



**NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE  
2023—2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

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### Mission

Napa Valley College transforms lives. Whether your goal is to transfer, to pursue a career, or to explore your interests, Napa Valley College provides excellent educational and professional opportunities that are student-centered, equity-focused and community-oriented.

### Vision

Napa Valley College cultivates a learning environment grounded in equity, inclusion and empowerment.

### Values

Napa Valley College is a community of learners that strive to grow, teach, model and emulate the following values in ourselves and in our students.

- **INTEGRITY:** We treat each other ethically and foster an environment of trust.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We commit to ensuring that our actions align with our words and recognize the importance of clear expectations and follow-through that is timely and clearly communicated.
- **RESPECT:** We recognize each other's humanity, demonstrate consideration for others, and connect through active listening and sharing perspectives to achieve common goals.
- **INCLUSION:** We embrace the power of diverse peoples, perspectives, and experiences. We commit to creating a flexible and responsive environment where everyone can thrive and learn.
- **EQUITY-MINDEDNESS:** We commit to being evidence-based, race-conscious, institutionally focused, systemically aware and equity advancing.
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE:** We commit to being anti-racist and dismantling systemic injustices to ensure access to resources and opportunities necessary for success.
- **SUSTAINABILITY:** We pledge to center sustainability by recognizing the interconnectedness of a healthy ecological environment, upholding universal human rights, and equitable stewardship of economic resources, all of which are necessary to the wellbeing of current and future generations.

## A letter from the President



**THE 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR WAS ONE FULL OF MOMENTUM.** We built trust, accomplished major milestones and provided students with an education and the basic needs that fulfill our mission: to transform lives.

Most visibly, we saw three buildings for on-campus housing rise to reality, providing living spaces for students, employees and community partners in the fall of 2024. Significantly, our planning considered the holistic experience of our students, including support to help address basic needs: housing and food security, transportation and mental health. We're excited about having a new, vibrant, around-the-clock community on campus.

Meanwhile, we broke ground on a Wine Education Center, thanks to a generous \$10 million donation from the Wine Spectator. Simultaneously, we launched a fundraising campaign to add a Wine and Hospitality Training Center, which together will more than double classroom and training space and enable us to create a new winery chef certificate to meet a growing need in the Napa Valley.

The campus did a great deal of work to help build on our strong foundation and plan for the future. The campus clarified procedures, responsibilities and transparency, leading to positive affirmation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) that we are on the right track.

We created a five-year Educational Master Plan, or what I like to call our North Star, to help guide our priorities and decisions for 2024-2029. It's more than a plan; it's truly a roadmap, with specific goals and metrics that will measure our progress to helping students and employees succeed, while addressing Napa Valley's labor needs.

The board reaffirmed our commitment to diversity and inclusion, while going a step further with our first equity definition. The board also enthusiastically approved our updated our mission, vision and values, which includes inclusion, equity-mindedness, social justice and sustainability.

We worked closely with community partners, sharing resources, ideas and devotion to supporting the entire Napa Valley.

Of course, we provided an outstanding and affordable education, with the personal attention students could not get at a large university. In the spring, we awarded 881 degrees and certificates to more than 530 students. More than one-quarter of our graduates were among the first in their families to receive a college degree. Half identified as Latinx.

We're known for providing a lifetime of learning opportunities: our youngest graduate was 17 years old; the oldest was 70.

I'd like to extend my personal thanks to our Napa Valley College community—on campus and throughout the Napa Valley. Together, we truly are transforming lives.

**DR. TORENCE POWELL**  
Superintendent/President  
Napa Valley College

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## New Educational Master Plan creates a campus North Star

During this academic year, Napa Valley College created a 2024–2029 Educational Master Plan (EMP), a long-term planning document that is a significant milestone for the college.

The plan is our North Star; it sets the course for our subsequent initiatives, helps inform our future decision-making and provides a foundational set of clear priorities that will strengthen the bonds with our community stakeholders.

The EMP also reflects our commitment to innovation and embracing the dynamic world of education, which centers student success, equity and social justice as guiding pillars.

More specifically, it prioritizes five areas of focus, with goals within each:

- ENROLLMENT STABILIZATION
- EQUITABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES
- PROGRAM ALIGNMENT WITH THE REGIONAL LABOR MARKET
- INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY
- CULTURE AND CLIMATE

The plan is needed because the dynamics of higher education have changed – most dramatically in a post-COVID world where student expectations, delivery of instruction and the provision of support services have shifted. The landscape of our region also continues to evolve, as economic and demographic factors alter the composition of Napa Valley, including who we serve and how we best serve them.

The plan is the product of many months of input from stakeholders from within the college and from our extended community. We will continue to count on this input from all as we boldly step into the future of Napa Valley College.

## 2023–2024 Financial Report

The 2023–2024 fiscal year saw favorable financial results for the District. With continued careful management of resources, the District operated within its budget which resulted in an increase in reserves of approximately \$1.2 million for the unrestricted general fund, and an increase of \$3.3 million for all funds combined. The increase of reserves in the general fund positioned the District to achieve the California State Chancellor’s best practices reserve threshold of 16.67% of annual expenditures.

Total income, as reported, realized a significant increase due to the receipt of a \$16 million one-time student housing grant from the State. In addition, increases in revenue from property tax proceeds, student financial aid and tuition and fees contributed to moderate growth in revenues.

Total expenditures consisted of approximately 48% for employee salaries and benefits and 27% for supplies, materials and other operating expenses. Debt retirement (general obligation bonds) contributed to 9% of total expenses with student aid disbursements accounting for 6% of expenses. The total increase for all fund balances was \$3.3 million.

# BY THE NUMBERS

6,473

ENROLLED STUDENTS

535

ASSOCIATES DEGREES AWARDED

341

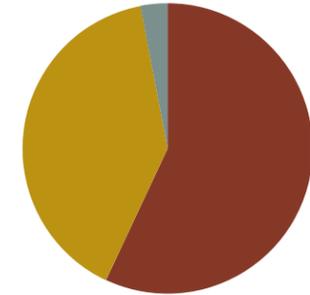
CERTIFICATES AWARDED

310

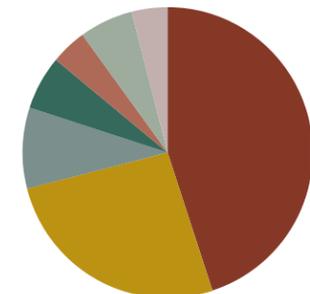
STUDENTS TRANSFERRED TO A UC OR CSU

526

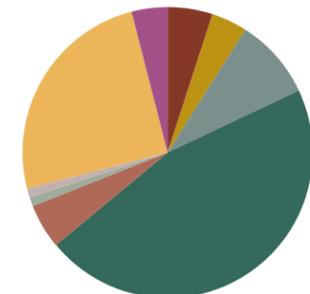
GRADUATES



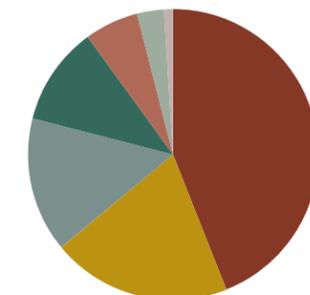
**GENDER**  
 Female: 56.6%  
 Male: 39.9%  
 Unknown: 3.5%



**AGE**  
 19 or younger: 44.8%  
 20 to 24: 25.8%  
 25 to 29: 9.2%  
 30 to 34: 6.2%  
 35 to 39: 4.1%  
 40 to 54: 6.0%  
 55 or older: 3.9%

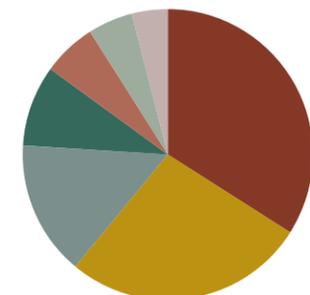


**RACE**  
 African American/Black: 4.3%  
 Asian: 4.1%  
 Filipinx: 9.2%  
 Latinx/Hispanic: 46.1%  
 Multiple Races: 5.6%  
 Native American: 0.3%  
 Pacific Islander: 0.5%  
 White: 25.2%  
 Unknown: 4.8%



**REVENUE FY 2023–2024**  
 General Revenues—Property Taxes: 45%  
 General Revenues—State Aid: 20%  
 Grants and Contracts, Noncapital: 15%  
 Local Revenue Dedicated to Debt Service: 11%  
 Financial Aid Revenues: 6%  
 Tuition and Fees: 3%  
 Other General Revenues: 0.2%

\$94,736,846 TOTAL REVENUE

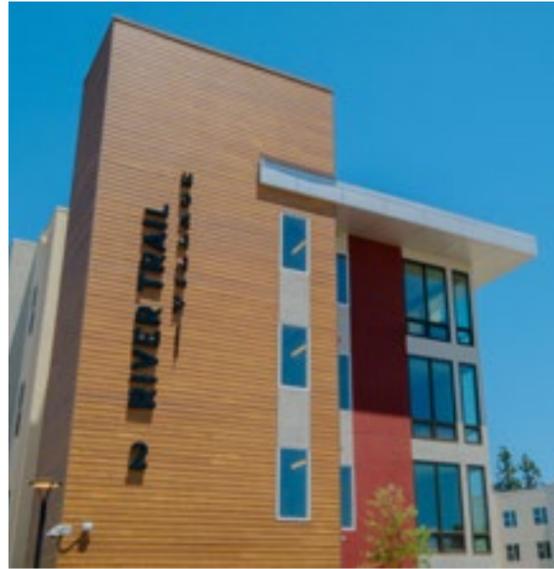


**EXPENSES FY 2023–2024**  
 Salaries: 34%  
 Supplies, Materials & Other Operating Expenses: 27%  
 Benefits: 15%  
 Debt Retirement: 9%  
 Financial Aid Disbursements: 6%  
 Capital Outlay: 5%  
 Depreciation: 4%

\$94,736,846 TOTAL EXPENSES

# NEW PROJECTS

## New on-campus housing helps students meet basic needs



Just in time for fall classes, NVC opened the doors for its new on-campus student housing in August 2024.

River Trail Village, on the north end of campus, features 580 beds in three four-story buildings. There's a mix of options to meet the needs of students, ranging from traditional students looking for a residence hall experience to small groups of students who want to live together, and even small families.

NVC is one of only 13 community colleges out of 116 in the state that provide on-campus housing.

While the housing is primarily designed for students, NVC opened its doors to a limited number of employees and community partners as well to help meet general housing needs in the Napa area.

In addition to creating housing, the team devoted a great deal of resources to creating a welcoming and valuable student experience, including basic needs such as food security and transportation; student-inspired murals, as well as fun activities and events.

"We're providing students with a convenient place to live right on campus to help them succeed and remove some of the barriers related to commuting to class," said Dr. Alejandro Guerrero, vice president of Student Affairs. "River Trail Village adds a great new energy to the campus around the clock, supporting sports, theater and other activities nearby. It's a very big step in our evolution."

"It's a season of change, not only for the students at Napa Valley College, faculty, and staff, but also for our community," said Robin Darcangelo, Dean of Student Affairs, Student Life and Engagement. "River Trail Village will provide much needed opportunities for our students who are housing insecure, and it will create an environment that strongly supports educational and personal outcomes."



## NEW PROJECTS



## Construction under way for \$10 million Wine Education Center



Construction is under way on a new \$10 million Wine Spectator Wine Education Center, thanks to a lead \$10 million donation from the Wine Spectator that is the largest in the college's history and the largest from the magazine.

The center will include two flexible sensory classrooms with seating for up to 80 students at a time, and an upgrade to the existing Trefethen laboratory classroom with 28 lab stations. Construction is expected to be completed in summer 2025.

The new facilities will support the Napa Valley Vintners Teaching Winery and Vineyard, as well as the Food and Wine Pathway Program, providing complementary degree programs in Viticulture Winery Technology (VWT) and Hospitality Culinary Tourism Management (HCTM).

Napa Valley College is in a unique position to provide expanded wine education, with job placement rates from the (VWT) program consistently exceeding 80%.



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

## NVC works to create cultural spaces



Diversity, equity, inclusion, and access are priorities at Napa Valley College and are integral to the success of our students and our employees. We have been active in a number of areas to advance DEI at the college, including defining what equity means at Napa Valley College; integrating DEI priorities into a range of strategic plans; creating professional learning opportunities for faculty and staff in DEI concepts and best practices; establishing a work group to develop spaces across the campus that reflect the diversity of our students and region; and offering cultural programs that celebrate and educate the community about the rich diversity of our region and the nation.

NVC adopted its first equity statement--“Equity at Napa Valley College”--that defined the term “equity” and highlighted guiding principles, while also acknowledging that the achievement of equity requires ongoing work and is an aspirational goal. Equity is multifaceted, designed to remedy systemic inequalities – to give the most to those who need it the most. The next step is developing a framework to help bring equity to day-to-day operations at NVC.

DEI became more integrated into the NVC community through the year. DEI was a lens through which campuswide decision-making and governance occurred, including the identification of strategic initiative funding priorities, and in aligning the work of the budget, planning, and equal opportunity committees with DEI principles and priorities. The DEI committee revised the land acknowledgement to incorporate values from the college’s updated mission, vision and values.

With funding from the Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices; Innovative Best Practices grant from the Chancellor’s Office, the Academic

Senate and Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion partnered to develop curriculum centering the concept of “indigeneity” to train faculty in culturally responsive pedagogies that would center the experiences of two of our most disproportionately impacted student populations. The college also provided DEIA training to the management team, and supported other learning opportunities, such as the DEI Colloquia where participants share the responsibility for facilitating discussions of critical DEI texts and develop strategies for the implementation of DEI best practices.

Recognizing that students benefit not only from curriculum that is culturally responsive, but also from spaces that reflect their experiences, Napa Valley College established the Cultural Spaces Work Group charged with creating and revitalizing special cultural spaces in buildings and in exterior spaces around the college. With strong engagement from Napa community members, the work group focused on plans to rehabilitate the Japanese Tea Garden, redesign the Student Activities Center, and create a new mural in the Quad. Community member John Hayes created a landscape design for the Japanese Tea Garden and will receive input from members of the Japanese and Japanese American community, the Japanese American Citizens’ League, and representatives of the Japanese Consulate offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Community member Bob Massaro of G.R.I.D. Design Build offered invaluable advice to the work group on sustainable design and tools to evaluate projects for alignment with DEI priorities, such as accessibility and cultural relevancy. G.R.I.D. Design Build will create plans for a phased remodel of the Student Activities Center that will integrate interior and exterior spaces and center the needs of our students.

“Having dedicated cultural spaces is important to our community,” said Dr. Patricia van Leeuwen Moonsammy, Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. “These spaces make visible the college’s commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. They let our students and our communities know that we see them, we value them, and that their contributions to the college and our larger society are acknowledged and celebrated.”

All of this is in addition to the college’s ongoing recognition of heritage months, special celebrations and music performances such as Viva Mariachi!, that allow us to strengthen our bonds of community on campus and throughout the Napa Valley.

## Learning communities provide caring environments to support success

Napa Valley College offers learning communities where caring environments maximize potential for academic and personal growth.

Learning communities operate through partnerships across divisions, including academic and student affairs, as well as the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The communities are places where student experiences and voices are recognized as strengths, and where our students can activate their passions, talents and skills as they define and achieve their higher education goals.

An important feature of the instruction-based learning communities is centering the history, culture and experiences of target populations, while being open to participation from all NVC students.

Students who enroll in learning communities credit their academic success to the range of support, including academic; a network that includes families; faculty, peers, and community mentors; financial support and professional development.

Students have access to extracurricular activities, special events, field trips and other opportunities. These are ideal spaces to make new friends, build community, and to learn with others.

Our newest learning community is **PRIDE**, for LGBTQIA+ students and allies. As a member of the Pride learning community, students have direct access to a team of college staff including faculty, librarians, academic counselors, student health center professionals, housing staff and more.

**UMOJA**, a Kiswahili word meaning unity, is a learning community and resource program dedicated to enhancing the critical and educational experiences of people of African descent, incorporating culture and practices from Africa and the African diaspora. Umoja provides an environment to survive and thrive, targeting the retention, persistence and success of African-American students.

**KASAYSAYAN** is our Pilipinx and Pilipinx-American learning community. Kasaysayan envisions a Bayanihan, Kapwa Community spirit to grow, create and cultivate agents of change. KAPWA (kindred) means our shared identity and caring for one another. BAYANIHAN (collective effort) is the spirit of communal unity and cooperation. The group seeks to educate about Pilipinx-American history.

**PUENTE** is our Latinx, Mexican and Mexican-American learning community, connected with the Puente Project, a program to increase the number of educationally underrepresented students who enroll in four-year colleges, earn degrees and return to the community as mentors and leaders. Students take courses and workshops, work with community mentors, as well as visit universities, museums and other cultural activities.



## ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

### Graduate praises college as a place of “fertile ground”

Unlike generations before her, **AGATHA RAMOS MAHER** had the privilege of completing high school almost effortlessly.

Her grandmother was prohibited from pursuing education, but secretly took occasional classes and eventually completed up to the fourth-grade. Her mom dropped out of high school and returned a decade later to get a certificate and a bachelor's degree. Her father prioritized helping siblings, yet managed to earn a high school diploma and a professional degree later in life.

Agatha enrolled in a four-year university, but lost momentum. She moved from her native Brazil to the United States and discovered Napa Valley College. “Few other places provide as much fertile ground for

self-discovery and personal growth as community colleges,” she told graduates as a valedictory speaker at commencement in May.

“I understood how personal growth and education are not confined to scholarship, but incorporated into all life experiences,” she told graduates. “Anything that you do, if you are dedicated to a vision greater than yourself, will create a positive impact in the world.”

Agatha was active on campus while graduating with a 4.0 and an Associate of Sciences degree in Natural Sciences. She advocated for STEM students; served as co-chair of the districtwide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee; mentored freshmen and conducted weekly study sessions to help peers understand concepts of human biology. She also was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and graduated with a place in the President's Honor Roll.

“Higher education is important—when aligned with authentic, mindful goals,” she said at commencement. “Use it to create a better life not only for yourself but those around you, because more rewarding than seeing yourself grow, is sharing that feeling among a crowd.”



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### Graduate emphasizes importance of “showing up”

**VIENNA SPEZZA** fell in love with public speaking at the age of five when she did a presentation on nutrition at the Napa County Library.

She hasn't stopped since then, overcoming a learning difference that slowed her ability to read until



later in elementary school. Since then, she graduated in May with an AA in Theater Arts and a 4.0 GPA, won a Regent's Scholarship to the University of California at Davis and was a valedictory speaker at commencement.

For Vienna, it's all about showing up.

“May you feel proud of what you have accomplished,” she told graduates.

“For showing up for your younger self, who dreamed of being where you are today. And for showing up for your future self, who has so much more to accomplish.”

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“May you feel proud of what you have accomplished,” she told graduates.

Vienna's introduction to NVC was in middle school when she was cast in Matilda the Musical. At age 15, she began taking NVC classes through the dual enrollment program and advocated for it during a public Q&A session.

Since her initial production at NVC, Vienna has been involved in seven more productions. “Being involved with the performing arts department was so much more than just getting to act and perform,” she said. “Being a part of the community was the best part.”

Although she lives roughly an hour away in Lake County, Vienna formed connections and took advantage of opportunities at the NVC Performing Arts Center and the main part of campus.

“Without exaggeration, NVC has been a critical aspect of not just my education, but in the creation of who I am today,” she said. “I will forever be grateful for the people at NVC and beyond who have made this experience possible.”

### An unlikely path and wisdom for others leads to recognition

**VERESTINE HENDERSON** took an unlikely path.

She began her studies at age 64, pursuing a degree in Communications, graduating with an Associate of Arts two years later, and transferring to Cal State East Bay to continue her education.



This year, Napa Valley College recognized the Administrative Assistant of the Umoja Program as the recipient of the esteemed Dr. Ed Shenk Award. This award, established in honor of Dr. Ed Shenk's profound dedication to student services, celebrates staff members who significantly contribute to student success and growth within our college community.

“Ms. V,” as she is affectionately known, embodies the spirit of this award through her unwavering commitment, passion, and care for every student she encounters.

She inspires others with her words of wisdom, encouraging fellow students to approach their studies with dedication and purpose.

Ms. V attributes her success to the support she received from programs like Umoja and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), alongside her unwavering faith and prayer.

“Gratitude overwhelms me,” she says. “I am humbled knowing that receiving this award is a testament to all my hard work and dedication for the students and the Umoja Program. This recognition fuels my passion to continue striving for excellence in all future endeavors.”

### Longtime employee dedicated to service



**IMELDA BASCO** has dedicated 33 years of service to Napa Valley College, most recently as Director of Payroll Services.

For her service and dedication, Imelda was named the Administrative/Confidential Employee of the Year.

The nominations submitted for Imelda emphasize dedication and diligence in her role, collaborative approach to problem-solving, and quiet leadership that has seen the college through the most challenging times.

“Imelda has stayed steadfast and has been a strong leader through fires and COVID. Imelda stayed calm, thought things through, worked cooperatively with other departments and came up with solutions to keep Payroll operations moving,” said one individual who nominated her for the recognition. “Imelda embodies all of the qualities of a true leader: caring, committed, dedicated, high integrity, hardworking, respectful and resilient.”

### Teaching beyond the classroom



For **ANTONIO CASTRO**, teaching goes beyond the classroom.

The winner of the McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award believes teaching includes engaging students with hands-on, motivating activities; outreach to schools; and volunteering with organizations to mentor and motivate students.

During a reception in his honor, Castro gave an “EDtalk,” titled “Pay Forward Teaching,” about integrating and teaching what has been learned through academia, professional and personal experiences. He told the audience that the combination helps provide student motivation, making the point through an engaging discussion that ranged from atoms and photons to light, glass, physics, engineering and AI.

“In 15 minutes time he had us thinking, he had us asking questions, we saw his passion, his love for his students and his belief in possibilities,” one attendee said. “It was really profoundly moving.”

Castro obtained his bachelor's degree from California State University Fullerton and his master's degree from Stanford, both in electrical engineering. He has taught math, science and engineering courses in high school and college. He has taught design and installation of photovoltaic systems in the United States and in Chile.

As an engineer, he has designed and manufactured electrical communications test equipment, and worked with digital and analog circuit designs.

The award is named after Napa Valley College founding president Dr. Harry McPherson, who touched many lives with his vision, institutional leadership, support of scholarships and encouragement for individual students.

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES



## Excelling in sports and academics

The Napa Valley College Athletics Department honors a code of conduct that values hard work, commitment and accountability. We honor academic integrity, positive sportsmanship and achievement of one's full potential as a productive member of the campus community.

Under the expert guidance of Head Coach Bob Freschi, the men's golf team had a standout season. They dominated the competition, securing the Big 8 Conference North Division title. Their journey continued with an impressive fourth-place finish in the highly competitive state tournament. Marcus Nanpei showcased his exceptional talent, tying for first place as an individual at the state tournament, and earning a scholarship to Division I Weber State University, further solidifying the team's remarkable achievements under Coach Freschi's leadership.

The women's basketball program, under the exceptional leadership of Head Coach Paul DeBolt, continued its impressive trajectory this season. Advancing to the Northern California Regionals for a second consecutive year, the team showcased their consistency and determination on the court. Spearheading their success was sophomore standout Brooklyn Giles, whose remarkable talent and leadership earned her an All-State selection and furthering her career at Cal State Los Angeles.

Under the guidance of Head Coach Rogelio Ochoa, the men's soccer team had an impressive season, securing a commendable second-place finish in the Bay Valley Conference. As the season drew to a close, several players from the team earned opportunities to continue their soccer careers at higher levels. Ivan Chavez is set to join Sacramento State, while Emmanuel Duran will bring his skills to St. Mary's Moraga at the Division I level. Additionally, Angelo Dominguez and Anthony Mora will embark on their soccer journeys at Simpson University. Justin Sotelo will also join Chavez at Sacramento State, marking a promising future for these talented athletes as they transition to the next chapter of their soccer careers.



## Students thrive in creative arts

Napa Valley College is a place where students who thrive in creativity can explore their passions.

The Theater Arts department creates high-quality theater experiences on stage and in the classroom, training to become performers, directors, producers, playwrights and designers. The year's student stage productions showed the program's vast range, including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Spring Awakening* and *The Emergence Festival of New Works*, in addition to world premieres of *Holiday Happenings* and Shakespeare Napa Valley's production of *Es Una Vida Maravillosa*.

It was an active year for the Music Department as well, with events such as Jazz Ensemble Concert, student recitals, a second annual *Cookies and Carols Concert* and *Considering Matthew Shepard*. NVC's music program serves lifelong learners, conservatory-bound students and dual-enrolled high school performers. Classes are held in the Performing Arts Center, which features a recital hall, choral and orchestral rehearsal spaces, practice rooms, coaching spaces and a piano lab. Students graduating from our programs go on to become performers, teachers, composers, music engineers and managers.

While providing opportunities for NVC students, the theater and music departments maintain strong relationships across the Napa Valley arts community. The year saw record funding for both departments, particularly to support Shakespeare Napa Valley productions. Sponsors included the Napa Valley College Foundation, Napa County, the di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa Valley Presents, Arts Council Napa Valley, Shakespeare Theatre Association, Festival Napa Valley, as well as the Rockley Family Foundation.

Our creative programs in the Visual, Design & Performing Arts pathway don't stop there. Students also can learn visual art, art history, digital art and design, studio arts, dance, film and photography to fulfill their creative dreams while building fruitful careers.



# STUDENT LIFE

## Career education programs support a lifetime of learning

At Napa Valley College, we provide high-quality, affordable and personalized education that's not available at large universities.

We offer more than 60 associate degrees and 50 certificates, with hundreds of courses in fields from accounting to women's studies. We provide a lifetime of learning opportunities to help students achieve their goals, whether they're seeking dual enrollment in high school, a two-year degree or certificate, transferring to a four-year college, improving current job skills and career opportunities or simply expanding knowledge of the world.

Our career education programs allow students to learn by exploring, collaborating and doing. Our programs include:

- ACCOUNTING
- BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES AND EDUCATION
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- DIGITAL DESIGN AND GRAPHICS TECHNOLOGY
- HEALTH OCCUPATIONS
  - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
  - PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN
  - REGISTERED NURSING
  - RESPIRATORY THERAPY
  - VOCATIONAL NURSING
- HOSPITALITY, CULINARY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT
- LGBT EDUCATION
- MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY
- VITICULTURE AND WINERY TECHNOLOGY
- WELDING TECHNOLOGY

Students who take career education courses report an 87% change in their hourly wages after completing training, or \$16.25 per hour.

Everyone from new students to lifelong learners can get the education they want. Instructors and expert professionals teach programs with hands-on training while building the comprehensive skills for success in the jobs of today and well into the future.



## Basic Needs Center supports student holistic health

We believe that when students' basic needs of food security, housing, transportation and mental health are met, they're more likely to succeed. Our Basic Needs Center addresses students' gaps and concerns so they can focus on their academic success contributing to holistic well-being.

Our center provides a variety of services for enrolled students. Students can pick up two or three bags of assorted groceries every 30 days at the NVC Student Food Basket. Students also can stop by the Student Express Food Pantry, or "Stormy Snacks," for a quick snack between classes.

Students who need personal materials and supplies may stop by the Basic Needs Center to pick up items as needed. Items include hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, deodorant and toothbrushes; childcare products such as diapers and formula; as well as cleaning and school supplies.

This is in addition to helping students connect with other resources throughout the Napa Valley and beyond, including support to apply for CalFresh, a nutrition assistance program that helps low-income individuals and families buy the food they need.

"We do everything we can to help students with their basic needs," said Julie Hernandez, the program director. "When a student doesn't have to worry as much about the basics, they're more prepared to focus on their classes and succeed."



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



## Alum returns to help other students

**FRANCISCO TORRES** went on from NVC to study Computer Engineering at Sacramento State University. Now he's back, working as a Student Affairs Specialist/Machine Tool Technician in the Makerspace.



"MESA was instrumental in shaping my experience at NVC when I was a student. It provided me with not just academic support but also a sense of belonging and community. Now that

I'm working at NVC, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to the same community that supported me."

"It's incredibly rewarding to be able to contribute to an environment that nurtured my growth and helped me achieve my goals."



## Student finds his way at NVC

**BRANDON ESTIGOY** found his path at Napa Valley College.

Originally starting as a nursing major, Brandon eventually discovered science and technology where he found his passion. He transferred to San Jose State University with his associates degree in physics, mathematics and computer science.



"The NVC community and the MESA center were really special," he said. "I was able to make lifelong friends that helped guide me in

the right direction."

"I'm looking forward to being at SJSU," he added. "It'll be a new experience to be away from home and have more independence, and I'm thrilled to embrace university life to the fullest."

## Student looking forward to making his mark in wine industry

**FELIPE SILVA** graduated this year from the Viticulture and Winery program, earning his degree in viticulture and winemaking, along with a certificate in wine marketing and sales.



"I admire how this program is not just designed to teach but also to launch students

into a career in the industry. It took a lot of hard work and a deep passion for winemaking to not just make wine, but also see wine as a form of art. There's always something to learn."

"My journey in NVC has prepared me to make my mark in the wine industry, blending tradition with new trends and always striving for excellence," he said.



## Student worker wants to help others

Meet **ASHLEY HALL**, a student worker in the Student Life Office at NVC, who excels academically while being actively involved in campus life.



Ashley is pursuing studies in Addiction

Studies, Sociology, Human Services and Social Work, with the goal of becoming a licensed clinical social worker. She serves as the Executive Vice President for Phi Theta Kappa and the Events Coordinator for student government.

Ashley's passion for helping others began when she worked with developmentally disabled children. She saw firsthand the need for more support and became determined to be a voice for these kids and help families affected by addiction.

"I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone and get involved," Ashley shared. "I wanted to make the most of my experience at NVC. This journey has taught me so much about leadership, community service, and the impact we can have on others. It's incredibly fulfilling to know that I'm contributing to positive change and making a difference in the lives of those who need it most."

## Biology students who transferred to four-year universities

**JOSEPH ALINSUG** and **CHERISH GRACE** are both biology students who transferred to four-year universities.

"Attending Napa Valley College has been an incredible journey for both of us. The



campus has treated us well, and the sense of community here is truly special. We're thrilled to be heading into this new chapter, transferring to a four-

year university. NVC has prepared us well, and we're looking forward to new experiences and meeting new people. It's been amazing to connect with people from different backgrounds and ages, creating a sense of community that we'll always remember."



## A returning student pursuing journalism

**JAY LUKE** is a returning student pursuing journalism.

"NVC has provided me with a relaxed environment to pursue my studies in journalism.



The campus is peaceful, and the community here is so supportive which really allows me to balance my classes with other interests.

It's a nice place to be at, and I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had here so far."



## NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE VALUES



INTEGRITY



ACCOUNTABILITY



RESPECT



INCLUSION



EQUITY MINDEDNESS



SOCIAL JUSTICE



SUSTAINABILITY

