

OUR OPINION

Jobs and VVC

August 7, 2013

Yes, yes, California's latest unemployment figures show some sign of recovery, but that, unfortunately, isn't true in the Inland Empire in general or the Victor Valley in particular.

California's unemployment rate fell slightly in July to 8.4 percent, but "lackluster hiring across the Inland Empire" sent the jobless rate up to 10.2 percent from a revised 9.6 percent in June, according to the California Employment Development Department.

The percentages don't tell the real story, though, which is that the Inland Empire showed a net loss of 6,700 jobs last month. That's in stark contrast to the statewide numbers. According to the CEDD, California gained 30,200 jobs in the month. Where was the growth? Along the coast, whose communities showed gains in construction jobs.

What to do to change the picture in the Victor Valley? Well, for starters solve the Victor Valley College accreditation problem and get the school back on track. VVC ranks as the third largest employer in Victorville, and is among the top 20 in the Valley.

This Thursday is the date for the next special meeting of the board of trustees, still deadlocked over filling the vacancy created by the resignation of one of their number in June. If that problem lingers through the planned October visitation of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, we don't hold out much hope for the school's removal from the ACCJC's probationary list.

We think it's past time for the trustees to collectively exhibit some common sense, especially since it's in the long-term interest of the Victor Valley. Our top problem continues to be jobs, and internal wrangling at VVC doesn't help anyone.

Steve Williams