

Letter to the Editor – Daily Press

October 30, 2016

Brady gets things done

I am writing to throw my complete support behind someone who has done innumerable deeds to benefit the High Desert. I have known Joe Brady for close to 25 years and he and I have worked together on too many projects to mention. During these 25 years he and I have established a close relationship and I have seen first-hand his tremendous dedication to use his time, talents and resources to make a positive difference throughout the High Desert.

Joe Brady has a track record of achievement and accomplishment. One such area is at Victor Valley College. Although Joe cannot single-handedly take the credit for the phenomenal turnaround at Victor Valley College, look at several accomplishments that have occurred during his time on the Board of Trustees:

- Full accreditation was restored in July 2015 after several years unable to do so and being on probation multiple times until 2015;
- Victor Valley Community College received Excellence in Energy and Sustainability Award from Board of Governors;
- Victor Valley Community College District Board of Trustees approved the refinancing of Measure JJ Bonds, saving the taxpayers approximately \$18,875,000 (without extending the bond term) of the \$139,958,188 general obligation bonds which then resulted in several infrastructure projects at Victor Valley Community College District;
- Victor Valley Community College District opened the Center for Institutional Excellence, a dedicated space for training and the professional development of faculty and staff;
- The Board of Trustees authorized the remodeling and construction of the Lower Campus Vocational Complex in 2015;
- In 2015 the Board of Trustees started the initial planning and design of a new Student Services One-Stop Center.

Joe has provided courageous, bold, decisive leadership during a tumultuous time in the college's history. Let's not soon forget how close the college came to losing its accreditation — a situation reversed during Joe Brady's tenure. He has helped to right a "ship that was sinking," and that ship is now sailing without listing and on a course to prosperity.

We don't reward failure, but we do reward success and if you compare the success (or lack thereof) at VVC in 2011 when Joe Brady was appointed to the Board to the success of 2016...why in the world would we not want to return someone who has contributed greatly to today's success? Don't be distracted by petty bogus claims regarding an insult Joe supposedly said about the president — it's a blatant attempt to sabotage his election. As a black man I stand by Joe Brady and can attest to how fair and equitable he is.

Michael Stevens

Victorville