

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

June 23, 2013

VVC off the track

Victor Valley College has a long- term structural budget deficit problem. It's like a train approaching a bridge over a very wide chasm. The conductor has been warned by expert engineers not to use this bridge, severely weakened by many decades of neglect and vandalism.

The conductor, so far, has ignored the warning. In a very short while, if no one makes the conductor stop or take another track, there is going to be a huge train disaster.

Victor Valley College is that train. Victor Valley leadership, as a whole, has either 1) heard the warning but not heeded it, or 2) not heard the warning at all. Unless decisive action is taken, Victor Valley College, the key engine of the community's intellectual and social life, economic sustenance and political will, is going to experience severe damage. What kind of damage? The following are possibilities:

- Loss of accreditation: shame and demoralization.
- Take-over by the state educational bureaucracy: Loss of local control, less flexibility and responsiveness for students, teachers, administrators and the community at large.
- Take-over by another college institution: Same result as a takeover by the state.

If this is not what Victor Valley residents want, leaders must come forward to help get and keep the college out of the accreditation limbo it has been in for the past eight years. Already having exceeded one deadline, VVC now has until Oct. 15 to get its house in order sufficiently to avoid a "show cause" decision by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). We, as a community, must pull together to support and encourage our VVC teachers and staff who are helping to get the next generation of taxpayers ready to support us. If you want to help, send an email to omaille2@yahoo.com .

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