Mission Statement:
Napa Valley College prepares students for evolving roles in a diverse, dynamic and interdependent world. The college is an accredited open-access, degree- and certificate-granting institution that is committed to student achievement through high-quality programs and services that are continuously evaluated and improved. The college serves students and the community in the following areas: transfer courses, career-technical education and training, basic skills and self-supporting contract education and community education classes.

Values:
Napa Valley College is a community of people excited about learning, where students are first and foremost in everything we do. We value, model and encourage:

- student success
- inclusivity
- honesty
- responsibility
- creativity
- openness to new ideas
- integrity
- respect for others
- adaptability
- health and wellness
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD’S LETTER

This year was a challenge for all of us both as individuals and as an institution. As we continue to move forward and through the pandemic, recovering together, it is inspiring and exhilarating to see such a high level of resilience reflected over and over in our students, faculty and employees.

Rapid change and adversity have the power to drive us apart or bring us together; how we choose to respond drives the outcome. Working collaboratively to establish clear, shared goals and intentional actions has been and continues to be the formula for moving forward successfully. This has been evidenced multiple times from the systematic to the celebratory.

The Board’s decision to require COVID vaccinations for both students and college employees positioned us to safely bring many of our students back to campus while continuing to provide online and hybrid classroom options for others. This would not have been possible without the cooperation and commitment of our faculty, staff and administration who embraced the directive and made it happen.

The drive-through graduation event in May was another example of individuals from all areas of our organization coming together to celebrate the achievements of our students with family and friends. Our students persisted in yet another year of continual change, showing enduring resolve and tenacity in reaching their educational goals. After a year of meeting only via Zoom, it was a pure delight to see each other in person, congratulate our graduates, and especially to see the creative ways families demonstrated their joy and pride by decorating their cars.

This has also been a year of introspection and evaluation. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), approving the creation of a senior director position charged with DEI initiatives—a first step in a district-wide effort to build a culture of belonging where all feel safe, welcomed, supported, included, and valued.

Embarking on a new accreditation cycle, the college community was given a distinctive opportunity to work with our constituent groups to evaluate where we are and where we are going as an institution. It allowed us to identify the qualities and attributes we want to enhance and expand upon for our community.

These examples of collegiality, cooperation and respectful exchange of ideas are a model for our students, our community and for other colleges in the California Community College system. It is clear that now is the time to rethink, retool, adapt and consider new ways to educate, connect and serve. In the coming year, the Board looks forward to completing the accreditation review and continuing the great work we have accomplished in the last year.

Jennifer Baker
President, Board of Trustees
Napa Valley College
Napa Valley College’s (NVC) Students at-a-glance!

NVC student body for the 2020-21 academic year:

- **7,111** enrolled students
- **737** associate degrees awarded
- **492** certificates awarded
- **342** students transferred to a UC or CSU
- **701** graduates

Academic Performance

NVC regularly monitors institutional performance as part of a system of practices associated with institutional effectiveness.

In 2020, NVC reviewed the locally defined standards (established in 2013) and continued to increase the standards defining academic quality for all except one metric (transfer rates) (approved by the Board May 2019).

NVC exceeded almost all institution-set standards last year:
- Successful course completion: 2% above
- Persistence: 1% above
- Degree recipients: 21% above
- Certificate recipients: 66% above
- Transfers: 3% below
NVC employees were still able to help students get the information they needed, even when the entire college was working remotely.

**By the Numbers**

- **Counseling**
  - 14,986
- **Disability Support Programs & Services**
  - 788
- **Student Health & Mental Health Services**
  - 1,053
- **Student Life/Associated Students**
  - 876
- **Student Support Services**
  - 822
- **Food Basket/Student Needs Resources**
  - 1,088
- **MESA/STEM**
  - 132
- **Financial Aid (includes EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs/Veterans/Scholarships)**
  - 22,109
  - Side note: 10,513 financial aid awards were given totaling $10,320,152
- **Transfer Center**
  - 688
- **Welcome Center**
  - 16,997
- **Career Center Online**
  - 613
POMP AND PERSEVERANCE: A YEAR OF STUDENT GRIT

The continuing pandemic didn’t stop NVC from celebrating its graduates in this year’s commencement and graduation. NVC created another special graduation ceremony with a series of drive-through diploma pick-up celebrations to ensure a safe yet joyous recognition of this year’s dedicated graduates.

For the 2020-21 academic year, NVC presented 708 degrees and 495 certificates to 715 graduates, 43 percent of whom self-identify as Latinx/Hispanic. NVC is proud to serve our community as a leading Hispanic-Serving Institution in the state community college system.

NVC’s Valedictorian Selection Committee selected Oscar Loyola, Jr., as the 2021 valedictorian. His speech was a part of NVC’s videotaped graduation ceremony.

He took that advice to heart. The dedication and endless hours of hard work he gave to everything he did was unveiled through his accomplishments. He was the first soccer player in a decade to be named Napa Valley Boys Soccer Player of the Year twice in a row. In high school, he was selected to be a part of the local nonprofit, If Given A Chance, a mentorship program that supports exceptional high school students overcoming staggering odds. He was given the opportunity to speak at the nonprofit’s awards dinner, as well as his Vintage High School graduation before coming to NVC.

“At NVC, I feel like there is so much support,” stated Loyola, a first-generation college student. He thanked NVC TRIO counselor Martin Olguin who ensured he took the right courses to graduate and transfer successfully. Loyola was always impressed by how many resources NVC offered, remarking, “it’s just a matter of reaching out and going for them.”

His last year was spent taking 20 units a semester, working part-time and building his résumé to transfer after graduation. “It’s been difficult to manage my time,” Loyola admitted. Yet, he always felt the support of his father and older sister Cynthia. “She has paved the way for me,” Loyola said, since his sister had attended NVC before earning her bachelor’s degree at UC Berkeley. Cynthia is attending law school at UC Davis.

After graduating from NVC with an associate degree in Business Administration, Loyola has transferred to the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley with an eye on an eventual career in financial services. “My dad is super excited,” said Loyola. “Both that I am staying close by for college, and to be raising a family of Bears!”

Meet Oscar Loyola, Jr.

NVC’s 2021 Valedictorian, Oscar Loyola, Jr., lost his loving and supportive mother unexpectedly when he was in 8th grade. According to Loyola, his mother taught him that “nothing that’s worth having comes easy, and to work hard in silence.”
As the traditional graduation march, “Pomp and Circumstances,” piped through car radios, close to 300 NVC graduates celebrated with their families as they socially distanced from other graduates and families during the on-site drive-thru component of NVC’s hybrid commencement. They wore their regalia and colorful stoles while they walked the stage to briefly stop and pick up their diploma covers and have a picture taken. Staff and faculty were on hand to bid farewell with signs and applause at the nearly three-hour event.

The graduation ceremony was presented virtually later that evening to the 715 graduates, awarding them their degrees and certificates. A leading Hispanic Serving Institution in the California Community College System, 43 percent of NVC’s 2021 graduates are Latinx students, and 35 percent of its graduates were among the first in their family to receive a degree. The youngest graduate this year was 18 and the oldest was 69. And thanks to the NVC Foundation, 133 NVC Students were presented with $178,000 in scholarships in a later virtual ceremony.

NVC President Ron Kraft welcomed the board of trustees, family, friends and the graduates themselves, saying, “I am proud of our graduates—especially this year. It was an extraordinary year and undoubtedly a very different academic experience than any of us could have ever anticipated. You endured so much to get to this point and your perseverance and tenacity will be forever remembered.”

All messages shared a common theme of the effects of the pandemic and racial injustices of the past year, as well as hope and optimism for the future.

“You aren’t just graduating from NVC today,” reflected Jennifer Baker, president, NVC board of trustees. “You’ve also earned a degree from the school of hard knocks. And your specific area of emphasis is resilience, a trait that will serve you over and over as you navigate life’s challenges and disappointments.”

“You persevered through challenges, including a global pandemic,” said Dr. Sara Parker, assistant superintendent/vice president, academic affairs. “You inspired those around you in your families and communities to take on challenges, to dedicate time to analyze and reflect, and to advocate for a more inclusive and just society.”

In presenting the Napa Valley College graduating class of 2021, Oscar De Haro, assistant superintendent/vice president, student affairs, summed it up: “May this occasion become a constant reminder that a triumph worthy of savoring is not without true struggle and undivided desire to succeed.”
IN THE CLASSROOM

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

NVC Awards First LGBT Studies Degrees

In May 2021, NVC had its first two students graduate with associate in science degrees in its newly created LGBT Education program.

Introduced in fall 2020, NVC is now the third community college in the state to offer an LGBT Studies associate degree, in addition to its certificate program. It allows students, like recent graduates Kyler Thompson and Samantha Potter, to transfer to four-year universities with LGBT/Q programs. For Thompson, who identifies as a lesbian, it was an eye-opening experience that made her passionate to pursue her dream of opening a youth center.

At NVC, Thompson said she was able to learn “not only how to be myself as a person, but how to support people who are just like me.”
Long Road for Respiratory Therapy Student Ends at the Mayo Clinic

Sydney Kauppinen never expected to end up in her dream job as a neonatal/pediatric respiratory therapist at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. She was completely uninterested in school as a child. Her mother Julia motivated her to take a high school independent study program that offered classes at NVC.

After high school, her mother suggested she study health care. Kauppinen was fascinated with the field and equally excited about college. “College changed me. They teach differently, and I was taking courses I was interested in,” she said. Kauppinen eventually turned to NVC’s respiratory care program and passionately pursued the degree.

At NVC, she became an advocate for mental health, encouraging students to take advantage of the school’s counseling and therapy resources which she also used.

“I want people to know that it is OK to have setbacks; it is OK to move at your own pace,” she said. “Everyone is going through something and deserves support.”

Then, after finishing her finals and with graduation right around the corner, tragedy struck.

“That week,” she recalled, “my mom died by suicide, and I lost her forever.”

The years of therapy and self-awareness served her well as she faced completing her clinical rotation and taking her board exams in the weeks following her mother’s death.

“My mom was always my motivation and continued to be my motivation,” she stated. “Failing was not an option. I used the best coping strategies I possibly could. I continued therapy, saw a psychiatrist, exercised and studied my heart and soul out.” She passed her exams on her first attempt and became an RRT in July 2021.

Kauppinen was contacted by a recruiter for a position at Mayo Clinic after graduation. In November 2021, at age 30, Sydney will start her dream job at a Level 1 trauma center.

“The NICU/PICU respiratory therapists at Mayo Clinic do helicopter transport, which is my dream,” she said. “I cannot even express how happy and excited I am for this opportunity.”
Napa Valley College

NVC STEM Students’ Next-Gen Spacesuit Design for NASA Advanced to the Finals

You may have heard that NASA plans to send astronauts back to the moon. To do so, they need the right moonwalking suit to fit the mission. Napa Valley College STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) students were selected to be a part of the NASA Spacesuit User Interface Technologies for Students (SUITs) Artemis Student Challenge team in 2021. They became one of 20 teams to advance to the next phase of the 2021 SUITs Challenge, which included mostly four-year universities, such as CSU Northridge, Columbia University in New York and Johns Hopkins University. Fifteen NVC engineering students worked over several months coding and refining their prototypes to present their suit design and their research to NASA representatives.

NVC Associate Dean Luis Alcazar, who oversees MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) and STEM program services, said, “This challenge has provided our STEM students the opportunity to work in a team environment.” He added, “The lessons and materials they acquire during this challenge will be shared at Napa Valley College for years to come.”

Career Education & Workforce Development

NVC Career Education programs have been a proficient way for students to gain the skills and training needed for in-demand careers and transfer opportunities to four-year colleges. The programs allow students to choose a variety of entry and exit points and are, to the extent possible, aligned with industry positions, industry skill needs and third-party credentials. Our knowledgeable faculty strive to connect to local industry and industry partners to ensure our programs are current and relevant.

Programs include:
- Accounting
- Addiction Studies
- Administration of Justice
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Child and Family Studies and Education
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Elementary School Teacher
- Computer Studies
- Criminal Justice & Police Academy
- Digital Design & Graphics Technology
- EMS
  - EMT
  - EMT-P Paramedic
- Hospitality, Culinary, & Tourism Management
- Human Services
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Education
- Machine Tool Technology
- Nursing
  - Registered Nursing
  - Vocational Nursing
- Psychiatric Technician
- Respiratory Care
- Social Work and Human Services
- Theater Arts
  - Theater Arts—Acting
  - Theater Arts—Technical Theater
- Viticulture and Winery Technology
- Winemaking
- Wine Marketing
- Winery/Vineyard Management
- Welding Technology
Because of the pandemic, both 2020 and 2021 were difficult years for performing arts companies worldwide. Yet, NVC Performing Arts’ resourceful faculty, staff and students developed new partnerships and innovative storytelling concepts to keep everyone engaged, learning and performing.

Celebration of Shakespeare

In summer of 2020, Shakespeare Napa Valley (SNV) and NVC Performing Arts partnered to present a summer celebration of Shakespeare. The partnership included the creation of the Shakespeare Napa Valley Student Company, a performance intensive providing classical training through the rehearsal and performance of works written or influenced by William Shakespeare.

With the creation of the SNV Student Company, two new series were launched, Sonnet a Week and the Romeo and Juliet Prologue Collection. These new programs engaged those in Napa Valley with the global arts community by showcasing NVC students and staff and individuals worldwide reciting Shakespeare sonnets and prologues in eight languages and more than 25 videos.

Culminating the summer celebration, the SNV Student Company premiered its first production virtually through a live-stream performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Jennifer King, garnering high acclaim and audiences across the globe.
Night of the Living Dead

Night of the Living Dead: The Rising, a story about citizens in a small rural town being attacked by zombies during a time of global civil unrest, was an apt story against the current pandemic and political backdrop.

Bringing theater to the digital stage once again, NVC Theater Arts presented a reimagined virtual production of this classic horror story, directed by Jennifer King. Featuring 16 NVC alumni, students and community members, the production received rave reviews, being named a “brilliant addition to what is becoming a new pandemic-era art form,” by the Napa Valley Register.

A Chorus Line

The show must go on! And A Chorus Line, staged digitally during the height of the pandemic, was no exception. In stellar form, NVC Theater Arts professor Jennifer King and her co-director Olivia Cowell, alongside Dr. Christina Howell as music director, worked with a large cast of NVC theater students to successfully bring this musical to the remote “stage.” Each of the 16 students performed and sang in front of a webcam, presenting it live for a single performance on April 9, 2021. NVC theater students discovered creative ways to engage with each other and the audience with one singular sensation over many screens.
Car Choir

Group singing during the COVID-19 era was considered a very significant health risk. At first, Dr. Christina Howell, director of vocal studies at NVC, tried gathering her students on Zoom to sing. Yet, the audio latency that happened quickly became an issue that couldn’t be corrected. So, Dr. Howell decided to hold rehearsals in the parking lot with every singer in their car with a microphone. It was so successful, they partnered with Will and Julissa Marcencia, owners of Napa’s Wine Down Media, to present a “car choir” to the community that was aired on local radio May 23, 2021.
ON THE FIELDS AND FAIRWAYS
ATHLETICS

NVC Athletics 2020-2021

The NVC Athletic Department honors a code of conduct that values hard work, commitment and accountability. Students who participated in the intercollegiate athletics at NVC averaged 13.6 units, with an average 2.9 GPA during the 2020-2021 academic year.

While the NVC Athletic Department had to cancel the majority of their intercollegiate athletic events and seasons due to the pandemic, they were able to resume men’s golf and baseball in spring 2021, with reduced schedules and intense COVID-19 testing protocols.

Men’s golf continued to be one of the more robust programs in Northern California, captained by head coach Bob Freschi and assistant coach David Knox. They found themselves in the top spot of the Big 8 Conference at the end of their modified season. The Storm was led by Keelan Cole, Ryan Stewart, Joe Amoroso and Chase Hascup. Next spring, the program will return with all but one player to give them a formidable team once again.

NVC’s baseball program, coached by Dan Parker, also had an excellent modified season, gaining state recognition at the end of their season. Coach Parker’s young program saw most of the student-athletes returning for the 2021 campaign. Tanner Fonoti finished 6th in the state for strike outs, and A.J. McMahon was 6th in the state for home runs. Coach Parker hopes to build on last season’s success for another productive and competitive team in 2021.
Three faculty members were recognized in 2021 for their excellence in teaching and outstanding commitment to quality education by being awarded the McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award—Cathy Gillis, Jeannette McClendon, and Jennifer King.

Cathy Gillis has been a professor of English at NVC since 2002. She soon became the advisor for NVC’s honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, and initiated the informal role as Distance Education coordinator ever since NVC started offering classes online. She and her team were instrumental in helping NVC’s faculty transition from in-person to online classrooms. Gillis helped establish NVC’s Puente program and Writing Success Center. A colleague stated that “her ability to connect with our diverse student population has enriched the lives of thousands of our students and their families.”

Jeannette McClendon started at NVC in August 2013 as an academic counselor providing new and continuing students guidance and support through education planning, career assessment, personal counseling, graduation and transferring to a four-year university. McClendon is NVC’s Umoja Learning Community Coordinator, mentoring students in Umoja and the Puente program. She works tirelessly to further students’ needs and rights by being a voice on the Academic Senate, Faculty Union and on the Equity and Inclusivity Committee. She is “a crusader for our students’ success,” stated a colleague. “To put it more emphatically, A SUPERHERO!”

Jennifer King has worked extensively in theater around the Bay Area and the world, bringing that experience and knowledge to students as NVC’s theater arts professor and coordinator. She is currently the faculty chair of Arts and Humanities and is the artistic director for NVC’s Performing Arts Center. While many theaters remained inactive during the pandemic, King led her students through two momentous productions—Night of the Living Dead, and the musical A Chorus Line as digital, online experiences. One colleague remarked, “the commitment and enthusiasm she provides to our students is invaluable.”
Administrator of the Year

Maria Villagomez, senior dean, language arts and developmental studies (LADS), library and social sciences (SS), was selected by her peers in NVC’s Administrative Senate as the 2020-21 Administrative/Confidential Employee of the Year. She oversees two divisions—LADS and SS—and the library and Distance Education. She and her Distance Education team ensured faculty and students could continue their courses when the college needed to quickly switch from offering only a third of classes online to 100 percent of them because of the pandemic. An English faculty member commented, “This work is typically done by four separate deans at other colleges, yet somehow, Maria manages it all with grace and finesse.”

Ed Shenk Excellence in Service Award

René Rubio, student affairs specialist for NVC’s MESA/STEM Center was awarded the Dr. Ed Shenk Excellence in Student Services Award. Rubio became only the second recipient of the award that started a year ago to acknowledge and celebrate the hard-working student services personnel who persistently promote student success and retention through their work.

An alum of the college, Rubio started working at NVC in 2001 with EOPS (Extended Opportunity Program and Services) and joined the MESA/STEM Center. “My passion to support student success stems from the wonderful support I received from the EOPS program when I was a student here at Napa Valley College.”

2020-2021 Academic Year

Newly Tenured Faculty

Congratulations!

In September 2020, the Board of Trustees honored six faculty members who achieved tenured status beginning in fall 2020. They were:

Joshua Hanson, PhD, Chemistry Professor
Stanley Hitchcock, Machine Tool Technology Professor
Molly Hodgins, Viticulture & Winery Technology Professor
Tiffany-Hope Scott, Counseling Professor
Katharine Ratliff, Nursing Professor
Andrea Ruybal, Nursing Professor

Celebrating Our Retiring Staff

Thank you!

NVC recognizes and honors our retiring staff for their years of hard work and dedication to our students, fellow employees and campuses. Those retiring in the 2020-21 year are:

Scott Allen, Communications & Marketing Manager, 5+ years
Barbara Brock, Healthcare Workforce Training Center Manager, 9+ years
Mary Cervantes, Napa & Sonoma Small Business Development Centers Manager, 7 years
Mark Cratty, Senior Technology Specialist, 19 years
John Dotta, Photography faculty, 13 years
Steven Fawl, Chemistry faculty, 36 years
Sheryl Fernandez, Disability Support Programs & Services Dean, 19 years
Nancy McEnery, Librarian, 6 years
Lynda Monger, Counselor, 32 years
Linda Napholz, Psychiatric, Medical-Surgical Nursing, 20 years
Renate Sicard, Counseling Services Specialist, 12 years
Randall Villa, Mathematics faculty, 31+ years
To ensure that NVC is a responsible steward of public funds, our annual budget is built by weighing funding proposals against our six strategic goals.

1. Work with local educational partners to promote opportunities at NVC and equip incoming students with the skills and resources needed for college success
   - NVC increased the “capture rates” among high school graduates across all Napa County high school districts.
   - Secured deliveries from Solano Food for Free to receive United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) produce to distribute through the NVC Student Food Basket.
   - Developed videos describing NVC programs to potential students, including workforce/training programs and English as a Second Language.
   - Provided presentations to facilitate transition of students from Napa High School, California Virtual Academies, American Canyon High School, New Technology High School and Justin-Siena High School to NVC.

2. Engage NVC students and assist in their progress towards educational and job training goals
   - Increased internal-external supports for students, in part, due to the pandemic.
   - Created informational videos for guided self-placement into math and English courses in association with California Assembly Bill (AB) 705.
   - Launched five new cross-functional teams associated with the implementation of the Guided Pathways framework, including: onboarding, student planning, professional development around equity, Degrees When Due and Caring Campus.
   - Secured a Title III Hispanic-Serving Institution –Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (HSI-STEM) grant to expand culturally relevant curriculum and co-curricular activities for low-income students, particularly Latinx students.
   - Upgraded classroom facilities in Buildings 140 and 1600.
   - Expanded Umoja learning community to include English and math offerings.

3. Increase NVC student achievement and completion of educational and job training goals
   - Developed a Computer Science degree program and a Hospitality, Culinary, Tourism Management degree program.
   - NVC worked with Degrees When Due to identify past students who are eligible to receive degrees from NVC.
   - NVC increased degree and certificate offerings by 23.5 percent between 2017-2018 and 2020-2021.
   - NVC decreased the average time to completion by 10.5 percent between 2017-2018 and 2020-2021.
   - NVC increased the number of students earning associate degrees for transfer by 19.1 percent between 2016-2017 and 2019-2020.
   - NVC promoted degree completion by working with local four-year institutions to facilitate transfer.

4. Achieve equity in student outcomes and promote equity-mindedness as a means to evaluate all district practices
   - NVC offered new professional development opportunities, through the Instructional Design Institute of the Academic Senate, Caring Campus for Classified Professionals and the equity training for all constituent groups.
   - Developed course on Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (SOCI-150).
   - Increased the proportion of first-time degree-/transfer-seeking students who completed transfer-level math and transfer-level English in the first year by 10.2 percent between 2017-2018 and 2019-2020.
   - Identified three initiatives to implement, including: adding preferred pronouns and languages spoken to identification cards and Outlook signatures; developing a referral form to guide students to the correct department/individual for assistance, creating a brochure to guide staff referrals and answer frequently asked questions.
Ensure the fiscal stability of NVC as it transitions to a community supported district

- Developed an enrollment data dashboard to allow for quick transparency to all constituents.
- Developed process to coordinate marketing efforts between Academic Affairs and Public Affairs and Communications.

Enhance collaboration between NVC and community and civic partners

- Increased partnerships with community organizations 95.7 percent between 2017-2018 and 2020-2021.
- Partnered with Napa Regional Conservation District.
- Pursued the Small-Scale Farming Initiative with the Adult Education Program.
- Coordinated with the Napa Vally College Foundation to provide instrument loan services among music summer camp participants.

$72,708,209 Total Expenses

$72,681,012 Total Revenues

(-$27,197) Reduction to Fund Balance
Napa Valley College was honored to receive a competitive $2.9 million five-year Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. More than 45 percent of NVC's student population identifies as Hispanic/Latinx, far surpassing the 25 percent qualification needed of undergraduate full-time equivalent students to be eligible for the grant.

This is NVC's third HSI grant. Project Rise was created with the last grant funding which helped strengthen and reinforce early matriculation pathways from high schools in NVC’s service area into the college. Building on the successes of previous HSI grants at the college, this five-year grant will fund the Caminos al Éxito (Pathways to Success) Project, creating culturally relevant practices among faculty and staff to best serve the college’s growing Latinx community. The new project will assist NVC to equip students with the skills, knowledge and resources they need to prosper in tomorrow’s economy and will include opportunities for parental engagement.

Phi Theta Kappa Members Giving Out Needed Supplies

Phi Theta Kappa Honors in Action Grant

In fall of last year, NVC’s Beta Beta Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) received a $1,000 Honors in Action grant. The Honors in Action (HIA) program encourages students to take what they’ve learned in the classroom to research and solve real-world challenges that are specific to their community needs.

NVC’s PTK used the grant funds to help NVC students impacted by the pandemic. Led by PTK President Kēhaulani McAllister, the first was to rent a billboard to remind the community of CDC’s pandemic hygiene practices and its social distancing and face mask requirements. The next was providing face masks and hand sanitizer to NVC’s Food Basket, which provides food and groceries to students in need. The last was to organize a canned food drive to increase the dwindling food supply at NVC’s Food Basket. NVC’s PTK was able to pay for all of it through their HIA grant.

NVC Specialist Mark Martin (far right) and American Canyon High School (ACHS) Counselor Vanna Som meet with future NVC students at ACHS

$2.9 million HSI Grant

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CARES/HEERF Funds Help Mitigate Impact

Ever since the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act was signed into law by the federal government on March 27, 2020, NVC has diligently worked to help students get these additional emergency relief funds during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the CARES Act, federal HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) monies were allocated to NVC to help students in need. The total amount of funds Napa Valley College received as Emergency Financial Aid Grants for Students was $1,692,320.

NVC was able to allocate a total of $10,310,957 in federal, state, and local financial aid to students, including:

- $4,036,950 in Pell Grants and related federal grants
- $2,446,492 in California College Promise Grants (formerly Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver)
- $819,257 in state grants, including Cal Grants, and EOPS, and Chaffee Grants, and others
- $389,392 in federal, state, and local work study
- $325,053 in NVC Promise Scholarships
- $178,900 in local and Foundation Scholarships
- $77,707 in Outside Scholarships
- $61,746 in federal, state and local book vouchers and awards
- $36,796 in California Disaster Relief Emergency Aid, re: fires and COVID-19

New Senior Director Hired

Dr. Patricia van Leeuwaarde Moonsammy was named senior director, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at Napa Valley College, starting her new position June 1, 2021. Dr. van Leeuwaarde Moonsammy will work with the college president and staff to help guide and shape NVC’s DEI efforts, providing vision, leadership and direction for current and future equity initiatives.

Dr. van Leeuwaarde Moonsammy has an extensive background in education. She is a socio-cultural anthropologist with expertise in race, ethnicity and diaspora studies; decolonization; performance studies and expressive culture; and media. In addition to creating inclusive campus environments through her teaching and cultural programming, her experience supporting DEI spans her administrative and academic work.

“I am excited to support Napa Valley College’s efforts to enhance inclusivity and a positive, diverse campus climate,” said van Leeuwaarde Moonsammy. “As a former community college student, a first-generation college graduate, a daughter of immigrants from the Caribbean and South America and a woman of color, my identity and experiences overlap with those of many of the students at Napa Valley College. It is a privilege to work with the community at the college to support student success, to build a diverse, equitable and inclusive community throughout the district, and to forge alliances with city, community and business leaders to develop DEI initiatives that benefit the college and the region. My experience and accomplishments as an anthropologist, faculty member and university administrator have provided me with skills and insights that I look forward to bringing to Napa Valley College.”
ENHANCING OUR CARING CAMPUS INITIATIVE

Napa Valley College is one of 18 California community colleges chosen to work with the Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC) to launch the Caring Campus initiative into its student success efforts. With the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, NVC is committed to implementing its college-specific Caring Campus approach to help students succeed.

The Caring Campus initiative uses a coaching-based approach to encourage that all staff play a role in student success. Currently, one-third of California’s community colleges participate in IEBC’s program, which is funded by a grant from the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO).

Research shows that students often leave college because they don’t feel connected to the institution. Therefore, to increase the likelihood that students will continue to and through their educational goals, the Caring Campus initiative ensures NVC staff employees are developing and implementing plans to intentionally include all staff members to connect students to the resources they need to reach their goals.

Napa Valley College hosted its first of four work sessions on September 10, 2020, to begin this critical work.
Napa Valley College Foundation

Making college more affordable and accessible for NVC students

Napa Valley College Foundation (NVCF) continued during the pandemic towards directly supporting the college’s mission to prepare students for their evolving roles in a diverse, dynamic and interdependent world.

The Foundation assisted NVC students through its scholarships, facility renovations and upgrades and community outreach and donations.

• Focused specifically on first-generation students, single-parent students and older workers who generally have had the most significant financial need to help them reach their educational goals. These atypical students often work during the day and take classes at night, while balancing the immediate needs of their families with the need to get ahead through education.

• Provided scholarships and financial assistance help make the college experience affordable and accessible, especially during the pandemic.

• NVC Foundation awarded 150 students with $176,000 in scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year.

Student Spotlight—Aisha Burns, NCVF Scholarship Recipient

The extra funds help students like NVCF scholarship recipient Aisha Burns not only survive—but thrive.

"Yes, I am a first-generation, re-entry, low-income student. But I decided to become a cosmetologist, an artist, and up next: a physicist. This change in academic trajectory is a direct result of having support from programs like the Napa Valley College Foundation. This impact empowers me to ditch those labels and find my own identity."