

'The sky's the limit'

VVC Foundation honors annual Hall of Fame; alums recognized for service



Janice Olson is awarded the Presidents's Award by Victor Valley College Board of Trustee Joseph Brady at the 2016 Victor Valley College Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame and Distinguished Service Awards Celebration on Saturday night. David Pardo, Press Dispatch

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VICTORVILLE — The Victor Valley College Foundation celebrated a milestone on Saturday night, inducting alums, including Presidents' Award winner and former Foundation president herself, Janice Olson, into its Hall of Fame.

The black-tie event, held at the Hilton Garden Inn, was themed “Elevate: The sky’s the limit,” with foundation members sporting pilot and flight attendant costumes.

“I encourage you to elevate this evening by helping us in raising the critical funds we need to accomplish our mission and goals for our college and students,” current VVCF President Eric Schmidt said. “I am so proud to be a part of this foundation that is inspiring young people.”

He explained that the purpose behind the Foundation is to fundraise and “friendraise” to gain support for the success of students and the High Desert community.

Following the cocktail hour, in which attendees placed auction bids and visited with VVC students, Mistress of Ceremonies Caroll Yule welcomed guests and introduced the event sponsors.

Dinner was served before the special presentations and awards program began, spotlighting the accomplishments of inductees being recognized for their service to the High Desert community and the college.

The VVC Board of Trustees President John Pinkerton shared a few words before the awards to thank the attendees for joining the event.

“It’s great to see us all pull together for our young people. There is nothing more valuable we have than our young people,” Pinkerton said. “God bless all of you for supporting our college tonight.”

Joseph Silvestri, the Vice President of Facilities and Construction for Prime Healthcare Services, and Willie Davis Pringle, a recently deceased, long-time employee of VVC, were both honored as this year’s Alumni Hall of Fame inductees.

“Willie Davis Pringle was an important and vital component of the High Desert. His caring nature was especially evident towards the Victor Valley College family,” the event program read. Pringle’s 30 years of work at VVC included serving as the Associated Student Body Council Activity Advisor, Athletic Director, head football coach and finally, Director of Students Services.

His wife, Mary Pringle, said in his honor, that he “would have felt very proud” to receive the foundation award.

The Distinguished Community Service award went to owner and President of Gi & Associates Regina Weatherspoon-Bell, while the Distinguished Education Service award was given to Victorville Motors and desertFIAT’s Team, recognizing their “It’s a Gas to Go to Class” student car giveaway program.

Former VVC Foundation President and General Manager at the Mall of Victor Valley, Janice Olson, was named the recipient of the President’s Award, introduced and awarded by VVC trustee Joseph W. Brady.

Olson said over the past 15 years, she has spent “a lot of time with a lot of people making good things happen.”

Following the awards program was the Lip Sync Competition, with community leaders battling for funds to support various student organizations, including Model United Nations supported by Superintendent Roger Wagner and his wife Stacy and the Veterans Club supported by Eric Schmidt and his wife Cindie.

“This fund provides resources the college can use to offer tutors, fund more hands on educational experiences, and provide additional support services that give students the hand up they need to finish their degree of certificate programs,” said Foundation Executive Director Ginger Ontiveros. “This impact on student success is more powerful with philanthropic support because your gifts tell students they are worth our investment.”

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