

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 16, 2013

Informational only

Re: "VVC's accreditation" (Shannon Duncan, Letters, May 14).

To set the record straight, the "Call to Action" meeting was conducted and paid for by private individuals who invited the public to attend in order to hear the information that they had to share. The information was obtained from multiple sources including the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), websites including Victor Valley College's and public information as of April 29, 2013. Never once did the organizers of the meeting indicate that this was a public forum for teachers or anyone else.

"So why not listen to what (teachers) had to say?" Duncan asks. For one simple reason: the private "Call to Action" meeting was not the time or the place. Duncan says that, "either you want the correct information or you don't." We did want the correct information, and we had it. To allow anyone to present that which we had not verified would have allowed the meeting to become a matter of conjecture and opinion. The meeting could have evolved into a disruption for which we would have been held responsible.

Duncan is right about one thing; we are community members. I have lived here since 1965 and contribute to this community in many ways. Diana Carloni has lived here since 1990 and donated her time and efforts for 10 years as a board member on the College Foundation.

Not once during the course of our first, and so far only, "Call to Action" meeting did either of us "put down VVC" as Duncan states. We have never claimed to have the answers and we could not begin to "rescue" the college. In fact, we publicly stated that we do not have the answers; we asked only that the leadership of VVC address the issues and return VVC to full accreditation without sanctions of any kind. And yes, VVC has done a lot since the accreditation troubles began, they are taking it seriously and progress is being made. We never said otherwise. We only ask that the leadership of VVC do whatever it takes to finish the job before October 2013 and that the community demands that it happen.

Neither Ms. Carloni or me are running for public office, and we do not receive any direct benefit from VVC. Ms. Duncan calls our actions "suspicious," but people who know us use words like forthright, dedicated and committed. We welcome like-minded individuals to join our efforts.

Holly Noel

Apple Valley