would first like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the High Desert communities who have extended unwavering and continuing support for the mission of Victor Valley College and the students we serve.

Benjamin Franklin wrote, “Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning.” For five decades, Victor Valley College has evidenced great growth and incredible progress while providing residents of the High Desert and beyond a brilliant opportunity to freely access higher education.

Fifty years ago when a group of local citizens began the process of establishing a community college, I doubt that they had any idea of the impact their work would have on the development and welfare of the Victor Valley. I am sure they would be proud of what they set in motion.

The number of people who have come through our doors and now employ thousands of our neighbors has grown exponentially. You see them every day running businesses, leading our cities, helping the sick and injured, fixing our automobiles, legislating in the state and nation, building our homes, teaching our children, guiding our youth and being contributors to society in innovative enterprises not even dreamed of so many years ago.

As we move into the next half century of Victor Valley College’s history, I am sure we will experience even greater growth and progress. Napoleon Hill (an American author who was one of the earliest producers of the modern genre of personal-success literature) wrote in his book, Think and Grow Rich, “Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, the mind can achieve” (1937).

The World Wide Web is the perfect example of this thinking. Today it is commonplace. Yesterday it was a dream. Today’s increasingly complex global economy is tomorrow’s backyard opportunity. We will continue to be at the forefront of this exciting new world by helping future students improve, achieve and succeed.

I invite you take a moment to review this anniversary publication and join me in a brief walk down memory lane.

Thank you,

Christopher C. O’Hearn
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On the cover:
Trustee Henry Johnson,
President Fred Berger and
Dean Burt Wadsworth
at the
Nov. 18, 1964
groundbreaking.
DESIGN BY
MARTIAL HAPROV

1960s

The 1990s

The 1970s

The 1980s

The 2000s

The Future

Acknowledgements

Our Vision

VICTOR VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE uplifts the diverse communities we teach and serve by promoting educational excellence, enhancing local prosperity, and ensuring environmental leadership. The college strives to uphold the core values of excellence, integrity, accessibility, diversity, collaboration and innovation.

All photos within book courtesy of the Daily Press and Victor Valley College.
Right: Students spend a day canoeing on the campus lake in the '70s.
Below: A new electronics course launches in the '60s.

Students and faculty stroll through campus in May 2011.
DAVID PARDO

Educating Generations...
It began with the will of the people. On Feb. 2, 1960, voters largely and decisively approved the formation of the Victor Valley Junior College District. The college opened its doors on the Victor Valley High School campus in 1961. The founders set out to transform a plot of land once reserved for duck hunting into the fledgling college's permanent home. They aptly envisioned an institution that would enrich a burgeoning community thirsting for the knowledge and training to build a brighter future.

"This college will have an impact on this community far beyond the prophecies of even the most enthusiastic devotees of public, higher education, and all who have guided it, nurtured and developed it deserve the thanks of every citizen."

DEDICATION ADDRESS, MAY 1, 1966
SUNNY STUDIES — A campus photographer snaps a shot of VVC students studying while enjoying the sun beside the campus lake in the ’60s.

CONFERENCE CHAMPS — In 1963-64, the VVC Track & Field team won the Desert Athletic Conference Championship. This trophy remains on display in the college gym today.

THE DAY THE GOVERNOR CAME — VVC Trustee Henry Johnson, left, and President Fred Berger, right, welcome Gov. Edmund G. “Pat” Brown, center, to the campus on Oct. 22, 1965. The governor talked with students in the student lounge and toured the campus, with special stops at the data processing room and business lecture room. Brown then delivered a short address during Mel Huden’s political science course.

AUGUST 1963
200,000 people march on Washington to demand civil rights for all, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.

MARCH 1964
Local voters pass a $2.5 million bond to fund the construction buildings on the Kalin Ranch site.

NOVEMBER 1964
College officials break ground on the permanent campus.

NOVEMBER 1965
Several buildings on the new college campus are opened for use, including the gym, library and administration building.

SEPTEMBER 1960
More than 66 million viewers tune in to see John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon participate in the first televised general presidential election debate in the U.S.

JULY 1964
The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is enacted, outlawing in the U.S. major forms of discrimination against blacks and women, including racial segregation.
Seven women and 13 men on the 1965 VVC Rifle Team competed in the NRA Collegiate Postal League, which included University of Alaska, Oregon State, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy and UC Berkeley.

Celebrating you...our success

"As a student, VVC gave me the opportunity to explore several areas of interest inexpensively. As a teacher, I was happy that VVC provides a support system..."

Marjorie Milroy
VVC Instructor, Retired
Attended VVC: 1961 - 1963

FEBRUARY 1967
The first Super Bowl is held in Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Green Bay Packers defeat Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10.

APRIL 1968
Prominent leader of the African-American civil rights movement Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.

1968
Fred Berger, who had served as the college's first director and was later named college president, resigns; Burton Wadsworth was appointed acting president. He would hold this position until retiring in 1984.

JULY 1969
As part of the Apollo 11 mission, astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the surface of the moon.

1969
California lawmakers pass legislation making it illegal for one person to serve on two school boards. VVC appoints new members to its board; VVC and Victor Valley High School boards previously had the same members.

Gary Sinclair and Jesus "Al" Esparza were roommates while attending VVC in the first class at the new campus in 1965.

Sinclair has since worn many hats, including Deputy US Marshal, private investigator, home remodeler and adult caretaker: "There was nothing but like four buildings at the time and a few shrubs and some wannabe trees... Everybody knew everybody. It was like a family.

"The first production that we put on in the fall of '65 was 'All My Sons' by Arthur Miller and my father had the lead role in that show and I was doing mostly behind the scenes work. My sister was playing opposite him. I was my father's understudy, and he had a heart attack a few weeks before production, so I ended up playing the lead. I guess we kind of had a reputation because we were the only family affair at VVC.”

Esparza went on to a successful publishing career at Houghton Mifflin: "I can't recall what classes I first took, but I do remember one special teacher: Polly Fitch. As a student born and raised on a border town in Texas, though having completed high school my language skills were limited. I didn't have the skills to put a sentence together without committing grammatical errors. Still, Ms. Fitch never stopped encouraging me to do better, to keep trying, to succeed... "For me VVC provided the impetus for success in college, providing me the opportunity to grow and develop in a career, and gave me my first step for success in life..."
The 1970s

VVC Foundation lends a hand

Formed in 1975 to help the college open its first Child Development Center, the Victor Valley College Foundation has generated about $25 million in support for the college and its students in the past 36 years.

The Foundation accepts charitable contributions of all kinds from alumni and friends, including money, stocks, bonds and personal property. Among the most unique gifts: fire engines, a railroad train car and a Boeing 727 aircraft.

“It is our job to help equip the college,” Foundation Executive Director Ginger Ontiveros said. “When the state budget falls short, we will look for ways to help.”

The Foundation’s achievements have included:

- Providing hundreds of no-interest micro loans for nursing students through the Gertrude E. and E. Cornelia Griffith endowment.
- Establishing the Alumni Hall of Fame to recognize successful former students.
- Raising $1 million through the Millennium fundraising campaign at the turn of the century, which helped equip the Student Activities Center.
- Raising $2.5 million in The Legacy Campaign from 2002-05, including a $1 million contribution from Dr. Prem Reddy, to support several campus needs.

A Budding Campus — After opening as a few sparse buildings surrounded by barren desert, the college campus grew significantly during the ‘70s and ‘80s. This aerial photo shows the campus buildings present in the ‘70s along with the Performing Arts Center constructed in 1980.

- Helping to double the size of the college’s nursing program which eliminated a wait list that was two years long.
- Facilitating new programs in emerging fields such as hybrid vehicle maintenance and solar photovoltaic design.
- Bringing an aviation program under the college’s auspices and contributing to its sustained success.
Celebrating you... our success

"VVC provided me an affordable education while I gained the self-discipline need to apply myself to my area of interest. At VVC I narrowed my interest to business and prepared for a transfer to San Diego State."

JAMES PHILLIPS
Broker, Century 21 Fairway
ATTENDED VVC: 1978 – 1979

SACRAMENTO STUDENT
Associated Student Body President Melvin Sims served as a member of Gov. Ronald Reagan’s personal advisory board on college campus problems in March 1970. Sims became the first representative from a junior college on the state board. He flew to Sacramento to meet with Reagan and provide input on higher education issues.

FEMALE APPOINTMENT
Catherine Price was selected to serve on the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees in 1970, the first woman since the district was formed in 1960. Price, who was an assistant manager of Security Pacific National Bank in Victorville, would fill the trusteeship vacated by Dale C. Huffaker, who had left the Victor Valley and moved to Utah.

1971
The college builds the greenhouse on the cusp of the budding agriculture program. College trustees authorize $20,000 for the program.

1974-1975
College officials agree to purchase 5.35 acres from Boise-Cascade including the building that now houses the administration offices.

1977-1978
The Victor Valley Community College District purchases from Boise-Cascade 2.87 acres bordering on Francesca Street.

1974
Roe v. Wade landmark decision affirms woman’s right to abortion; Sears Tower in Chicago is completed; the U.S. pulls out of Vietnam.

1977
The “King of Rock and Roll” Elvis Presley is found dead in Memphis, Tenn.; “Star Wars” is released in movie theaters.

1979
Sony debuts the “Walkman”; Mother Teresa is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
PROMOTED INTO THE FUTURE — Celane Sandra Witcher, right, expresses pride as she receives her diploma from Victor Valley College in May 1989. Witcher was part of the 27th graduating class at the college, which included several graduates who were concurrently George Air Force Base personnel.

TO THE FINISH LINE — Students Rick Martinez, Daphne Maserve and Ronald Voss of the Pack Rats team give their all during the final stretch of the canoe race at Ram’s Day in May 1986. The annual student-run festivities pitted teams against each other in competitions ranging from egg tosses to a water dunking contest.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS — Nationally known women’s rights crusader and controversial attorney Gloria Allred speaks to a mostly female audience of about 60 at Victor Valley College in March 1989. The activist is known for her fierce feminist causes, outrageous publicity stunts and landmark cases.

“

A man cannot leave a better legacy to the world than a well educated family.

Thomas Scott
Celebrating you...our success

"VVC facilitated my practical knowledge with the formal education I needed to earn an associate's degree. Even though I was a senior to most of my classmates, I learned to respect and work with them on team projects as equals."

CHARLEY B. GLASPER
Chief Master Sergeant, Retired (USAF), Former mayor and councilman, City of Adelanto

BACKSTAGE
— Musicians Cameron Grant and James Winn prepare for their concert at the college’s newly opened Performing Arts Center in February 1982.

NOT TALKING — Four members of a VVC mime troupe put on a show as part of the dedication ceremony of the new Performing Arts Center on March 4, 1982. The striking facility seated 493. At the dedication, College Board President Percy Bakker unveiled plaques listing donors who helped the college buy a grand piano, two professional motion picture projectors, a follow spotlight and other equipment.

NEW RESOURCES — In 1982, the college’s library and Disabled Student Services established a new program to provide hundreds of recorded books and other aids for blind and visually impaired students and High Desert residents.

Officials guide the process of constructing and opening the Performing Arts Center, which for decades serves as community venue for theater shows, concerts and other performances.

1986
JANUARY — Seven NASA crew members die when Space Shuttle Challenger breaks apart 73 seconds after the launch of its 10th mission. The accident would lead to a 2 1/2 year grounding of the NASA shuttle fleet.

1988
The Victor Valley College District purchases 160 acres in Phelan.

1984
JULY — The city of Los Angeles hosts the 1984 Summer Olympics. Profits raised by the Olympic committee are used to promote youth sports in Southern California.

1985
SEPTEMBER — A joint expedition between American and French forces finds the wreckage of the RMS Titanic which had struck an iceberg in April 1912.

1987
OCTOBER — Stock markets around the world on what would be historically known as "Black Monday," the largest one-day percentage decline recorded in stock market history.
The 1990s

This 1991 photo shows what will soon become the new VVC gymnasium with framing in place, roof installed—prior to tilt-up walls being added.

This 1998 skeleton structure will soon become the core of the Construction Technology and Manufacturing Building located across from the tennis courts on the lower campus of the college.

Mark McAllister mans the crane while Larry Smith carefully guides a new sign near the main entrance. The flip-disc reader board sign was installed by Young Electric Sign Company of Ontario. The sign can be programmed to display any message. The flip-disc aspect refers to magnets that flips hundreds of small colored discs to either a colored side to spell out the message or a black side that serves as the background. This technology would soon become obsolete—VVC’s Associated Student Body contributed the funds to install a digital marquee.

“"A human being is not attaining his full heights until he is educated.""

Horace Mann
SWEET SUCCESS — Restaurant management majors Cephas Kelly, Beverly Lovett, Kim Ferrante and Jeff Golder put finishing touches on dessert in January 1990. The college's program helped train future culinary leaders by preparing banquets for clients such as local hospital auxiliary members and Cal State University administrators.

APRIL 1990
Space Shuttle Discovery launches the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit around the Earth, taking extremely sharp images of the planet.

FEBRUARY 1991
Gulf War ends one day after Iraq withdraws forces from Kuwait. Ceasefire declared after 100 hours of ground fighting.

MARCH - DECEMBER 1991
The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics collapses and dissolves, resulting in the independence of all 15 of the republics of the Soviet Union.

1992
Construction is completed on a new gymnasium building, a fire access road and new parking facilities on the college campus.

1993
College officials approve the purchase of 28.39 acres, bounded on the west by Spring Valley Lake Parkway.

APRIL 1994
South Africa holds its first fully multiracial elections, marking the final end of apartheid.

JANUARY 1994
The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) goes into effect, creating a free trade zone between Canada, the United States and Mexico.

PROVOKING THOUGHT — Robert Rose, left, and Jon Kleinsmith discuss their painting "60 in a 55," which was inspired by the videotaped police beating of Rodney King and among more than 100 abstract art works featured at a May 1991 exhibit in the VVC art building. Another piece was "Coming Home," an arresting acrylic painting of a pensive, flesh-colored skeleton draped across a blue cross representing the product of the Gulf War.

REMEMBERING GRANDPA — Alisha Snyder, 2, of Vista, touches a memorial at VVC where her grandfather's name is inscribed at an April 6, 1990 ceremony to unveil the new plaque donated by the Associated Student Body. A standing room only crowd gathered in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center and then attended a tree-planting ceremony in honor of students and staff members who died while in active status at the college.
Never too late — Norman Avant, retired Lockheed engineer assistant, fulfilled his life’s dream in May 1990 when he graduated from Victor Valley College at 61 years old as valedictorian.

David Zook, Class of ’95, now serves as chief of staff to San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. Zook graduated from VVC alongside his mother and future wife. He reflects on his experience:

“I was blessed with incredible teachers and mentors at VVC who inspired, encouraged and pushed me to do more than I thought I was capable of doing. They helped me to develop the confidence I needed to succeed and taught me about hard work through their examples.

“I had the privilege of being involved in reviving the college newspaper, the RamPage, which had been dormant for many years. It was an exciting project because it taught me how to overcome challenges...

“VVC’s campus offered a beautiful place to learn. The lake, ensconced by mature cottonwood trees, made for a tranquil setting for studying or relaxing... There was an especially verdant garden spot next to the lake that we used to call the emerald forest... It provided a tranquil escape where we would sit between classes to relax or read.”

1995
Construction begins and is completed on the Construction Technology Center and the elevator tower, connecting the upper and lower portions of the college campus.

1996 – 1997
The VVC Women’s Basketball team wins the conference championship.

1997
Several renovations and upgrades begin on the college campus, including the installation of fiber optics at the Central Plant; breaking ground on the Student Activities Center; constructing a new Science Building, Planetarium and Learning Resource Center; and remodeling the south half of the Liberal Arts building.

April 1995
Timothy McVeigh drives a truck containing a homemade bomb up to the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The bomb explodes at 9:02 a.m., decimating the building and killing 168 people.

1997
The Hale-Bopp comet is highly visible, shining brighter than nearly any star in the sky.

1998
The old library is remodeled into the Academic Commons.

Class of ’91 — Graduating students wave during the May 23, 1991 commencement ceremony in Victor Valley High’s Ray Moore football stadium. President Ed Gould discussed changing demographics, with graduates tending to be older than when he was a student in the ‘60s. At the time the average age of a VVC student was 31, and two-thirds of the college’s students were women.

1999
Former RamPage editor Peggy Conlon joins the Ad Council in 1999. She now serves as president and CEO of the organization, which mobilizes yearly more than $1.5 billion of advertising time and space, the creative services of more than 50 major advertising agencies and related financial support from hundreds of corporations.
Taking flight — Students Carl Riley, left, and Ryan Hoover work on a single-engine aircraft in a hangar at Southern California Logistics Airport. They were in one of the first cohorts at SCLA School of Aviation Technology, which trains students to become licensed A&Ps or airframe and power plant technicians, authorized to repair commercial aircraft. The school was developed by a nonprofit consortium, with support from the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, airport officials and private tenants. VVC helped plan the curriculum and assumed full operations of the school in Fall 2011.

New trades — Randy Gillette, left, was an electrician by trade and Miguel Mendoza was a floor installer for 16 years, but neither could find work in aftermath of the late-2000s recession. They both went back to school at VVC to learn a new profession and were hired by the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation facility soon after earning their degrees. Many unemployed residents turned to VVC to gain a competitive edge in the grim job market. In 2010, nearly one-third of VVC students were age 31 or older, and more than 10 percent had already celebrated their 40th birthday.

"With the changing economy, no one has lifetime employment. But community colleges provide lifetime employability." — Barack Obama
Global leader in solar tech

The college made national headlines in 2010 when it unveiled the largest solar plant of its kind in North America on 6 acres of the lower campus.

The 1-megawatt solar field by SolFocus Inc., which cost about $4.7 million to build, will generate an estimated $22 million in energy savings over 25 years and provide one-third of the college’s electricity, enough to power 370 homes.

It also serves as a lab for students in the college’s solar technology construction program.

The plant runs on concentrator photovoltaics, or CPV, which uses high-efficiency solar cells to convert more energy with less solar material than traditional silicon cells or thin film plants. Each of the plant’s 120 arrays features 28 panels of 20 curved mirrors, and each mirror focuses the sun onto a smaller mirror connected to a sheet of glass.


“As I look back,” Maldonado said, gesturing toward the 122 solar arrays lined neatly in rows like a grove of trees, “this is the future of California.”

CLEAN POWER — More than 100 community members, government officials, college employees, industry experts and reporters attended the grand opening ceremony of VVC’s 1-megawatt solar plant in May 2010.

Celebrating you... our success

John Henry, then and now.

2000
The old Humanities Building was fully remodeled to become the Student Service One Stop Center; the new Humanities Center opened on the lower campus.

2001
Officials break ground on a new Child Development Center.

NOVEMBER 2000
George W. Bush and Al Gore pitted in virtual dead-heat for the U.S. presidency. Supreme Court deems Bush the winner on Dec. 12, though he secured fewer popular votes.

SEPTEMBER 2001
The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York City Pentagon in Washington, D.C. claim the lives of nearly 3,000.

JANUARY 2002
VVC alumnus John W. Henry purchases famed Major League Baseball team, the Boston Red Sox. Henry, who graduated from Victor Valley High School, turned $14,000 into $1.3 billion trading commodity futures.

FEBRUARY 2002
President George W. Bush opens the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. Despite security concerns, games go on without incident.

JUDY KNISS
SCE Major Account Manager
GRADUATED VVC: 2005

Taking courses at VVC helped me stay competitive for promotions in my career at Southern California Edison.”
Model UN: From underdog to top competitor

In the mid 2000s, VVC’s Model United Nations team quickly transformed itself from the little community college that could to a top performer. VVC rivaled the best at the annual five-day National Model United Nations Conference in New York, which drew more than 5,000 students from colleges and universities worldwide. Playing the roles of ambassadors from U.N. member states, students debated current issues, drafted resolutions and negotiated with allies and adversaries to resolve problems.

From 2005-2011, the team took home top awards ranking them in the best 2 to 5 percent of more than 400 schools.

“The 2010 NMUN conference in New York City. Left to right: Dr. Gregory Jones, Erika Gill, Evan Reid, Douglas Garthwaite, Robert Lazak, Clarissa Manning, Alex Rudolph, Jason Peraza, Shandan Lussenden, Nataliya Hyrych, and student advisor Shaun Mayer.

“VVC has a great reputation of being one of the most well-prepared schools in the world,” VVC Advisor Dino Bozonelos said in 2010. “I just had an adviser from Nigeria ask me, ‘What do you do to get your students ready?’ Other faculty advisers from Germany, from Italy and some from the U.S. have asked, ‘What do you do for your students so they walk away with awards?’ I tell them they simply work harder.”

SPARKING SUCCESS — Chris Cadwallader uses a mig weld to complete a project in the college’s welding lab. In the first decade of the third millennium, VVC launched and expanded various workforce training programs, including welding, health information management, phlebotomy, wastewater management and hybrid vehicle maintenance and repair. By partnering with local employers and giving students job-hunting guidance, the college aimed to help students who completed the special training programs quickly land jobs.

FEBRUARY 2003
A tragedy at NASA occurs when the Space Shuttle Columbia explodes upon reentry over Texas. All seven astronauts inside are killed.

MARCH 2003
The War in Iraq begins with the bombing of Baghdad after U.S. coalition fails to gain concessions or remove Saddam Hussein.
VVC students made international history and gained rare field experience through biology professor Dr. Hinrich Kaiser’s Tropical Research Initiative in the war-torn nation of East Timor, which won the fight for independence from Indonesia in 2002.

After sifting through rocks and tide pools, treading across rice paddies and wading through tropical forests to find and preserve amphibians and reptiles, students returned to VVC to study specimens and document discoveries in peer-reviewed journals.

Kaiser launched the trailblazing research and outreach program in 2008.

By Summer 2011, Kaiser and his students had discovered what they believed to be more than 20 new species of reptiles and amphibians. The effort connects students with Timorese leaders, diplomats and university students to educate locals on their surroundings, cultivate positive foreign relations and assist Asia’s youngest country in forging its national identity.

EXPLORERS — VVC students search for species on Ataúro Island in East Timor. In Summer 2010, they looked for new kinds of spitting cobras and monitor lizards. They also helped rescue a 12-foot crocodile at the government’s request.

FIELDWORK — VVC Professor Kaiser and students process specimens in a makeshift lab in East Timor. They preserved their findings for future examinations in the college’s labs.

Above: A gecko tagged in the VVC lab believed to be a previously unidentified species.
Quest for sustainability

As the college expanded its focus on green pathways, VVC professor Neville Slade developed the Costa Rica Study Abroad program to teach students about sustainable solutions.

The 14-day summer trip allows students to discovery why Costa Rica is a global leader in sustainability by meeting with local farmers, tribal natives and various professionals. They observe efforts like the sea turtle egg protection project at Os- tional Wildlife Refuge, and biodigesters that turn hog waste into methane.

The program connects the fields of agricultural and natural resources with political science, and students can earn a certificate in sustainability.

“Every stop that we made was almost mindboggling. It can almost shock you into realizing we’re not living a sustainable life,” student Jason Colburn, 31, said. “We’re overusing ... with the American dream that we have right now, we overconsume and we produce a lot of waste.”

Bettye Underhill’s lasting legacy

The college lost a great leader on April 27, 2009, when long-time VVC Board Trustee Dr. Bettye May Underhill died at her home in Spring Valley Lake. She was 87.

The tenacious and spunky Underhill helped the college grow from 6,500 to 13,500 students during her 15-year tenure. She was a strong advocate for women’s rights and gender equity in education, and known for her memorable performances reenacting historical figures through the American Association of University Women.

She also was active in Toastmasters International, Rotary International of Apple Valley and Seniors With Inquiring Minds, and she served as one of the first female members of the U.S. Coast Guard.
Facing unprecedented student demand amid a statewide budget crunch, Victor Valley College is rising to the challenge of providing more educational services with fewer resources. With help from the $297.5 million Measure JJ bond measure approved by voters in 2008, the college is improving and expanding facilities. With great faculty and visionary leadership, the college is cultivating a capable, cutting-edge workforce.

VVC will continue to fulfill a legacy five decades in the making, by increasing community education levels and strengthening the local economy.

HANDS ACROSS CALIF. — On April 17, 2011, an estimated 1,000 residents, workers and students joined hands across the Victor Valley in a peaceful demonstration as part of a statewide effort to rally more than 1.5 million people in support of community colleges. The human chain stretched more than 1,000 miles from Sacramento to San Diego — with routes along 112 community colleges — to raise money for a community college scholarship endowment fund. It was modeled after “Hands Across America,” an event across 17 states in support of America’s poor and homeless 25 years before.
The VVC Regional Public Safety Training Center, a 41,000-square-foot facility on 9 acres near Navajo and Johnson roads, will open its doors in February 2012 to a new world of opportunity for students preparing to be first responders, disaster preparedness proponents, public safety officers and community leaders.

At the LEED Gold-certified site, students will learn through a multi-agency approach to disaster training that combines fire, EMT, paramedics, administration of justice, SWAT and corrections. They’ll practice real-life scenarios, from a shooter in a high-rise building to responding to the “Big One” earthquake.

The project funded by bond Measure JJ is expected to attract students statewide and bolster the local emergency workforce.

“Even though we’ve been teaching fire science programs at the college for 30 years, we’ve never really been able to have a working area specifically for the fire curriculum,” Apple Valley Fire Protection Deputy Chief Art Bishop said. “This site will house numerous special props (enabling) state-of-the-art training for our local firefighters here in the High Desert.”

Left and above: Artist renderings of the VVC Regional Public Safety Training Center. The high-tech facility broke ground in August 2010.

**Facility Features**
- 5-story fire burn tower
- 4 burn rooms
- Prop yard
- Collapse building structure
- 4 double-length lane fire garage
- Rail tanker car
- HD video surveillance
- SimMan 3G mannequins
- 9-lane shooting range
- Video tactical shooting simulator

**Continual growth and progress**

Among projects Victor Valley Community College is preparing to advance through 2021:
- Westside Workforce Development Center in Hesperia
- Health Science Building Expansion
- Modernization of Academic Commons
- Modernization of Music, Nursing, Liberal Arts and Visual/Performing Arts buildings
The following leaders have invested their experience, passion for education and vision to create the college we know today. On the occasion of our 50th Anniversary, we honor them.

**Victor Valley College Foundation Presidents**

Val Christensen, 2011
Janice Olson, 2009-2011
Bruce Fay, 2008-2009
Kirk Riding, 2006-2008
Diana O’Malley, 2004-2006
Bob Kniss, 2002-2004
Joseph Range, 1999-2002
Michael Jasberg, 1998-1999
William Brandes, 1997-1998
Patricia Caldwell, 1994-1996
Michael D. Davis, 1988-1993
Paul Kirkpatrick, 1977-1983
John Kroencke, 1975-1977

Gloria Henderson (1991-92)
Janice Rank (1988-90)
Dick Powell (1986-87)
Jan Bird (1985)
Lana Collins Leslie (1984)
John Kroencke (1983)
Francis Weigel (1982)
Jenny Lackey (1981)
Andrew Sacks (1980)
Tom Irwin (1979)
Mary Carter Smith (1978)
Richard Powell (1976-77)
John Williams (1975)
Selmer Spitzer (1974)
Polly Fitch (1973)
Ellis Hollowell (1972)

Gerald Sanden (1993)
Lewis Rigor (1992)
Deborah (Sousek Peterson) (1991)
Maggie (Cardoza) Keil (1990)
Vincent Holloway (1989)
Jeffrey Denham (1988)
James Mayer (1987)
Chris Pickering (1986)
Jacqueline Augustine Carreira (1985)
John Rudoff (1984)
Jeff Mayer (1983)
Benjamin Wells (1982)
Michael Van Horn (1981)
Richard Bartnik (1980)
Scott Drew (1979)
Erick Ek (1978)
Cynthia Arens (1977)
Vic Patterson (1977)
Ronald Bass (1976)
Terry Rucker (1975)
Dottie McArthur (1974)
JoAnn (Waldrip) Nash (1973)
Geoffrey Carter (1972)
Tom Gates (1971)
Jim Hall (1970)
Mel Sims (1969)
James Madonna (1968)
John O’Brien (1967)
Gary Jacobs (1966)
Jesse Scharff (1965)
Howard Groesbeck (1965)
Ed Seaburg (1964)
James Stainback (1963)
Lawrence Adams (1962)
Ben Giffen (1961)

**ASB Presidents/Student Trustees**

Christopher Dustin (2011)
Judy Schmoll (2010)
Mary Mazzola (2009)
Roderick Gray (2009)
Christina Zambrano (2008)
Heena Mehra (2007)
Michael Koenig (2006)
Kimberlee Kelly (2005)
Jinny Ki (2003)
Jennifer Menser (2002)
Brandon Delatorre (2001)
Matthew Harshbarger (2000)
Aileen Rollstin (1999)
Miguel Coronado (1997)
Buck Thomas (1996)
Martha Mendez (1995)

**Faculty Senate Presidents**

Lisa Harvey (2010)
Debra Blanchard (2008-09)
Gary Menser (2006-07)
Lisa Ellis (2005)
Debra Blanchard (2003-04)
Gary Menser (2000-02)
Phrosene Chimklis (1998-99)
Allan Kumlin (1996-97)
Gary Menser (1994-95)
Tom Irwin (1993)
### Years | President/Superintendent | Board Members
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1960-1961 | Hyram W. Shorin, Superintendent of Victor Valley High School and Victor Valley Junior College District | Owen C. Robertson; Henry M. Johnson; William B. Casebeer; Virgil Dilsaver; John M. Sauer

1961-1962 | Fred E. Berger, Director of Victor Valley College | Robert Graves, Virgil Dilsaver; Henry M. Johnson; William B. Casebeer; John M. Sauer

1962-1964 | Harvey Irwin, District Superintendent | John M. Sauer; Henry Johnson; Virgil Dilsaver; William B. Casebeer; Robert Graves

1964-1965 | Fred E. Berger, Director of Victor Valley College | John M. Sauer; Henry Johnson; Virgil Dilsaver; Donald Dudley, M.D.; Robert Graves

1965-1967 | | Henry Johnson; James L. Killpack, D.D.S.; Donald Dudley, M.D.; Robert Graves; Virgil Dilsaver

1967-1969 | | Henry Johnson; James L. Killpack, D.D.S.; Paul F. Kirkpatrick; Robert Graves; Virgil Dilsaver

1969-1970 | Harvey S. Irwin, District Superintendent | Chester E. Golden; James L. Killpack, D.D.S.; Paul F. Kirkpatrick; Robert Graves; Virgil Dilsaver

1970-1972 | Burton W. Woolworth, President | Chester E. Golden; Percy L. Bakker; Paul F. Kirkpatrick; Robert Graves; Virgil Dilsaver

1972-1974 | Burton W. Woolworth, Superintendent/President (became 1st Superintendent/President when Victor Valley College split from school district) | Chester E. Golden; Percy L. Bakker; Paul F. Kirkpatrick; Robert Graves; Virgil Dilsaver

1974-1976 | | Dale G. Hafsteker; Percy L. Bakker; Paul F. Kirkpatrick; Robert Graves; Peter Bosserup

1976-1978 | | James Demann H.; Percy L. Bakker; Paul F. Kirkpatrick; Robert Graves; Catherine Price

1978-1981 | | James Demann H.; Percy L. Bakker; Paul F. Kirkpatrick; Robert Graves; Carollee Stacer

1981-1983 | | James Demann H.; Percy L. Bakker; Paul F. Kirkpatrick; Tom Pinard; Carollee Stacer

1983-1985 | | James Demann H.; Percy L. Bakker; Michael Davis; Tom Pinard; Carollee Stacer

1985-1987 | Howard B. Larson, Superintendent/President | Frank Bohannan; Percy L. Bakker; Michael Davis; Tom Pinard; Carollee Stacer

1987-1988 | Dr. Ruth N. Johnson, Superintendent/President | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Carl R. Tate; Tom Pinard; Carollee Stacer

1988-1989 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Carl R. Tate; Rev. Nathaniel J. Ruffin; Carollee Stacer

1989-1990 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Carl R. Tate; Richard Powell; Dr. Bettye Underhill

1990-1991 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Carl R. Tate; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

1991-1992 | Dr. Edward O. Gould, Superintendent/President | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Dorothy N. Franke, Ph.D.; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

1992-1994 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Jeanne L. Range; Dorothy N. Franke, Ph.D.; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

1994-1995 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Jeanne L. Range; Dorothy N. Franke, Ph.D.; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

1995-1996 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Jeanne L. Range; Dorothy N. Franke, Ph.D.; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

1996-1997 | Nicholas Hallsky, Superintendent/President | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Jeanne L. Range; Dorothy N. Franke, Ph.D.; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

1997-1998 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Jeanne L. Range; Dorothy N. Franke, Ph.D.; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

1998-2002 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Jeanne L. Range; Dorothy N. Franke, Ph.D.; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

2002-2003 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Don Nelson; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

2003-2004 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Don Nelson; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

2004-2006 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Don Nelson; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

2006-2008 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Don Nelson; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

2008-2009 | | Thomas M. Elder H.; Maxine Moore; Don Nelson; Dennis Henderson; Chris Mollenkamp

2009-2010 | | Angela Valley; Joe Range; Don Nelson; Dennis Henderson; Dr. Bettye Underhill

2010-2011 | Christopher O'Keau, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent/Presidnt | Angela Valley; Joe Range; Don Nelson; Dennis Henderson; Chris Mollenkamp

2011-2013 | Christopher O'Keau, Ph.D., Superintendent/Presenter | Lorrie Donsak; Joe Range; Michael Knauss; Dennis Henderson; Joseph W. Brady

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