

# LINK

VICTOR  
VALLEY  
COLLEGE

A VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION PUBLICATION | FALL 2014

## RAMP UP New Technology

VVC RECEIVES \$15 MILLION GRANT FROM  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Mobile Apps

MOBILE APPLICATIONS SHINE A NEW LIGHT  
ON COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS



## FOUNDATION LINK

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**HERITAGE**  
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## We are Proud to Welcome our Newest Pediatrician, **Gunjeet Kala Ahluwalia, M.D.**



**D**r. Gunjeet Kala Ahluwalia is a pediatrician specializing in Primary Care and Nephrology.

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- Residency:  
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Dr. Ahluwalia is the newest of many great choices in Pediatric Medicine at Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group.

Dr. Ahluwalia will be located in Victorville at 12408 Hesperia Rd, Suite 2.



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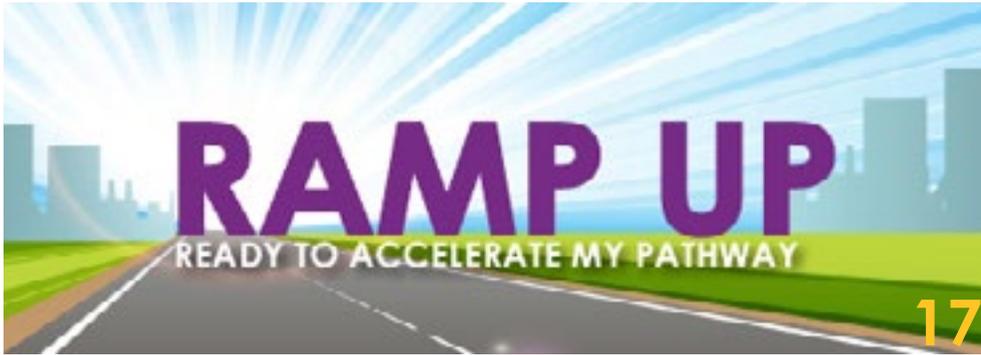
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# Content FALL 2014



## RAMP UP

VVC receives \$15 million grant to provide state of the art classrooms across the Victor Valley.

## at VVC I LEARNED



I learned about the cooperative education program for students giving them the opportunity to earn credits while working.

**Kirsten Dickinson**  
Major: Nursing

## QUICK LINK

### 05 TECHNOLOGY AND THE 21ST CENTURY

See how you can become a part of the information age with VVC's CIS department.

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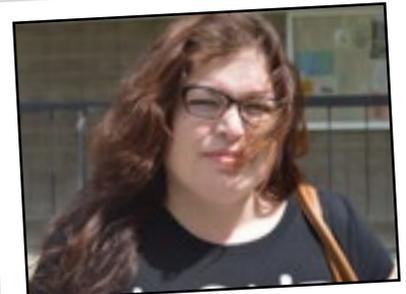
Outlook on jobs for career ladders and the Victor Valley College programs that prepare graduates to get them.

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I learned how to communicate non-verbally and to get out of your comfort zone while taking public speaking.

**Algot Stephenson**  
Major: Liberal Arts



I learned the history of dance including how to salsa.

**Karina Guerrero**  
Major: Business Administration



The LINK is a publication of the  
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## at VVC I LEARNED



I strengthened my communication skills while taking psychology that I apply at home and at school.

**Samantha Paterson**  
Major: Nursing

# Information technology

The 21st century is often called the "Information Age" much like the 19th century was called the "Industrial Age". Job growth in Information Technology (IT) is expected to increase by 22% through 2020 leading it to be one of the fastest growing fields. Data management, business analytics, and mobile solution development in the IT work environment are universal issues addressed daily by IT professionals. Most challenges in IT are centered on data, database design, data management, and software programming development. The continuing and projected need for workers with the necessary skill sets presents a great challenge and opportunity for IT education to "fill the gap".

The CIS department at Victor Valley College offers a wide breadth of courses that prepare students for the job and education challenges of the 21st century. The department provides courses in computer literacy, programming, networking, and web design. All of these courses are geared for preparing students to become successful for exciting jobs in the IT industry as well as transferring to 4 year university programs.

The IT industry is looking for job candidates that can demonstrate competency not only with experience, but with certification as well. CIS courses prepare students for competency certificates such as the Linux Professional Institute Certification (LPIC). The CIS faculty have years of experience in the information technology industry and many are still in the industry to keep current with the trends. This semester one

course (C++ programming) will be used to pilot an exciting new digital badge program.

Digital badges are an assessment and credentialing mechanism that is housed and managed online.

Badges are designed to make visible and validate learning in both formal and informal settings, and hold the potential to help transform where and how learning is valued.

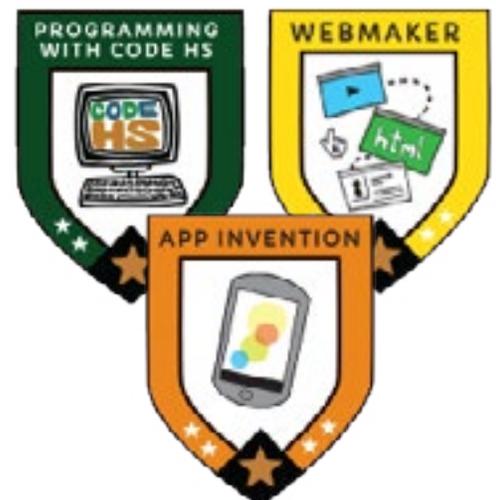
Badges are a new system that recognizes the learning that happens anywhere and shares it in the places that matter to the industry. The badge for successful completion of the C++ programming course will be in the student's digital backpack which will be stored on Mozilla's open badges cloud service. This will be an exciting project to watch unfold and the faculty in the CIS department are confident it will be a great help to students as they launch out into an exciting and rewarding job market. More about digital badges can be found at <http://www.openbadges.org>.

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For more information on how you can be a part of this exciting new era of information technology visit VVC's CIS department at:

**[cis.vvc.edu](http://cis.vvc.edu)**



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# Robotics - the wave of the future

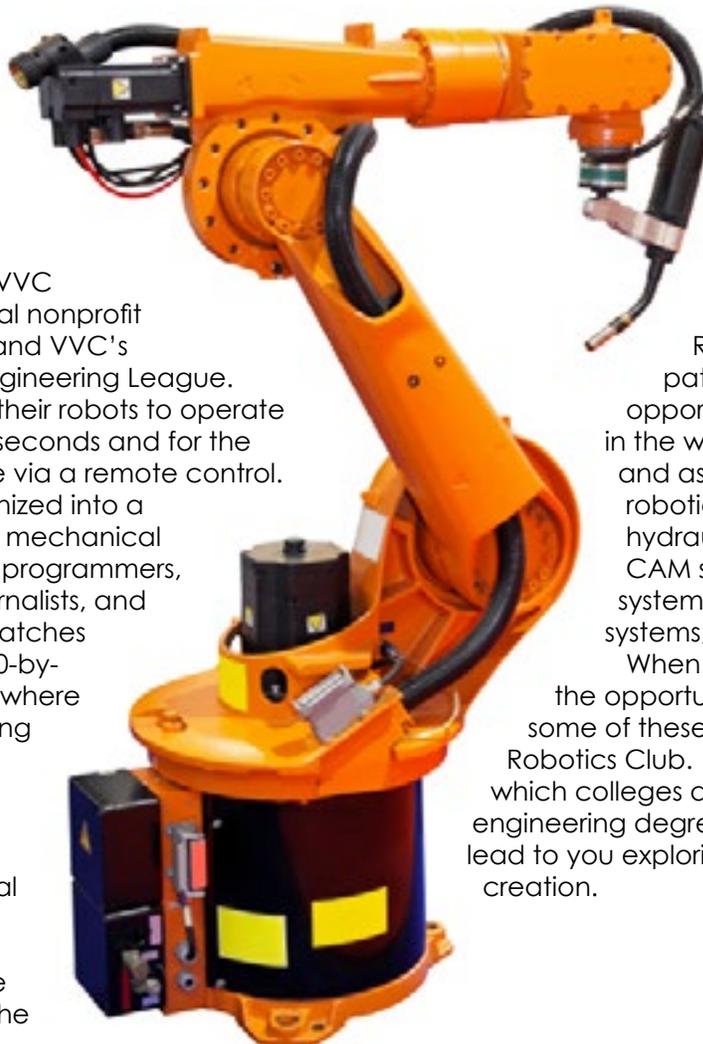
If you have ever watched the “Transformers” cartoon series or movies you have seen the wonders of human imagination in robot form. Interestingly, we use this creativity to demonstrate the potential pitfalls of creating such a sophisticated system. Many TV shows and movies portray robots and humans often battling each other. While this is, at present, fantasy, in real life robots play a more helpful role. Robots accomplish tasks that can be dangerous for humans, therefore, instead of battling humans they are protecting us. For example, robots can be programmed to defuse landmines in war-stricken countries, dismantling bombs, or detecting weapons for national security; others work in harsh environments not suitable for humans like the bottom of the ocean or the planet Mars. These complex systems enhance and expand upon human capability and at the heart of every robot is a robotics engineer. These engineers solve problems of human limitations by creating robotic systems that require combing multiple disciplines to design and put together the perfect piece of equipment (Science Buddies, n.d.).

What does exploring Mars or deep sea caves with robots have to do with VVC? These engineers are building them right in your backyard. Earlier this year, twenty four high school students from all over Southern California attended a Robotics Competition held at VVC sponsored by the local nonprofit Millionaire Mind Kids and VVC's Robotics Electrical Engineering League. Teams programmed their robots to operate autonomously for 30 seconds and for the remainder of the time via a remote control. Each team was organized into a variety of categories, mechanical engineers, computer programmers, designers, drivers, journalists, and programmers. The matches took place inside a 10-by-10-foot boxed arena where four robots representing two teams of alliances go head-to-head. Winning teams headed to Los Angeles for a Regional Championship Competition and those who took home first prize headed to the

World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri.

So are you thinking this sounds pretty cool? Well if you haven't heard, engineering jobs are in high demand and if you have the desire to create this is the field for you! As a robotics engineer, you could:

- Invent the next future of robotics toys
- Build cool animatronic equipment and special effects for amusement parks and the entertainment industry
- Increase manufacturing capacity by creating specialized robots for each automatable task
- Design robots to explore where humans cannot, like the depths of the ocean or faraway planets



Most entry-level positions in robotics engineering require a bachelor's degree in engineering or a related field such as mechanics, manufacturing, electronic or industrial engineering disciplines. If building the next Mars Rover excites you, Victor Valley College has the right courses and a robust Robotics Club to set you on your path. This is a hands on learning opportunity that will immerse you in the world of creating, designing, and assembling robots. Typically, robotics courses include training in hydraulics and pneumatics, CADD/CAM systems, numerically controlled systems, microprocessors, integrated systems, and logic.

When it comes to building robots, the opportunities are endless. To discover some of these opportunities, join the VVC Robotics Club. From there, you can explore which colleges and universities offer robotics engineering degrees which could eventually lead to you exploring Mars with your very own creation.



*Alumni are  
hiding everywhere!*

**Help us find ours!**

# **GREAT ALUMNI HUNT**

This fall, 20 teams of Alumni Hunters led by VVC Interns will compete in **the greatest hunt for Alumni of all time** (at least in the Victor Valley). Winning teams will secure **the most amazing scholarships for their interns ever offered** (this is our first time). Join us for a rewarding and fun experience, learning first hand about the impact your community college has had on the lives of its Alumni!

## **Team Captains Wanted!**

As a team captain, you will enjoy:

- networking - meet new people
- promotion / advertising
- limited time commitment - 1 month, 2 days per week (if you work really fast)
- support from a VVC student intern
- fun, fun, fun!!

To join the hunt contact  
Victor Valley College Foundation  
at 760.245.4271 ext. 2522

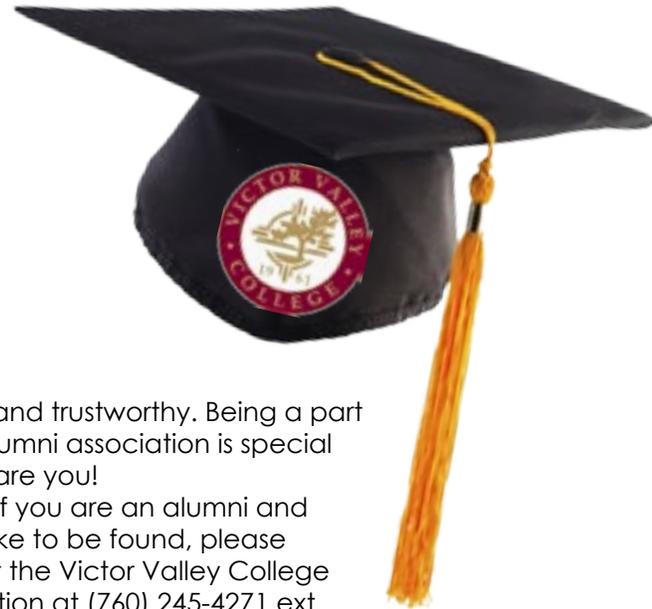
or visit

[www.vvcfoundation.com](http://www.vvcfoundation.com)



**Will you  
join the  
hunt?**

# Calling all Victor Valley College Alumni!



Beginning this Fall, the Victor Valley College Foundation is going on the Great Alumni Hunt to find former students who attended VVC. The plan is similar to the Amazing Race you may have watched on network television in Prime Time! Teams of students, faculty or staff as well as local community members will spend an entire month together searching for people like you who have attended our local community college. This is not an email or phone campaign, we are going to personally reach out to each and every one of you so you know we are genuinely sincere about wanting you to rejoin our VVC family.

The hunt will officially begin on October 15, 2014 and end on November 14, 2014. Teams are still being assembled and if you want to join the fun we need you! This is not just a campaign, this is an adventure! Who knows where our alumni are hiding. They might be firefighters, nurses, realtors, business owners, and maybe even famous athletes. The more you seek and find, the bigger the reward.

To kick-things off we will host a party to pair you up with your team. From there, each team will receive motivational materials, hints and clues to set them up for success. Throughout the month, teams will also be given "check-in" challenges to help earn additional points and prizes. If you need help deciphering your clue, reaching out for a life-line could mean points lost!

The goal is to locate 500 former alumni. Sound tiring? Not really. You may need to spend one to two hours a week with your team, brainstorming and searching for former alumni. When they are found, we will make a big splash in the Daily Press and on El Dorado Broadcasters Radio. Sponsorships are available for local business members who are interested in supporting the event. Your name will be included in ads in the newspaper and on the radio as well as in all social media advertising.

You may be asking what is so great about being an alumni of VVC? Your college classmates are the people who you have come to know over a significant period of time and have shared some of the same experiences while you were here. They are also aware of your skills, talents, and aspirations. These are the people you need to continue to network with for future careers and business dealings. You know them so you know they are

honest and trustworthy. Being a part of an alumni association is special and so are you!

If you are an alumni and would like to be found, please contact the Victor Valley College Foundation at (760) 245-4271 ext. 2146.

## at VVC I LEARNED



I learned about confessional poetry and discovered that Sylvia Plath is one of my favorite poets.

**Nicole Johnson**  
Major: English



I learned how to feel more comfortable with the foil method.

**Joey Moreno**  
Major: Liberal Arts

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2nd Annual

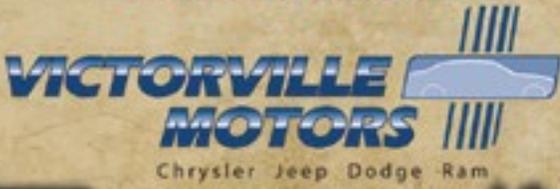
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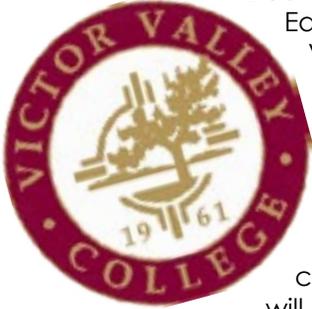
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# VVC piloting state initiative



Under the leadership of Dr. Rolando Regino, Dean of Instruction and Distance Education Coordinator at Victor Valley College, the College's submission to be one of the pilot colleges for the new OEI (Online Education Initiative) has been accepted and Victor Valley College has been chosen for this pilot project. The OEI will change the way online courses will be offered in the CCC (California Community College) system and will grant access to many who have been previously turned away due to incapacity.

Only 24 California Community colleges were chosen out of the 58 that applied to be a part of the initial rollout of this initiative, which has the backing of the Governor to the tune of \$56.9 million to be spent in 4 ½ years (\$16.9 million this last year) in order to create a statewide online course exchange so that anyone attending a community college can take an online course offered at any other college in the system.

Victor Valley College was chosen to be part of the "Tutoring Staging Group," which entails

reviewing and piloting a method of delivering tutoring services to online students and integrating statewide support services with local tutoring services. The college will also be responsible to evaluate these services as well as prepare their ADT (Associate Degree Transfer) courses to be offered in the statewide online platform by the Spring 2015 semester. Colleges in this pilot project will receive resources which include: reviews of their online courses by trained faculty reviewers, professional development support, and regular inclusion in decision-making processes with other pilot college staff and faculty and OEI Steering Committee members appropriate to their focus areas, including overall project development as needed. Activities for this pilot project at Victor Valley College will start in September 2014.

For updates and additional information about this initiative, please visit: [www.cconlineed.org](http://www.cconlineed.org).



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# New technology will connect

A progressive group of educators and business partners led by Victor Valley College were awarded a \$15 million California Career Pathways Trust grant by the California Department of Education in June. The Victor Valley Community College District Consortium and its RAMP UP (Ready to Accelerate My Pathway) project received one of just 12 awards made at the highest funding level and received the only grant awarded within the Inland Empire.

In addition to Victor Valley College, the RAMP UP project will include Antelope Valley College, Barstow Community College, Crafton Hills College, and San Bernardino Valley College. Participating High School Districts include Antelope Valley, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino City, South Kern County, Snowline, Victor Valley, and Yucaipa-Calimesa. Charter Schools involved in the consortium include Excelsior Education Centers, the Lewis Center and The Palmdale Aerospace Academy. Dozens of employers will also work together with the schools to expand and improve the region's career technical training programs. The RAMP UP project focuses on seamless career technical training programs that start in high school, continue through college, and result in jobs within five career pathways: Automotive / Diesel Maintenance, Aviation Maintenance, Energy and Utilities including Renewable Energy Technology, Healthcare, and Manufacturing and Design. These fields are expected to provide high-wage, high-skill, and high-growth job opportunities within the region served by this California Career Pathways Trust project.

"We have many pockets of success in the delivery of career pathways across our vast region, but they are currently isolated and some are incomplete," said Ginger Ontiveros, Executive

Director of the Victor Valley College Foundation which spearheaded the development of the grant proposal. "RAMP UP will not only help students to accelerate their journey from cradle to career, but it will also change the way our schools work together with business and industry to deliver the workforce of tomorrow."

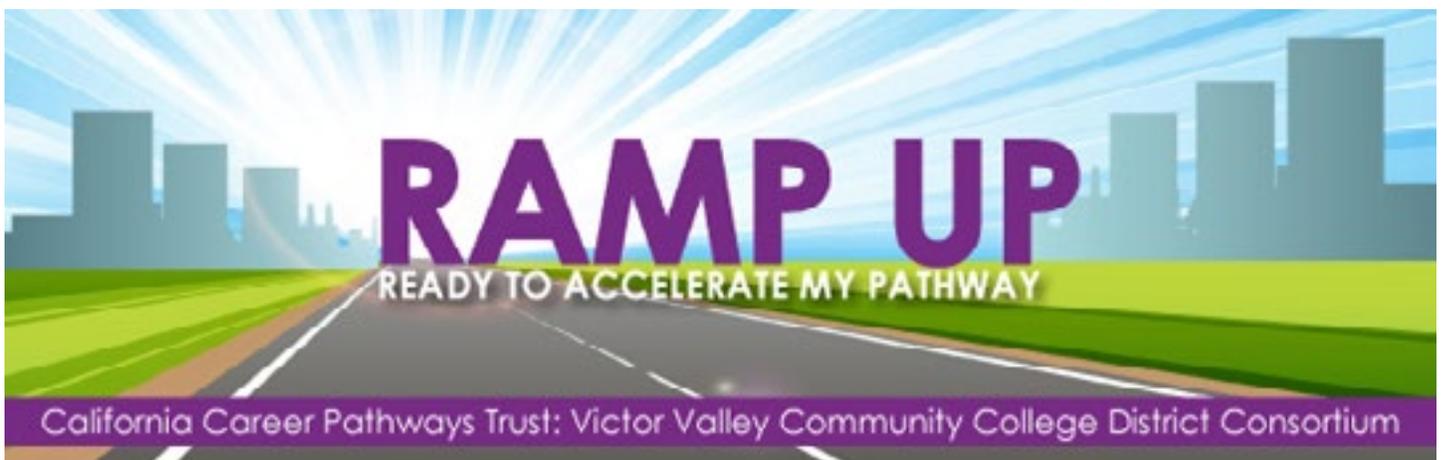
The cornerstone of the RAMP UP project is a network of teleconferencing classrooms that will facilitate cooperative classes and virtual workplace learning experiences for students within the region that stretches from San Bernardino to Barstow and Lucerne Valley to Lancaster. It further fuels greater collaboration among educators and employers to increase the attainment of industry-recognized certifications that are required in local careers. Every school in this plan will be outfitted with a conferencing classroom that will allow faculty to share teaching

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**"RAMP UP will not only help students to accelerate their journey from cradle to career, but it will also change the way our schools work together with business and industry to deliver the workforce of tomorrow." - Ginger Ontiveros**

---

resources, students to collaborate on projects, and employers to interact directly with students across the region. This also addresses the vast distances between schools, colleges and employers in our area, allowing



# ct students regionally

for virtual field trips tied to the pathway, such as allowing nursing students to view a live operation and participate in real time question and answer sessions.

RAMP UP pairs employers, community college faculty, and high school teachers who will collaborate on everything from aligning pathway curriculum to outfitting practical labs with an appropriate inventory of career technical equipment and the provision of bridge programs to support students moving from high school to college coursework. The colleges already offer an "inventory" of career technical training programs that fall within the five identified industry sectors. In some cases those programs are a ready fit for the high school partners and their students. In others, new or expanded programs will be designed to fill gaps in order to meet the emerging needs in the region.

Employers have indicated that new hires need enhanced critical thinking skills, career readiness, and oral and written communication skills. Instructors will address these concerns through the academic requirements of the various programs as well as through the use of innovative, relevant technologies. "To make good on our goal of a world-class education for every California student, they have to graduate with the skills and knowledge

they need to succeed in the real world," said State Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson. "By demonstrating the relevance of students' education, these programs not only encourage kids to stay in school, but also combine the rigorous academics and the practical experience employers need." Designed to prepare our workforce to fill jobs in emerging and high growth industry areas, RAMP UP is being created at the perfect time for a community that suffered severely in this past recession, which still has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, and where educational attainment levels are relatively low. Students who complete these pathways will have a leg up on the competition for good jobs. The 21st century is here and our community colleges are looking forward to training the next century's workforce with emerging educational technology. RAMP UP will help make that happen.

For more information on the RAMP UP project, contact Victor Valley College Grant Department at 760.245.4271 ext. 2522.



immersive classroom utilizing teleconferencing technology



current VVC automotive students working on hybrid car. auto is one of the five pathways that will benefit from this grant.

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# Mobile apps - the new textbook?



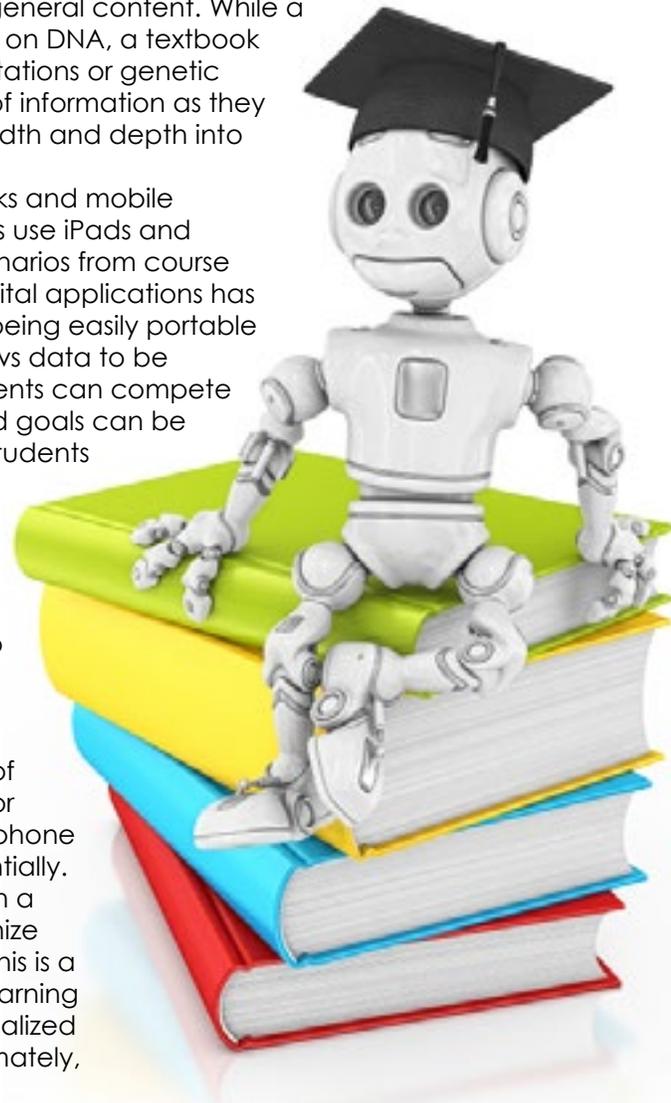
Mobile applications or "apps" have become an integral part of our daily lives. Apps have the ability to keep us healthy by tracking calories, solve math problems, provide entertainment, connect us with people all over the world, and even teach us a new language. Now, they can even serve as your textbook for your college classes. Not only is this convenient and cost effective for students, new textbook applications will allow educators to create custom interactive books that can be utilized in and outside of class to enhance student learning and educational attainment.

Previously, textbooks were a centralized block of material that allowed students access to uniform content and information. Textbook apps flip the traditional book on its head and instead provide access to the same content but allow students to customize their learning through several modalities. These apps can tailor learning based on student interest, readiness, and educational level. Now educators have the option to further personalize lessons and course content while simultaneously assessing students' progress and tracking student learning outcomes.

Textbook apps can accomplish everything a traditional textbook can, but with more flexibility and adaptability that enable personalized instruction and content. Apps support and facilitate learning in innovative ways that are lacking in traditional paper texts. For example, textbook apps support closer study of specific material as opposed to more general content. While a traditional Biology textbook might include general information on DNA, a textbook app could delve further into specialized content, like DNA mutations or genetic testing. This platform allows students to find unique pathways of information as they relate to larger fields of study, incorporating both subject breadth and depth into learning.

VVC has been incorporating the use of digital textbooks and mobile applications in the Public Safety programs since 2012. Students use iPads and digital media applications to create content and analyze scenarios from course instruction. The response from students using the iPads and digital applications has been overwhelmingly positive. Apps also have the benefit of being easily portable and fun. Textbook apps can allow users to register, which allows data to be collected, compared, and assessed on a continual basis. Students can compete with one another via digital leaderboards, points, badges, and goals can be achieved through learning modules, content, and activities. Students can study and learn content anywhere and everywhere, allowing the content to be integrated in daily learning. This mobility and connectivity is unavailable in a traditional textbook. Imagine taking a course in Geology and being able to utilize a smart phone to actively identify specimens in the desert. Textbook apps allow for conceptual concepts to apply to real life scenarios.

Certainly, there are challenges to incorporating textbook apps into broad usage. Aligning standards with textbook apps can be more complex, however, the tracking of outcomes and assessment make them extremely appealing for educators. As more of the population succumbs to the smart phone market, the success of textbook apps could increase exponentially. The diversity and depth of textbook apps provide students with a highly valuable, learner centered platform that may revolutionize the way students view textbooks. For instructors and students this is a win-win, not only do these apps allow students to customize learning in a fun and meaningful way but the instant data and individualized content these apps provide can enhance instruction and ultimately, student success.



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# VVC creates innovative partnership with Hesperia High

Exciting opportunities continue to present themselves to students across the High Desert. For Hesperia High School students the addition of the new Early College Academy program is thrilling. Beginning this fall, the Hesperia Unified School District will contract with Victor Valley College to make college courses available to Junior and Senior students on campus at Hesperia High. The benefits to students are astronomical. Students will receive concurrent enrollment credits for high school and college, all course costs are covered including textbooks for students, and they are able to take college level courses from the comfort of their own campus.

Hesperia Unified Superintendent, David McLaughlin could not be more thrilled about this new partnership. "I am extremely excited about this program and proud of the way we came up with this idea," McLaughlin said. VVC has been leasing classroom space at Hesperia High for a while, but McLaughlin noticed "most of those classes don't have any of our kids in them. Most weren't the right classes for our kids." So the district worked with VVC to provide college classes that would be right for Hesperia High students. The cost is reasonable — a little more than \$100,000 per year for three years. District officials have identified eight general education courses applicable to all majors that will be part of this Inter-segmental General Education Transfer Curriculum. What this means is these courses will not only apply to a student's associate degree, but also will be transferable to most four year universities.



Hesperia's goal was to provide college courses and encouragement to the average student. The program aims to serve 120 students per year. "We have a group of kids who don't go to college because, one, they don't believe they can afford it, and two, they don't believe they can do the work," McLaughlin said. He is hoping the program will show students that they can handle college coursework and it will reduce the overall cost of a degree significantly. Hesperia High students in this program could leave high school with as many as 30 college credits. At current community college unit pricing, that would save a student \$1,380 in tuition alone. By the time you add in the cost of books and parking, each Hesperia High student who takes advantage of this program will easily save more than \$2,000. And if they leave high school with 30 credits, they're half way to an associate degree.

This innovative program and partnership is a huge benefit to Hesperia residents. "I'm not aware of anyone else doing it quite this way," McLaughlin said. "Certainly nobody in our area or county." This program will also have positive effects on current and future VVC students as more spots are freed up in high demand courses. Students in the High Desert can reap the benefits from this program and the commitment the Hesperia Unified School District and Victor Valley College have to students' education.



# Head of the Class!

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Office Hours by Appointment

# Associated Student Body Sets 12 goals to lift college experience

## **INCREASE NUMBER OF TRANSFER DEGREES**

Recognizing students' needs for educational advancement opportunities, the ASB Council requires the Office of Instruction to provide a fuller complement of Transfer Degrees.

## **ADDITIONAL COUNSELING RESOURCES**

The ASB Council requests the Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services provide additional funding for counseling services.

## **INCREASED ACCREDITATION AWARENESS**

The ASB will ensure the student body has full knowledge of VVC' accreditation status and its impact on VVC students.

## **FOOD PANTRY RESOURCE ACCESS**

The ASB recognizes the growing student needs for consumable resource availability and will prepare a system of referrals and install the partnerships with community based providers, organizations and pathways.

## **ENHANCE WEB ACCESS**

The ASB strongly urges the Vice President of Administrative Services to upgrade campus WiFi coverage and to stabilize access to WebAdvisor during peak periods.

## **IMPLEMENT EARLY ALERT SYSTEM FOR AT RISK STUDENTS**

The ASB requests the Dean of Student Services to create an early alert system to engage, track, and retain students.

## **INCREASE STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

The ASB Council will increase the student participation on campus by:

- Creating more clubs
- Promoting club involvement
- Acknowledging club success

## **INCREASE STUDENT INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The ASB request the Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services develop strategic partnerships with business and community-based organizations to generate and increase student internships which promote professionalism and career development.

## **IMPROVE SPORT FACILITIES**

ASB strongly encourages the Superintendent/President to enrich our physical education curriculum by refurbishing out-dated sports facilities and state-of-the-art fitness equipment.

## **GREATER STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

The ASB will enhance student engagement by implementing the use of social media platforms such as:

- Student Driven Events Calendar
- Digital Media Publications
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Applications

## **DEVELOP GREEN INITIATIVE**

The ASB requests the President's Cabinet to develop policies and procedures for the VVC Green Initiatives through:

- Fostering a culture of sustainable awareness, and action
- Monitor and reduce waste of all campus operations and activities

## **INCREASE ON AND OFF CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIPS**

To maximize the potential for student success, the ASB will award 50% more Merit, Service and Transfer scholarships, as well as generate campus-wide scholarship awareness.



# VVC Foundation seeking nominations for awards

*Alumni Hall of Fame & Distinguished Services Awards to be recognized in February 2015*

Do you know a former student of Victor Valley College who has achieved success in their career or made a difference for their community? How about a community leader whose impact on the Victor Valley has improved the quality of life or changed education for the better? Now is the time to nominate them for one of the community's most prestigious awards. The Victor Valley College Foundation will accept nominations for its annual Alumni Hall of Fame & Distinguished Service Awards through September 15, 2014.

Nominations for three specific categories of awards are currently open:

## **Alumni Hall of Fame**

honors a previous student who has completed their course of study and has achieved success in their career field. The recipient of this award will have developed a reputation that reflects positively on Victor Valley College.

## **Distinguished Community Service**

honors an individual who has made or is making a positive impact on communities within the Victor Valley Community College District. The impact may be based on a single activity or in recognition of years of service.

## **Distinguished Education Service**

honors an individual whose work, paid or volunteer, is improving or has improved educational opportunities for students within the Victor Valley Community College District.

Nominations in these categories are reviewed by a panel of community leaders from across the region. Awards are made, based on the panel's recommendations, by the Victor Valley College Foundation Board of Directors. Winners will be notified in November and publicly recognized in a formal celebration at the Hilton Garden Inn in February 2015.

The Victor Valley College Foundation is a charitable organization working to make higher educational opportunities more available and meaningful for students attending Victor Valley

College. With the help of donors and alumni, the Foundation provides scholarships to deserving students, purchases equipment for workforce training programs, expands capacity of impacted academic programs and funds life-changing educationally related experiences for Victor Valley College students. For more information about the Foundation, visit [www.vvcfoundation.com](http://www.vvcfoundation.com) or find us on Facebook.

For a complete list of winners from previous years and the official nomination form for the 2015 awards, please visit the Foundation's website at:

[www.vvcfoundation.com](http://www.vvcfoundation.com)



Victor Valley College Foundation, Inc.  
**Alumni Hall of Fame & Distinguished Service Awards**  
 OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM  
 Alumni Hall of Fame  
 Distinguished Service  
 Please submit a nomination to the Victor Valley College Foundation Board of Directors in a business letter and forward a copy to the local community. There is no charge for a nomination. All nominees must be a resident of the Victor Valley Community College District.  
 Nominations Due: September 15, 2014  
 Save the Date  
 Award Celebration: Saturday, February 28, 2015  
 Victor Valley College Foundation, Inc.  
 15600 West Valley Blvd., Northridge, CA 91325  
 (818) 261-4071 ext. 3007 / Fax: (818) 261-4173

# ALUMNI UPDATES

going places

## Elise Jaramillo ivf technician

VVC 2012



It has been said "life is a journey," and sometimes the path we choose offers us an irresistible detour leading us to new and exciting opportunities. Former Victor Valley College Student Elise Jaramillo is one such alumni who recently discovered a new course in her own career plans. Since her childhood, Elise, has had a love for horses. She wasn't quite sure what she wanted to do after graduating high school, however, her persuasive mother made an offer she couldn't refuse. "She told me if I stayed in school she would pay for me to continue showing my horses." It was an offer she couldn't refuse so, Elise enrolled at VVC. She registered for classes she thought would prepare her to become a veterinarian. That meant, lots of science and of course lots and lots of math.

This spring, Elise graduated from Fresno State with a Bachelors in Animal Science and a pre-vet option. This is where life has now ventured off onto one of those unplanned forks in the road. While attending university, she interned for the J.R. Simplot Cattle Research Program. For those not familiar with the J.R. Simplot Company headquartered in Boise, Idaho, Simplot was to the potato what Henry Ford was to the automobile. While being a vet was her original plan, working in the in-vitro lab fertilization program set the course for a new profession as an IVF technician. "For now I am staying in Fresno, eventually I would like to get up to Idaho where the company is located," she said. "I am not sure if I want to become a vet now. I really love what I am doing!"

## Scott Webb senior planner

VVC 2000



Scott Webb graduated in 2000 with an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Studies. Soon after, he transferred to San Diego State University. He says while he was there he just wasn't finding his way and still really had no clear career direction. Being a driven person, Scott made the decision to return to the High Desert and enroll in a few more classes at Victor Valley College. This time one class in particular was just what he was looking for: Career Guidance. "It was a good fit for me," said Scott. "The course structure gave me time to focus on what was out there in the world as well as other career opportunities. In this class we took assessments and matched careers to our strengths and attributes."

What Scott learned about himself was that he had an interest in city planning. He recalled in high school he was also fascinated with drafting, architecture, and politics. Career guidance showed him a degree in Urban Development was a natural fit. Because he already had an AA degree from VVC, Scott was able to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona quickly. Today, Scott has been working for the City of Victorville for almost 10 years. He is excited to be working in his hometown and about the opportunities available for planners in the region because the area still has room to grow. Advice he has for VVC Students: "Take advantage of the resources VVC has particularly the career guidance class. You get credit and it gives you time to focus on what you want to do with your life. You have to be responsible for your life and education."

# Career LINK engineering

## Aerospace Engineers



### CAREER DESCRIPTION:

Aerospace Engineers design, develop, and test aircraft, missiles, spacecraft, and wind turbine blades and rotors. They also supervise the manufacture of these products. Those who work with aircraft are called Aeronautical Engineers and those Engineers working with spacecraft are called Aerospace or Astro-nautical Engineers. Aerospace Engineers will play an important role in the emerging Green Economy. They will assist with the research and design of renewable energy components, and work on activities that relate to increasing efficiency and reducing environmental impacts of various transportation modes, such as airplanes and spacecraft.

### JOB OUTLOOK:

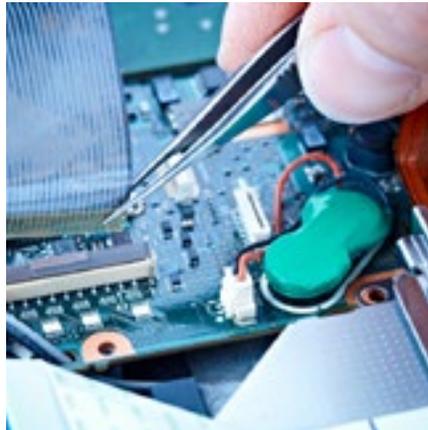
The median wage in 2014 for Aerospace Engineers in California is \$110,894 annually, or \$53.32 hourly.

### VVC PROGRAMS:

Victor Valley College offers an A.S. degree in Aeronautical and Aviation Technology that can lead to Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering.

<http://www.vvc.edu/academic/electronics>

## Electrical Engineering Technician



### CAREER DESCRIPTION:

Electrical Engineering Technicians work to improve the electronics used to revolutionize the way we live. They play an essential role in the research and development, manufacture, modification, and maintenance of a wide range of products. Electrical Engineering Technicians work in various locations ranging from laboratories to power plants depending upon the industry. This job will appeal to those who like practical, hands-on problems and solutions. An interest in math and science is helpful.

### JOB OUTLOOK:

The median wage for Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians in the Inland Empire is \$61,439 annually, or \$29.54 hourly. Technicians work in manufacturing industries, many of which are expanding in San Bernardino County.

### VVC PROGRAMS:

Victor Valley College offers an A.S. degree in Electronics Engineering Technology that can lead to a lucrative position in this field.

<http://www.vvc.edu/academic/electronics>  
<http://www.vvc.edu/academic/construction>

## Mechanical Engineers



### CAREER DESCRIPTION:

Mechanical Engineers research, design, manufacture, and test aircraft, vehicles, robots, biomedical instruments, computer systems, and other mechanical devices. Mechanical Engineers apply the principles of science and mathematics to work on power-producing machines. Engineers may design heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) or water systems to improve energy efficiency. Engineers make sure products meet design and performance requirements or environmental regulations. Mechanical Engineers will play an important role in the emerging green economy.

### JOB OUTLOOK:

The median wage for Mechanical Engineers in the Inland Empire was \$77,588 annually, or \$37.30 hourly.

### VVC PROGRAMS:

VVC offers an A.S. degree in Math/Science that could be used to transfer to a university to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering Technology.

<http://www.vvc.edu/academic/electronics>  
<http://www.vvc.edu/academic/mathematics>

# Career LINK technology

## Computer Programmer/ Developer



### CAREER DESCRIPTION:

Computer Programmers write, test, and maintain programs or software that tell the computer what to do. They convert project specifications and statements of problems and procedures into detailed, logical flow charts for coding into computer language. They develop and write computer programs to store, locate, and retrieve specific documents, data, and information. Programmers use computer servers, desktop and mainframe computers, and a wide range of software in their work. They may use development environment, object or component-oriented development, compiler and de-compiler, or database management system software.

### JOB OUTLOOK:

Jobs for Computer Programmers are expected to increase by 10.8 percent, or 4,300 jobs between 2010 and 2020. The median wage for Computer Programmers in the Inland Empire Area is \$80,877 annually, or \$38.88 hourly.

### VVC PROGRAMS:

VVC offers an A.S. degree in Computer Information Systems as well as multiple certificate programs, including Programming Certificates that can be utilized to start a career in computer technology.

[cis.vvc.edu](http://cis.vvc.edu)

## Graphic Design



### CAREER DESCRIPTION:

Graphic Designers analyze, plan, and create visual solutions to communications problems. They use a variety of print, electronic, and film media and technologies to achieve a design that meets the client's needs. Graphic Designers use computer software to develop the overall layout and production design of magazines, newspapers, journals, corporate reports, and other publications. They also produce promotional displays and marketing brochures and design distinctive logos for products, services, and businesses. Graphic Designers develop material for Internet Web pages and multimedia projects as well as the credits that appear before and after television programs and movies.

### JOB OUTLOOK:

Jobs for Graphic Designers are expected to increase by 16.1 percent, or 6,000 jobs between 2010 and 2020. Graphic Designers in the Inland Empire earn on average \$38,384 annually, or \$18.45 hourly.

### VVC PROGRAMS:

VVC offers a widely respected Associate in Science degree in Computer Integrated Design and Graphics that can be used to jumpstart a career in Graphic Design as well as several certificate options in related fields.

[www.vvc.edu/academic/cidg](http://www.vvc.edu/academic/cidg)

## Computer-Aided Drafting & Design Programmers



### CAREER DESCRIPTION:

CADD Programmers are an integral part of the machining process. They machine parts, carefully plan, prepare, and write computer programs for operation, review three-dimensional blueprints of the part, calculate where to cut or bore, how fast to feed the metal into the machine, and how much metal to remove. Tasks include analyzing job orders, drawings, blueprints, specifications, printed circuit board pattern films, and design data in order to calculate dimensions, tool selection, machine speeds, and feed rates.

### JOB OUTLOOK:

The median wage for Numerical Tool and Process Control Programmers in the Inland Empire Area is \$53,760 annually, or \$25.85 hourly. There is an 18.2% growth rate in the Inland Empire for CADD Programmers through 2020.

### VVC PROGRAMS:

Victor Valley College has a well-respected CADD program. Students can obtain an Associate in Science in Computer Integrated Design and Graphics as well as numerous certificates that will lead to an exciting position in this growing field.

[cis.vvc.edu](http://cis.vvc.edu)

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