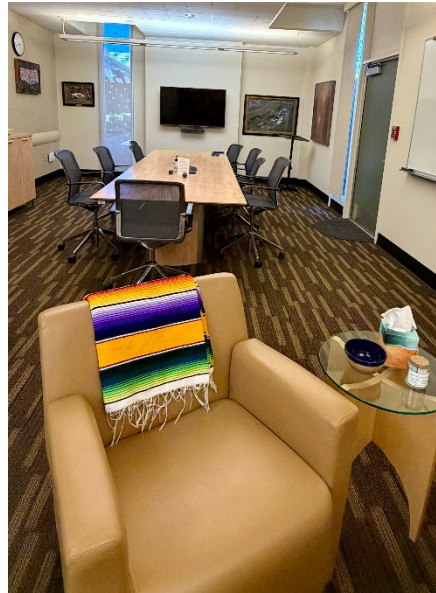


Writing Our Next Chapter : Connecting People, Purpose, and Place

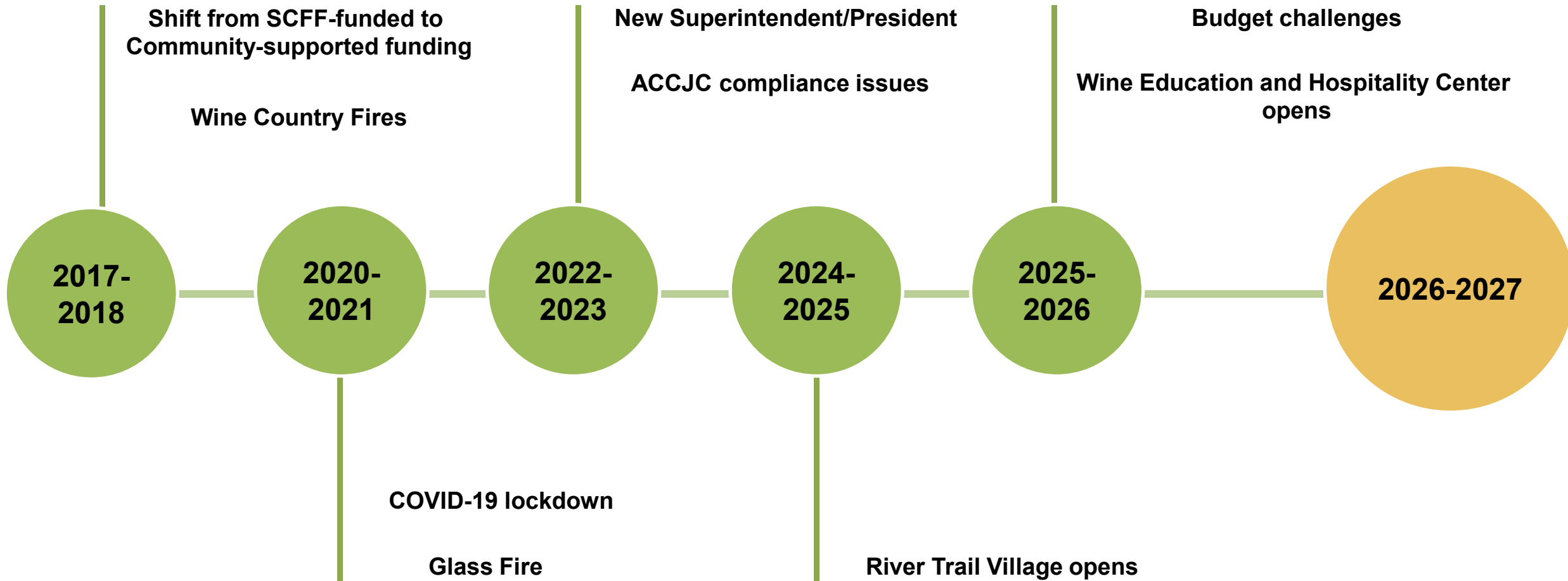
Dr. Gayle Pitman
Superintendent/President, Napa Valley College
August 20, 2026



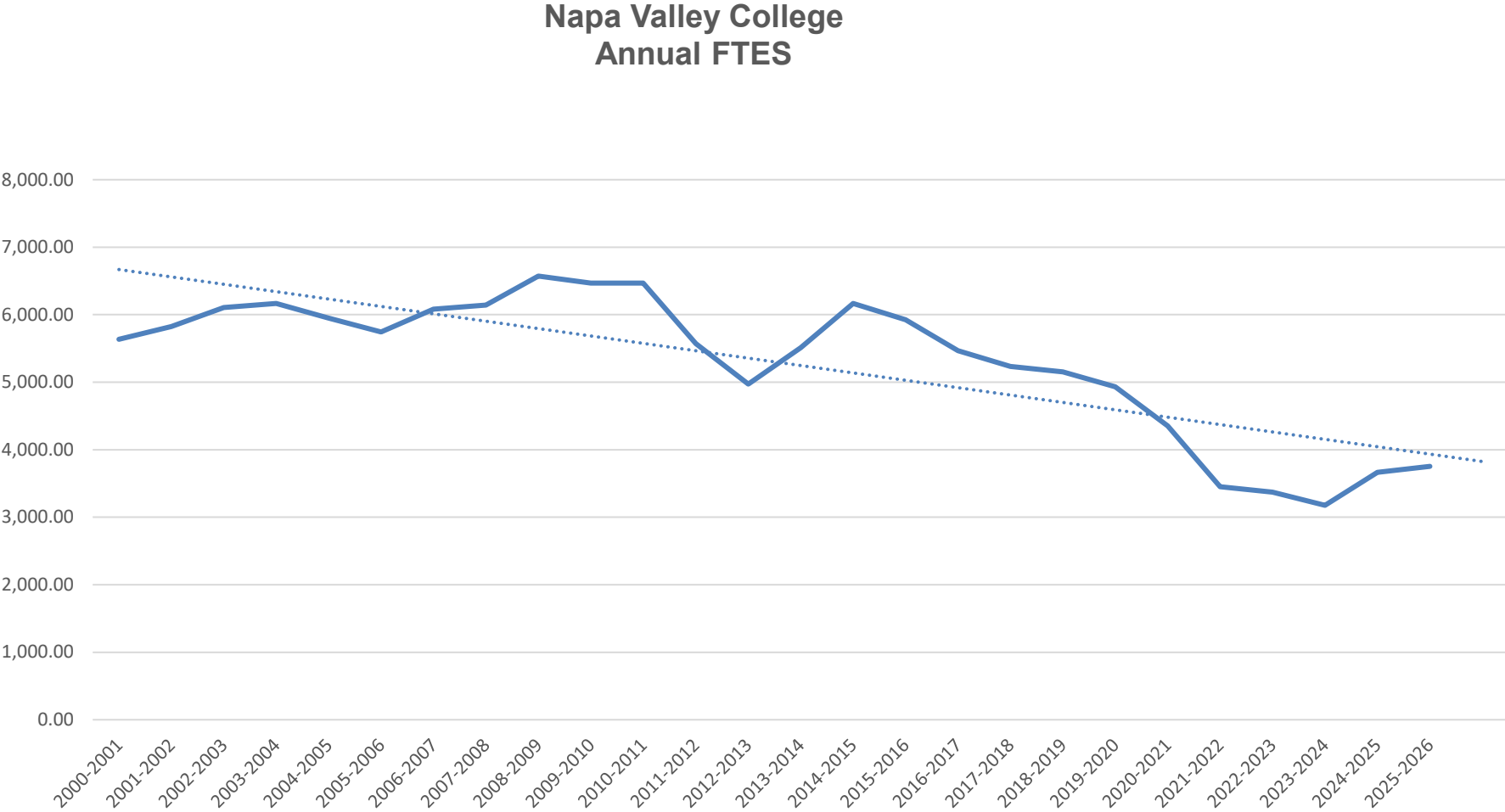
My first day



A timeline of events

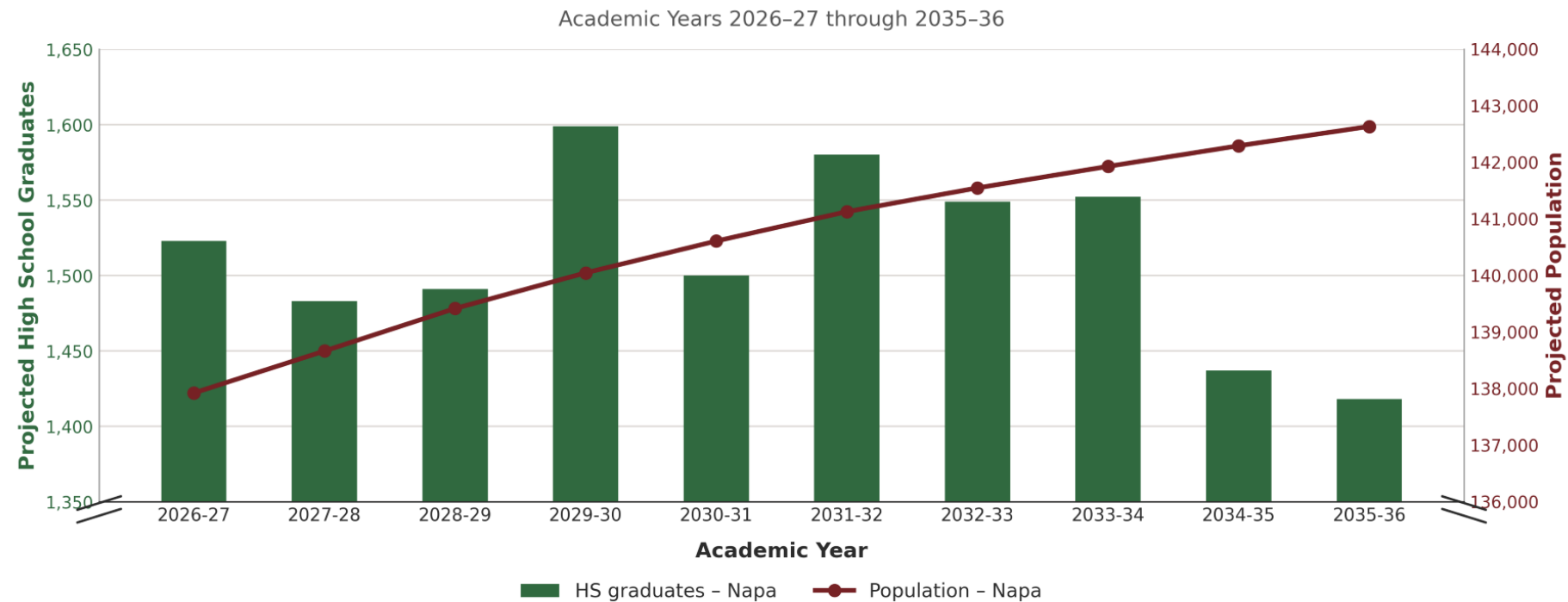


What's changed?



What's changed?

Napa County: Projected High School Graduates and Population



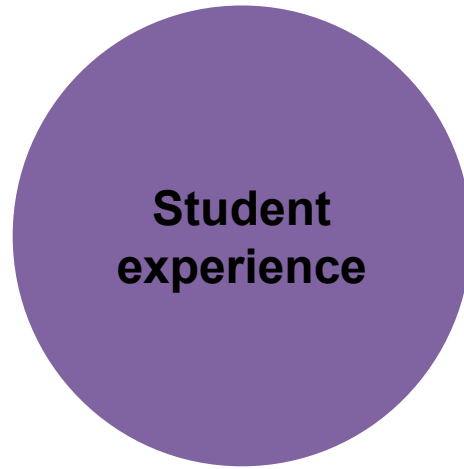
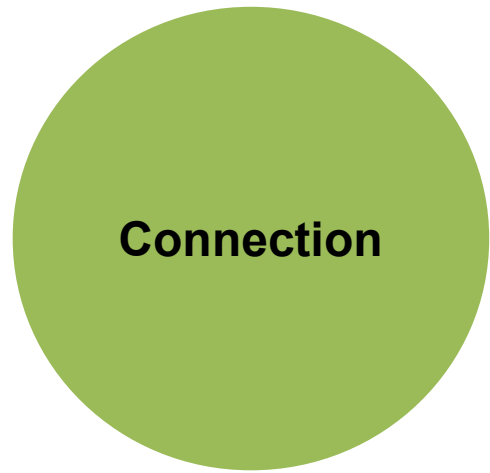
Note: Figures are projections, not actual counts. Y-axes start above 0 (see break marks) so year-to-year change is easier to see.

**Either you're an
agent of change, or
you're destined to become
a victim of change.**

- Norm Brodsky



A proposed theory of change

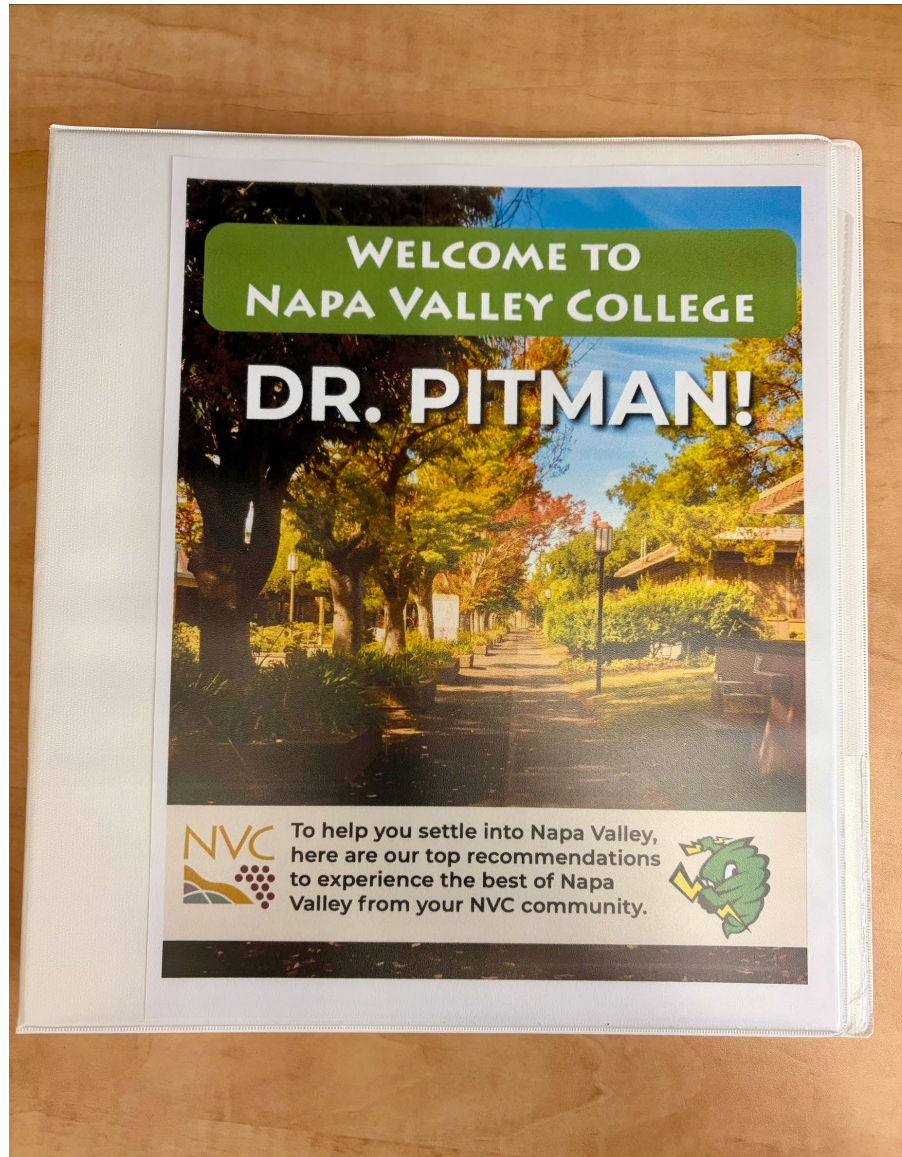


A proposed theory of change:

Connection



The importance of connection



The importance of connection


RECOMMENDS

 Help Dr. Pitman settle in to life in Napa Valley. Let her know, who is the best dog walker? Where is the best spot for a latte? Who cuts hair better than anyone else? Who is the person you trust when your car is making an odd noise?

Welcome Dr. Pitman to Napa Valley and share your recommendations below!

BEST: Joey's Bakery Best sweet bread/pan dulce!
Next to Napa High

BEST: Sweet straw Best Bobba drinks!
Next to Napa High / Joey's Bakery

BEST: Starbread Bakery Best Señorita bread
Valley

BEST: Mexican Restaurant in Napa Frida's Grill off
Trancas near Kaiser - Best caterer/long-term
partner w/NVC.

BEST: Happy's Donut Tree - Small family-owned business
w/an amazing selection of donuts + the best jalapeño
bagel w/creamy cheese!

BEST: Les Sahwab Tire Center - next to In-and-Out
My 17th yr old son works there (Alex Navarro)

NAME: Martha Navarro, Student Affairs
Nation's Giant Hamburgers + Great Pies
1441 3rd St. Napa, CA 94558 - Best fries, shakes +
pies!

Continued →


RECOMMENDS

 Help Dr. Pitman settle in to life in Napa Valley. Let her know, who is the best dog walker? Where is the best spot for a latte? Who cuts hair better than anyone else? Who is the person you trust when your car is making an odd noise?

Welcome Dr. Pitman to Napa Valley and share your recommendations below!

BEST: Napa Tire + Wheels (auto work) open 7 days a week
707-927-3685 / 713 Silverado Trail, Napa

BEST: Eye Works Optometry
707-254-2020 / Pearl Street, Napa

BEST: Alley Cat + Dog Pet Hospital
707-224-2525 / 1041 Wine Country Ave

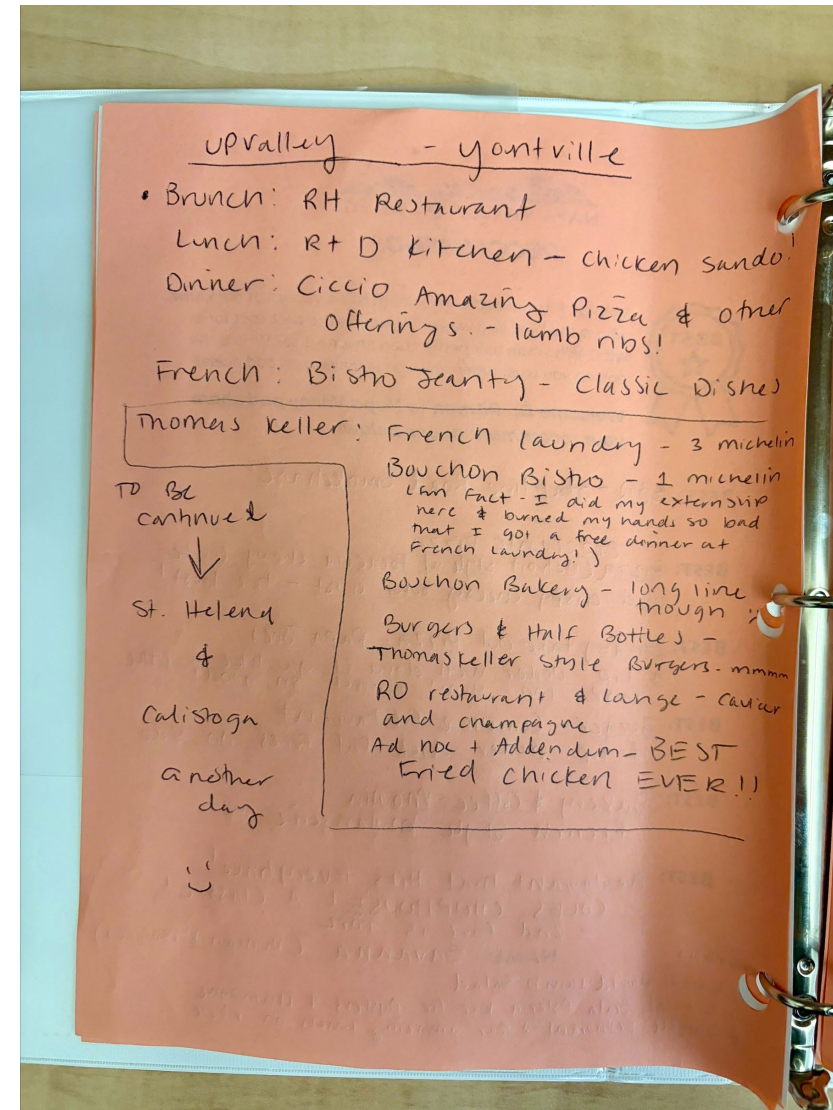
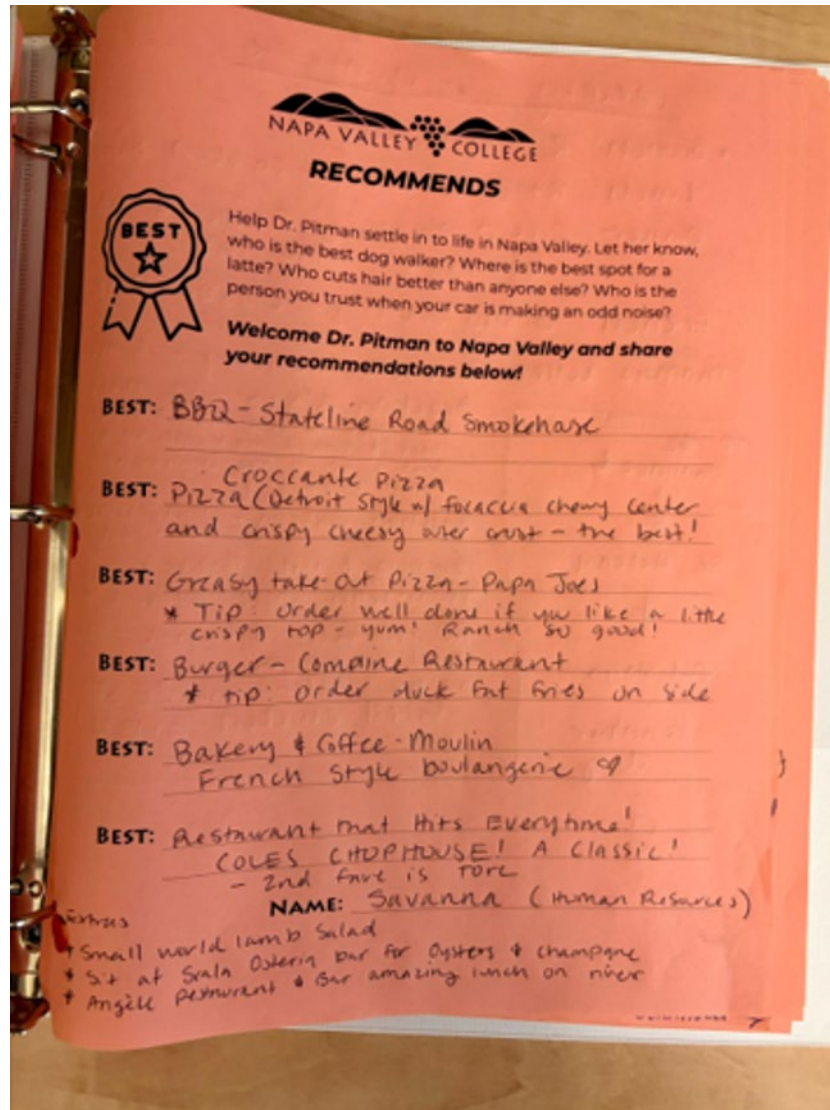
BEST: Feminist Book Club - through Napa Bookmine
(but also check-out events calendar) Second Street
for several book clubs

BEST: Hop Creek Pub (pub food) 3253 Browns Valley Rd
Filippini Propra Crotto (Italian food) 645 1st St
Wah Bing (Chinese Food) 1415 W. Mola Ave (River Park)

BEST: Sunshine Cafe 1540 Trancas St in shopping center
breakfast + lunch only
Bonthen Cream Bakery 2297 Jefferson St. (breakfast +
lunch only)

NAME: Selange Kada

The importance of connection



The importance of connection


RECOMMENDS

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Welcome Dr. Pitman to Napa Valley and share your recommendations below!

BEST: Market - Oxbow

BEST: 9 hole Golf Course - Vintners GC

BEST: Fried Chicken - Ad Hoc

BEST: Happy Hour - Eikos + Cadet

BEST: Public Transit - Vallejo Ferry → SF Giants Stadium

BEST: Nearby Secret Town - Glen Ellen
(Jack London Village)

NAME: Jacob K.


RECOMMENDS

 Help Dr. Pitman settle in to life in Napa Valley. Let her know, who is the best dog walker? Where is the best spot for a latte? Who cuts hair better than anyone else? Who is the person you trust when your car is making an odd noise?

Welcome Dr. Pitman to Napa Valley and share your recommendations below!

BEST: place to adopt a cat or kitten
Whiskers Tails + Ferals: Adoptions Saturday @ Pet Co

BEST: winery to take out of town guests to
Buena Vista Winery: 18000 Old Winery Rd
(towards Sonoma)

BEST: easy hike
Westwood Hills: 3107 Browns Valley Rd

BEST: squirrel watching
Fuller Park: 560 Jefferson St

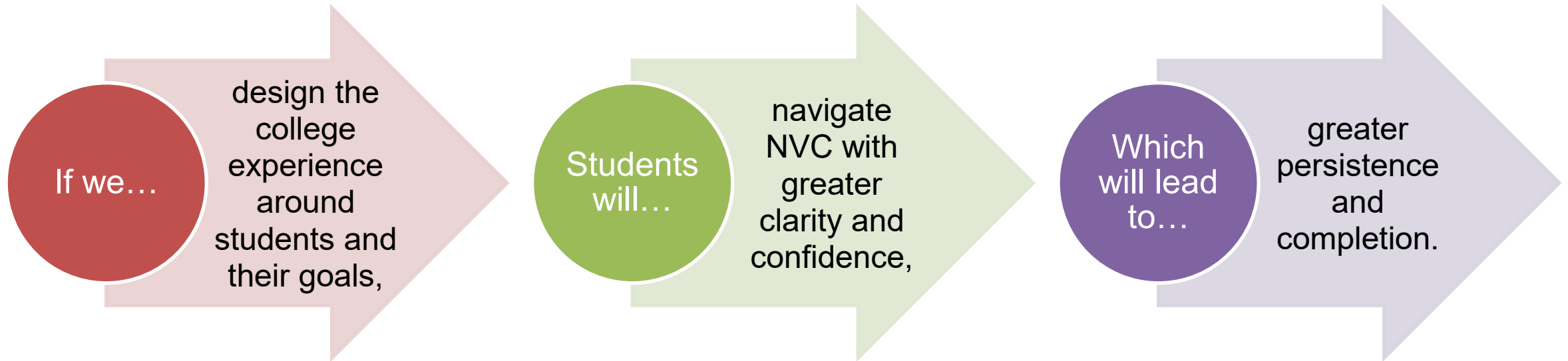
BEST: church
Napa Valley Unitarian Universalist: 1625 Salvador

BEST: place to work
NVC!

NAME: Shawna Bynum
(math)

A proposed theory of change:

The student experience



The importance of the student experience

The average time to completion is

4.0 years

for students earning a local AA or AS degree
and

3.8 years

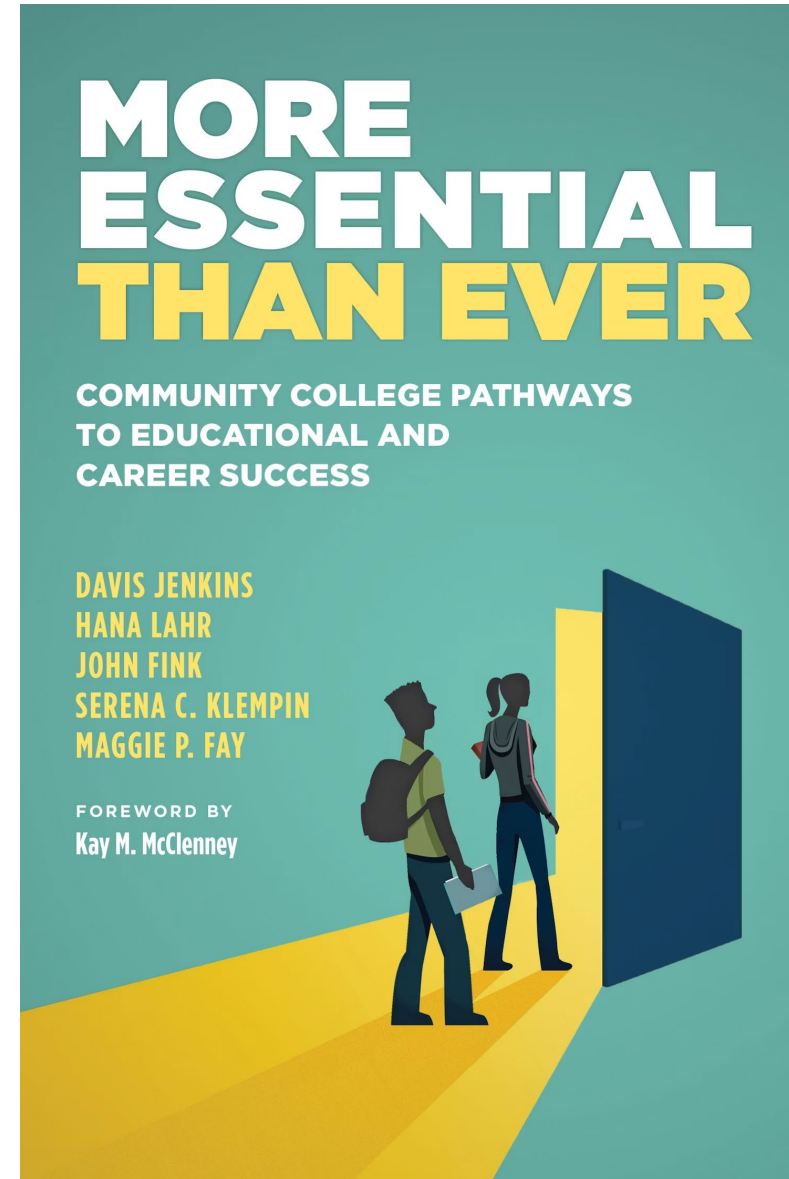
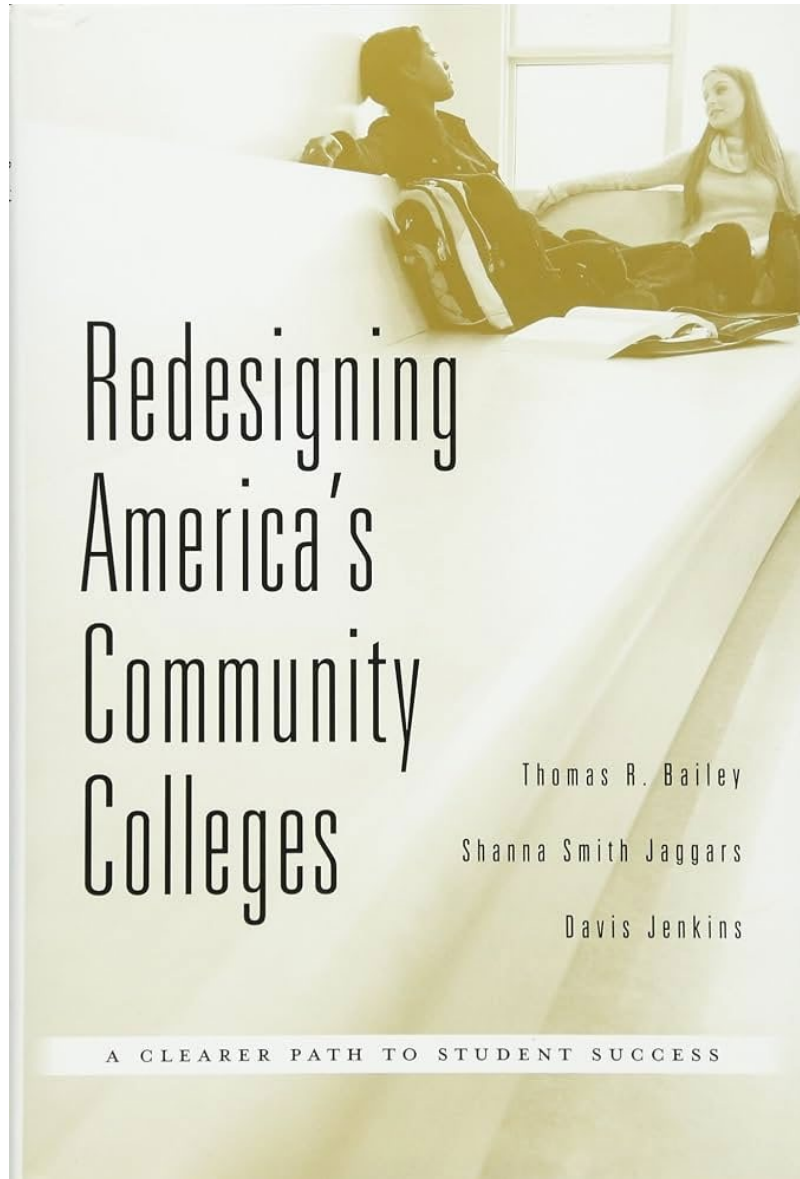
for students earning an Associate Degree for Transfer.

Students accumulate an average of

85 units

on their journey toward completing their degree.

The importance of the student experience



The importance of the student experience

“When we recommended that colleges redesign themselves around meta-majors, we got it all wrong.

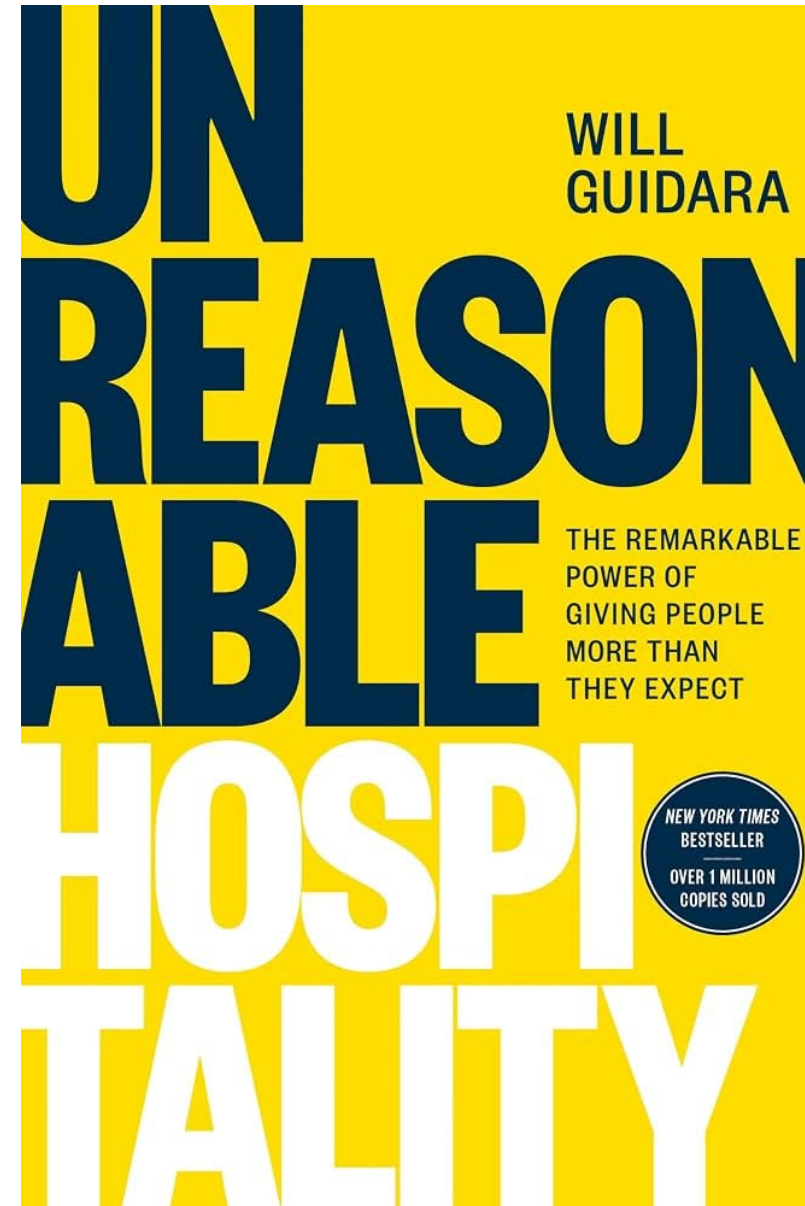
The first question we ask students is
‘What’s your major?’

Instead, we should be asking them
‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’

That one change completely shifts how we design programs and services for students.”

-Dr. Davis Jenkins
Senior Research Scholar
Community College Research Center
Teachers College, Columbia University

The importance of the student experience



The importance of the student experience



A proposed theory of change:

Post-graduation success



The importance of post-graduation success

For a single individual with no children, the livable wage in Napa County is

\$31.44

per hour

\$65,389

annually, before taxes

60%

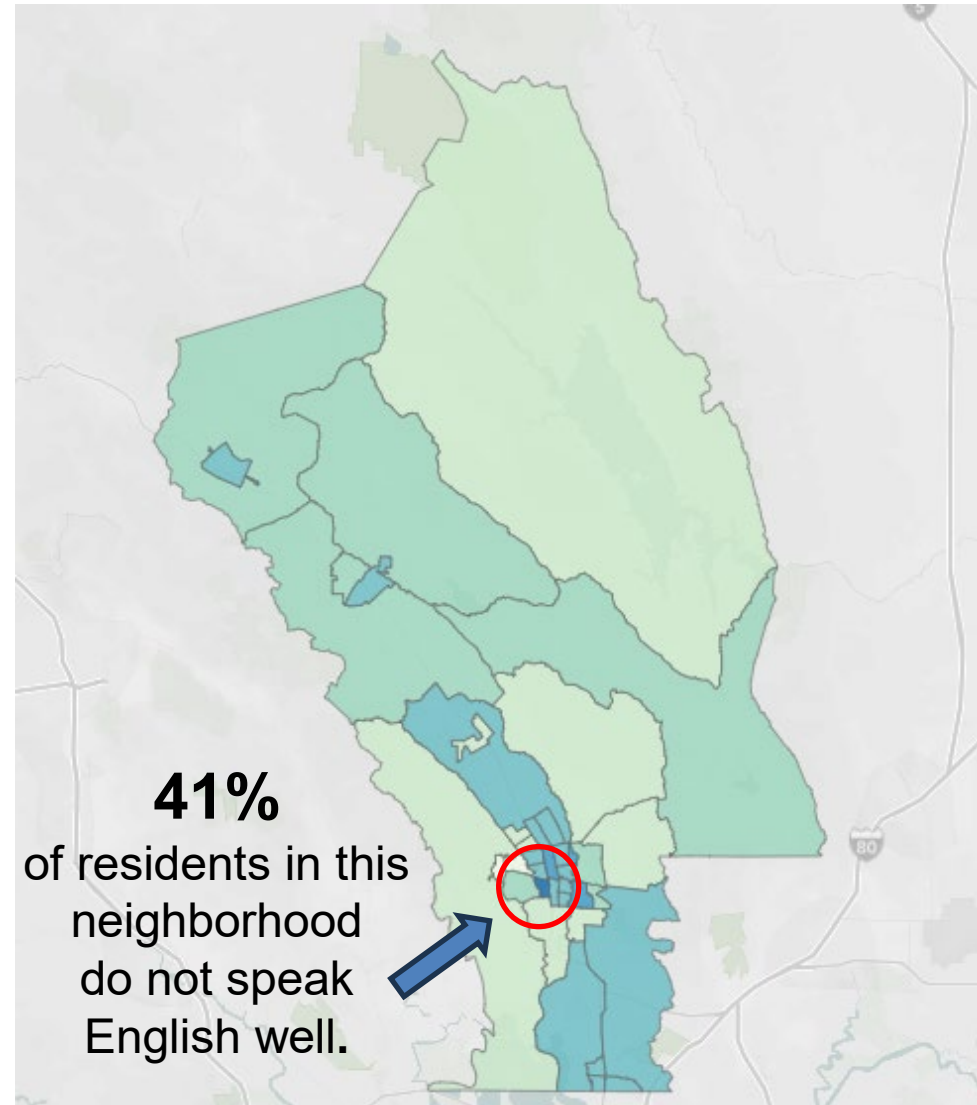
of Napa County residents who are 25 or older
do not have a bachelor's degree.

The importance of post-graduation success

Approximately
15%
of Napa County residents
speak English “less than very well.”

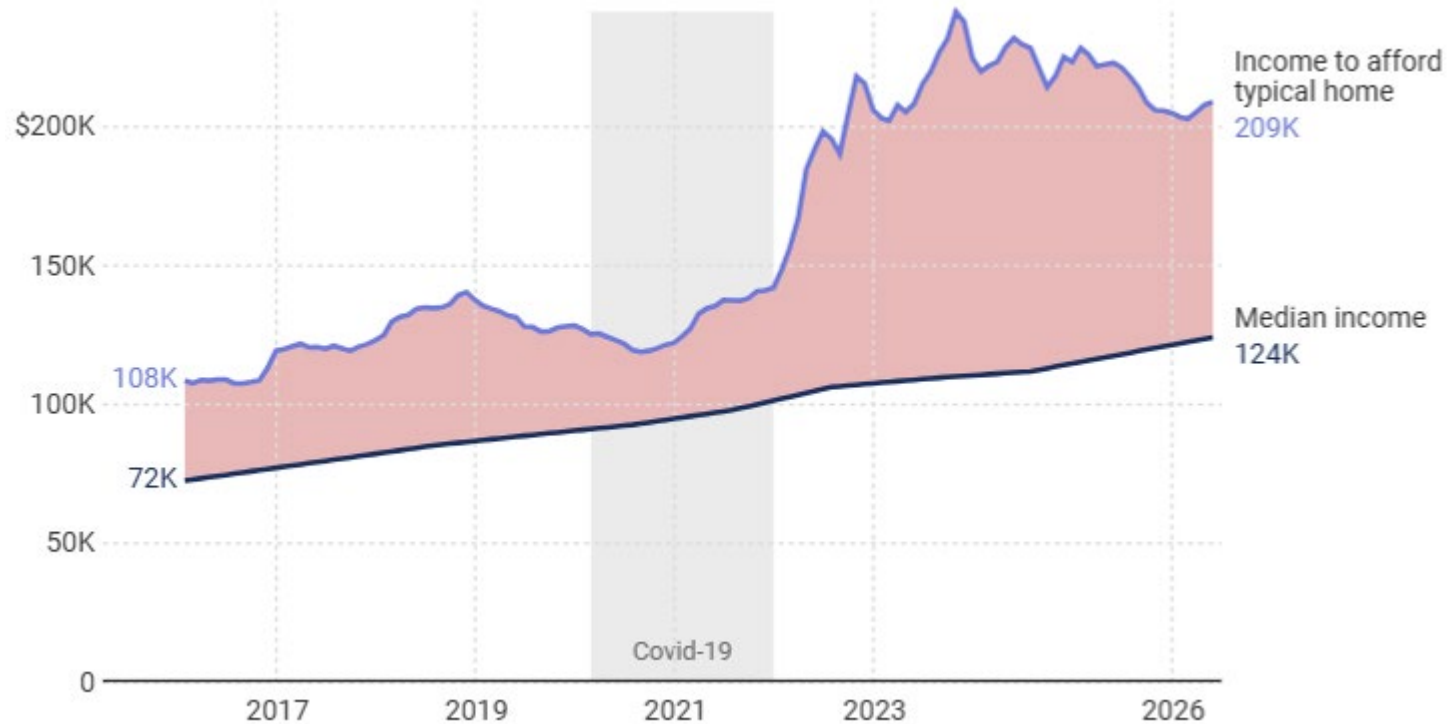
21%
of Napa County residents
are immigrants, half of whom
speak English “less than very well.”

In areas shaded in light blue,
the percentage of residents who speak
English “less than very well”
ranges from
25 - 30%.



The importance of post-graduation success

In 2016, the gap between median income and income required to afford a home was
\$36,097.



In 2026, that gap increased to
\$84,173.

A proposed theory of change:

Community



The importance of community



Economic diversification

Climate resilience and innovation

Health/mental health needs

Racial disparities and immigration issues

Our students' first day



Thank you!!!