for struggling farm workers. Experiencing firsthand the struggles with poverty, poor working conditions, and hunger, Chavez championed the formation of a farm workers' union, National Farm Worker Association (NFWA). His protests were nonviolent (hunger strikes and marches) aimed to support farm workers and their right to unionize. Posthumously, Chavez was awarded the United States highest civilian honor- the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton.

"I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally non-violent struggle for justice" – Cesar Chavez

Modern Think Employee Survey

Lastly, I wanted to inform you about a survey from "[Modern Think](#)" that will be emailed to all VCCCD employees on March 14th. If you recall, this will be the second time this survey has been distributed to employees. The first time occurred in spring 2018. The earlier survey results revealed much room for improvement as Ventura College in many areas lagged our sister colleges. Below were the top 10 positive and top ten negative responses. My hope is this follow-up survey will show the improvements we have intentionally addressed in the areas of trust, transparency, and celebration of successes. Thank you in advance for providing your feedback.

VENTURA COLLEGE

SET YOUR COURSE

Data Tables

Top 10 Most Positive Responses

Question	Positive	Neutral	Negative
I understand how my job contributes to this institution's mission.	88%	7%	5%
I am given the responsibility and freedom to do my job.	82%	13%	5%
I have a good relationship with my supervisor/department chair.	79%	13%	8%
My job makes good use of my skills and abilities.	77%	18%	5%
Overall, my department is a good place to work.	75%	18%	7%
I am proud to be part of this institution.	72%	22%	7%
My supervisor/department chair is consistent and fair.	72%	13%	16%
My supervisor/department chair supports my efforts to balance my work and personal life.	71%	17%	11%
At this institution, people are supportive of their colleagues regardless of their heritage or background.	68%	19%	13%
My supervisor/department chair makes his/her expectations clear.	67%	20%	13%

Top 10 Most Negative Responses

Question	Positive	Neutral	Negative
District leadership shows a genuine interest in the well-being of faculty, administration and staff.	30%	26%	44%
There's a sense that we're all on the same team at this institution.	25%	33%	43%
I am paid fairly for my work.	39%	19%	42%
Our recognition and awards programs are meaningful to me.	30%	29%	41%

My department has adequate faculty/staff to achieve our goals.	39%	21%	40%
Promotions in my department are based on a person's ability.	35%	26%	39%
District leadership communicates openly about important matters.	32%	30%	38%
At this institution, we discuss and debate issues respectfully to get better results.	28%	35%	37%
This institution's culture is special - something you don't find just anywhere.	33%	30%	37%
Senior leadership provides a clear direction for this institution's future.	33%	29%	37%

Hope is when we have realistic goals, have a clear pathway, “know how to get there,” and have agency “believe in ourselves”- Brené Brown

Ventura College has all of the above! We got this!!!!

Stay healthy, safe, and hopeful,

Rm



**The Ventura College Classified Senate is proud to share that
Jessie Llamas has been nominated and selected as
VC's Classified Employee of the Year!!!**

From left to right: VC Classified Employee of the Year, Jessie Llamas, Athletic Equipment Manager,
Kim Hoffmans, VC President, and Dan Clark, Academic Senate President

FACES IN THE CROWD

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

This month's highlights include:

Ariana Cheng (Student), Janeene Nagaoka (Marketing, Communications and Web Design Coordinator), Susan Royer (College Services Supervisor), Mea Brink (Accounting Professor)

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





POSING WITH THE PRESIDENT



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

Samuel (Sam) Martinez, *Plumber*, **Charlene Paragas**, *Nursing Instructor*, and **Vanessa Stotler**, *Director of Marketing and Outreach*.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

VC Outreach Team Keeping Busy

The Outreach team continues to be busy, with 14 in-person application and articulation workshops. In the month of February two of those events happened at Nordhoff High School (49 students), and Ventura High School (61 students); where we assisted with applications, portal, and orientation. Two additional workshops were planned at Oxnard High School and Fillmore High School where we anticipated helping another 400+ students. As of January 1st, 2022; 301 local high school students have submitted their applications to Ventura College. Our goal is to follow up to ensure they complete further steps and get them connected to the services they need here at VC. **Go, Pirates, Go!**

MESA Connecting with Students



The month of February was eventful for MESA! We had 17 students tour Cal Poly SLO Engineering labs and learn about the different opportunities and disciplines the university has to offer. The MESA program staff supported our Welcome Days and connected with a new student who is interested in joining MESA. Thank you to Professor Nell Papavasiliou for inviting MESA to her Intro to Engineering class and sharing how students can join our program. MESA enjoys collaborating with many areas on campus. This month we are working with ASVC, Outreach, EOPS, and our Local SHPE Ventura County Chapter.

Saturday, February 26 MESA, VC SACNAS, and VC SHPE hosted a Resume Workshop to prepare students for our Regional Leadership Conference for STEM students. I want to acknowledge our MESA students who applied to several internships programs and the VC foundation scholarship. Our students applied to NREIR Pipeline, Quantum Foundry, Keck

Foundation scholarship. Our students applied to NREIF, Pipeline, Quantum Foundry, Reck Graduate Institute, UC Berkely Transfer to Excellence, USC SURE, Stanford REU, Auburn REU, and many others.

Welcome Center News

The Welcome Center is busy assisting students via phone, email and zoom with the new MyVCCCD portal. We're also excited to be participate in the Cash for College and Welcome Back events, they've been a great way to reconnect with our Pirate community. Be on the lookout for new branding, we're working with our fantastic new Marketing team to develop a logo for The Compass Welcome Center.

FYE Supporting Future Pirates!



FYE is busy with both in-reach and outreach activities. The current cohort is working on their priority registration requirements of submitting a 100-word reflection of their experience speaking with one of their professors as well as completing their Comprehensive Education Plan with an Academic Counselor. On another note, FYE has been busy visiting future Pirates at our local high schools, getting them excited about college and promoting the First Year Experience program. FYE wants to reassure our future Pirates that Ventura College is here to support them as well as provide them a warm welcome and space when they arrive! Plans are underway for an exciting Family Night and Summer Extended Orientation. Stay tuned!





In the coming weeks, hundreds of high school students will be coming to the VC campus for Pirate Days. This is an opportunity for potential students to get information about our student services, get help preparing their Fall 2022 schedules, receive assistance with financial aid awards and registration. So, if you see these Potential Pirates around campus, give them a smile and put your best Pirate Foot (or peg-leg) forward! **Events take place on Thursdays, March 24, April 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 9am to 1pm. Don't forget your college spirit-wear!**

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



Ventura College and Oxnard College are collaborating once again for the 2022 Diversity in Culture festival. Here are some of the upcoming events that are scheduled.

- March 1, 2, 8, and 9, 2022 - Virtual Poetry Writing Workshops
- March 16, 2022 - Live Poetry Slam at the OC Performing Arts Center 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- April 11, 2022 - On-Campus and Virtual Events at Oxnard College 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- April 12, 2022 - Moorpark College - Multicultural Day, On-Campus and Virtual Events
- April 13, 2022 - Ventura College Virtual Events and Speakers 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- April 14, 2022- On-Campus and Virtual Events at Ventura College 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Visit our website for more information!](#)





**Live Outdoor Music at VC Performing Arts Lawn!
Saturday, March 12 at 2:30 p.m.**

The VC Chamber Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra (Ashley Walters, conductor) will leap into springtime with "Music in the Air." Bring your favorite chair and join us!

Tickets: \$15 General (\$5 Student, Staff, Senior).

[Find out more!](#)

NEWS & INFORMATION

Congratulations Jessie Llamas!

The Ventura College Classified Senate is proud to share that Jessie Llamas (VC Athletic Equipment Manager) has been nominated and selected as VC's Classified Employee of the Year!!!

Congratulations Jessie and thank you to all those who submitted a nomination!

We had five Classified Professional Nominees to consider:

- Carol Smith
- Sheena Billock
- Jordan Goebel
- Danielle Rodriguez
- Jessie Llamas

The VC Selection Committee members were:

- Sebastian Szczebiot
- Erin Askar
- Noelle Neal

DAC selection committee from Ventura College representatives:

- April Montes
- Joe Esquivel

Two Books Edited by VC Librarians Released

The first two works in a series edited by Ventura College Librarians Kaela Casey and Janet Pinkley have recently been released:

[The Community College Library: Reference and Instruction](#) and [The Community College Library: Assessment](#)

Kaela and Janet recognized that community college librarians were engaged in meaningful work designing and delivering library programs and services that meet the needs of their diverse populations and support student learning, but were not necessarily represented in professional literature. The Community College Library series is meant to lift the voices of community college librarians and highlight their creativity, tenacity, and commitment to students.

These books demonstrate the innovative and replicable ways community college librarians are meeting the information and research needs of their college population both in person and remotely, all while providing a safe, inclusive space for students to explore and learn.

Congratulations Kaela and Janet!



Congratulations Tenured Faculty!

At the February 21, 2022 board meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to grant tenure to the following faculty members at Ventura College. Warmest congratulations on your achievement!

- Mariana Branda-Gherardi, Sociology
- Dorothy Farias, Agriculture
- Carlos Hurtado, Mathematics

- Linda Kennedy, Library
- Jennifer Ranchez, Nursing
- Gabriela Wood, Biology



Did you know that we have a Ventura College Photo & Media Gallery? Photos from events and campus life are added monthly. You can download photos and share them. This is a great resource for updating your web pages. Check back periodically for updates and additions! You can also find official college logos and branding here as well. [**TAKE A LOOK RIGHT NOW!**](#)

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.

Upcoming Events

- **March 16** - Staff Poetry Slam, Diversity in Culture Festival [**MORE INFO HERE!**](#)
- **March 16** - Equitable Recovery In Action: Becoming Antiracist, Student Ready Institutions - 6 Part Series begins, Chancellor's Office Webinar Series. [**Register for the Zoom event here!**](#)
- **March 18** - Supporting LGBTQ+ Students - Allyship Training. [**Register for the Zoom event here!**](#)
- **March 21** - CCAR (Cultural Curriculum Audit and Revision) Pre-Start Orientation Week Kick-Off
- **April 4** - May 6 CCAR (Cultural Curriculum Audit and Revision)
- **April 13** - Presentation from Dolores Huerta, President and Founder, Dolores Huerta Foundation. Diversity in Culture Festival. [**Register for the Zoom event here!**](#)
- **April 13** - The Hope U Give: Problematicizing, Visibilizing, Reframing, Reimagining as Community College PRAXISioners - Dr. G.T. Reyes
- **April 26** - Beyond Lectures: Synchronous Student-to-Student Interaction - D.E. Summit
- **April 26** - Lessons Learned from Teaching in a Hyflex Environment - D.E. Summit

On-Going

• Cultural Curriculum Audit and Revision – CCAR (Contact [Heather Aquilar](#) or [Jenna](#))



Have a great photo that highlights campus life? Send us your photos and we may feature them in next month's Message in a Bottle! [SUBMIT HERE](#) and mention "Message in a Bottle" for the event. You must ask student permission if you are including students in your photos, so be sure and ask before you snap.

YOU

ARE A

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](#).

Follow us



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