

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 26, 2013

Hanging on to VVC

As a long-time resident of the Victor Valley, I am concerned about the possibility that we may lose this valuable resource, Victor Valley College.

VVC is a major employer in this area, but more importantly, the college provides an educational opportunity that many of our young people won't have if they're not able to continue their education while living at home. Leaving home and attending college out of the area is an option many families cannot afford. VVC offers local students the opportunity to live at home and complete the core courses that transfer to other schools, where they can complete their undergraduate degree. In many cases the cost savings by living at home is significant and perhaps the only way they can afford the education.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2007), the annual earning power of a high school diploma is \$28,290, an Associate of Arts is \$36,362 and a Bachelor's degree is \$47,240. That alone demonstrates the value of VVC and the contribution school is making toward the future prosperity of the Victor Valley. Additionally, the vocational and technical programs at VVC allow many local residents the training or re-training needed to succeed in today's workplace.

The primary goal of the VVC leadership, including the Board of Trustees and the President/ Superintendent and other stakeholders must be to quickly attain full accreditation. The actions of everyone involved must be above board, so faith in the college can be restored. In a very real sense, as goes the future of VVC, so goes the future of the Victor Valley.

Tony Penna

Apple Valley