



LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Newsletter December 2024

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

It's the season of giving!

As we close out the fall semester at LAVC, we are grateful to all of the donors who have given generously to the Foundation this year. These donations have enriched the lives of LAVC students and made a significant difference in their academic journey.

Some examples include:

- Expanding our Food Pantry for food insecure students
- Increasing the number of informational field trips for students intending to transfer to a four-year university upon completion
- Supporting tutoring and educational events for students focusing on engineering, math and science
- Covering examination fees for Respiratory Therapy students

If you have not done so yet this year, please consider [making a donation to the LAVC Foundation](#) this holiday season. It takes a village to ensure that LAVC continues to thrive and maintains its mission of inspiring, educating and enriching our diverse community.

From all of us at the LAVC Foundation, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Andrea Schmitt
Director, Los Angeles Valley College Foundation

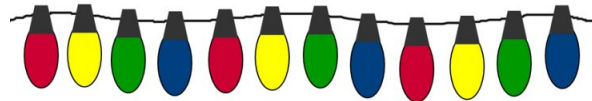
New Sponsorship Announcement



Health

The LAVC Foundation is excited to announce a new partnership with [UCLA Health](#) sponsoring LAVC's Athletics, Nursing and Respiratory Therapy programs for the 2024-25 academic year. We are grateful for their support as we celebrate student achievement in health and wellness.

Holiday Schedule



Happy
Holidays!

The Foundation will have limited office hours from December 23rd through January 3rd. We will fully return to the office on Monday, January 6th. Have a wonderful holiday season and we'll see you in 2025!

Alumni Spotlight: Stuart Waldman



Stuart Waldman is well-known throughout Los Angeles as the President of the [Valley Industry & Commerce Association \(VICA\)](#), an advocacy group devoted to advancing the economic interests of the San Fernando Valley region. What may not be as well-known was that he used to commute to Los Angeles Valley College via bicycle.

“It lasted for about two weeks,” he laughed. “I had bought a bike, and I wanted to be able to go to a school where I could ride. I tried it for a little bit and then it got too cold.”

Waldman enrolled at LAVC in January of 1990. He had just returned from a tour in the Army, where he had been stationed in West Germany. He ended up getting his Associate’s Degree in German before he transitioned to Cal State Northridge, where he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science.

“It was a complicated transition, because of the Northridge quake,” he recalled. “I remember they did a pretty good job of putting a semester together, but it was a weird situation. I drove by a collapsed parking garage every day.”

Waldman served for 11 years in the California State Assembly where he was Chief of Staff to two Assembly members before eventually joining VICA to serve as its President. When asked how community colleges support the economy of the San Fernando Valley, Waldman was thoughtful in his response.

“Obviously, the community colleges are training the employees of tomorrow. If you’re focused and you’re looking to get a bachelor’s degree, the schools can put you on that path. If you want to enter one of the certificate programs – there are programs that allow you to enter a profession where you can earn \$100,000 a year-those are incredibly helpful. There are also people who are going to a community college, and maybe they take only a couple of classes before they get a job. But they got the job because of what they learned. Teaching those skills that are enabling people to work is important.”

Waldman highlighted the fact that many of the colleges serve not only

students but the greater community as well. “The colleges are part of the fabric of our neighborhoods, whether it’s a high school kid taking an extra class that helps them get one step closer to graduating, or the community service center where kids do gymnastics, or the summer camps. They absolutely deserve our support.”

When asked what were some his key memories as a Monarch, Waldman mentioned that he was friendly with [LAPD Deputy Chief Donald Graham](#). “He was the Associated Student Union President. Because I was working for the Clinton campaign at the time, we would hang out. We both had long hair, but he was in shorts and vans and was a skater, so it was different long hair.”

Waldman credits his time at LAVC for teaching him time management. “Taking classes at 6 pm after working, then turning around and taking another at 8 am the next morning, it definitely had an impact on me.”

#WickedDanceChallenge



LAVC is going viral! Recently, we were visited by none other than [Wicked](#) choreographer Christopher Scott, who put LAVC President Gribbons and our faculty through their paces participating in the #Wicked Dance Challenge. [Enjoy!](#)

Upcoming LAVC Community Events

Estate Planning Seminar



PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WITH ESTATE PLANNING

Estate planning is about making a plan for what happens to your money, property, and personal belongings when you pass away or if you can't make decisions yourself. Estate planning helps you avoid legal hassles, minimize taxes, and ensure your wishes are followed.

IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?

Please join the LAVC Foundation for this complimentary seminar on Estate Planning and learn more about what to consider when creating a personal plan to protect your family's future. The event will be held on **January 22, 2025, from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm**. Lunch will be provided.

[You can sign up HERE.](#)

Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) is a two-year community college in Valley Glen, CA and part of the nine-college Los Angeles Community College District. It serves a student body of over 18,000 students each year from some of the most disenfranchised communities in the San Fernando Valley. **The Los Angeles Valley College Foundation's** mission is to enhance the education of its students through community involvement and to provide additional financial resources to Los Angeles Valley College.

Remember LAVC this holiday season!

To make a general donation to the Foundation, click on the link above.

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