

Pressure tactics won't do VVC any good

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When we were youngsters and my brothers and I got caught misbehaving, we pointed fingers and called names. Even when we knew it was our fault. Oftentimes, our parents would punish all of us. I remember thinking, "They are terrible parents." Because they called us out, they were the bad guys.

As we got older, we learned to take responsibility for our own behavior and suddenly, the authority figures in our life were understood for what they were — people who were doing their job. If only certain parties at Victor Valley College could learn that same lesson.

When the Community Call to Action group began its efforts to return VVC to full accreditation without sanctions, we discussed the possibility of character attacks if we attempted positive change in the entrenched groups, policies, and procedures at VVC. We anticipated the tactics and freely choose to engage.

The attacks have come and our community group is still here. But now, certain members of the entrenched groups at VVC are attempting to ruin the professional reputations of VVC administrators and staff who, by virtue of doing their jobs, have brought to light some of the issues at VVC.

Time to grow up

Well, I say, "Grow up!"

When the bank teller rightfully says you have no more money in your account, is he incompetent? When the officer pulls you over for speeding, do you tell her she doesn't know how to do her job? The FCMAT Report which VVC asked for and received this past spring, clearly states that, "Given the ... deficit spending (VVC) is expected to exhaust its general fund reserves in early 2014-15, even after adjusting for Prop 30. Three collective bargaining agreements limit the district financial flexibility. The district needs to better manage its personnel cost to help reduce deficit spending and maintain reserves. Addressing areas of the bargaining agreements that hinder financial solvency or operations should be of high priority. This will help ensure that collective bargaining is deliberate and financially prudent for the district and its students."

In light of this report and in the process of preparing the report to the ACCJC, several administrators and faculty members have publicly stated that the bargaining agreements need to be addressed. Several members of the public as well as the media have called out the employee unions for their role in the issues at VVC.

In response, the name calling and finger pointing have begun.

Now, certain faculty members want to publicly "evaluate" the job performance of administrators who dare to state the obvious: That the numbers don't lie.

Guess who's pointing fingers

VVC is limited in its ability to control spending and avoid deficit funding by the bargaining agreements. Funny thing, it's the beneficiaries of the bargaining agreements who are pointing the fingers and attempting to call names by publicly, negatively, evaluating the job performances of the administrators stating the truth. It's a pressure tactic, pure and simple, designed to silence those who are telling the truth and attempting to fix the problem: those doing their jobs.

So to the faculty members organizing this effort, I say, you're not children anymore, but this effort to publicly ruin the reputations of those you disagree with is childish.

Looking back on my childhood, I realize now, the problem was not my parents. They were just doing their job, like the targeted administrators and staff at VVC are doing now. As an adult, I am grateful to my parents. I am also grateful to those inside and outside VVC who are advocating for the truth and working positively toward solutions, not engaging in name calling, finger pointing, and pressure tactics.

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