



LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Newsletter May 2025

Dear Friends,

May is National Foster Care Month, which is intended to raise awareness of issues related to foster care and acknowledge those who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections.

LAVC's Guardian Scholars Program provides support for current and former foster youth and helps students achieve their academic and professional goals. It is our featured program this month.

May is also the month the Foundation announces its scholarship awards. **We are pleased to announce \$118,000 in scholarships to 170 LAVC students, including 20 from the nursing program, for the 2024-25 academic year.**

As always, the Foundation could not provide the level of support that it does to these hardworking students without the generous support of our scholarship donors every year. Thank you also to our tireless colleagues who aid us with this process every spring, and our committee volunteers. You are amazing!

I'd like to close with one of our scholarship recipients who graciously shared these words with the Foundation:

"I am Honored to be a recipient of the Valley- Moxie scholarship. It is the most amazing feeling to be recognized for my collegiate efforts. As a single mother I often put myself second, but the moment I made the decision to attend college I decided to put myself first, investing into myself. Winning the Moxie scholarship just assures me although this journey is full of struggle and hardships, I also have support from my community. People I have never met are investing in my future and I am beyond appreciative of the opportunity to use this scholarship reward towards my tuition when I transfer this fall semester to The University of Texas at Dallas.

Thank you again for your support. Because of the Valley- Moxie Scholarship fund I will stress less about money and focus on what matters most; my education, by staying consistent with my grades and achieving dean's list again. This scholarship gets me a step closer to achieving my goals and I am forever grateful, I am hopeful and eager to one day be able to pay it forward and help someone in need."

Sincerely,

Andrea Schmitt
Executive Director

Program Spotlight: Guardian Scholars



LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
GUARDIAN SCHOLARS
Supporting Foster Youth Success

LAVC's [Guardian Scholars](#) program was established in 2014 to support students who have lived experience with the criminal justice system, such as incarceration, probation, or juvenile detention. Guardian Scholars offers dedicated staff and counseling faculty to assist students pursue their academic and career goals. The program identifies, assists and refers foster youth who will be transferring to four-year universities and provides holistic support services including counseling, access to emergency grants and hygiene products, and opportunities to apply for scholarships.

If you would like to donate to the program in honor of National Foster Care Month, you can do so [here](#) and note 'Guardian Scholars'.

Previous Events

Obstacle Course Demonstration



Last month, LAVC Police Orientation and Preparedness Program (POPP) students demonstrated the college's new obstacle course for supporters of the program. The course is designed to encourage students to develop endurance, muscle coordination, and speed as demonstrated by police officers in real world scenarios.

President's Circle



California Assemblywoman Celeste Rodriguez and Los Angeles Councilmember Adrin Nazarian pose with LAVC President Dr. Barry Gribbons.



Students Reyna Dhillon, Koloa Tonga and Palente Henry share their LAVC experiences at the event.

The Foundation hosted its annual President's Circle Luncheon in April on the President's Terrace. The President's Circle is an elite group of community partners who provide core support to the Foundation. Guests were joined by [California Assemblywoman Celeste Rodriguez](#) and [Los Angeles City Councilmember Adrin Nazarian](#), as well as members of the Foundation's Board. If you are interested in learning more about how to get involved with the President's Circle, [please click here](#).

Upcoming events

Mozart, Pink Martini, and New Music: LAVC Applied Music Class of 2025



Join us for an unforgettable concert in the LAVC Concert Hall (just north of the construction on Fulton Ave.) on **Saturday, May 17th at 7 p.m.** This exciting and diverse program will feature music by Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Erroll Garner, João Guimarães, Pink Martini, Joe Hisaishi, and a newly composed work by one of LAVC's own students! Admission is free and open to all — an unforgettable night of music is guaranteed!



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.

**Become a donor
today!**

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

www.lavcfoundation.org | (818) 947-2619



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