

# 2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT



VENTURA COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**

OF MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

# YOUR 2022-23 IMPACT

Dear Ventura College Foundation Community,

It is with joy and gratitude that I share the Ventura College Foundation's 2022-23 Impact Report, showcasing the transformative power of your generous philanthropic support that propels our mission forward. **This year, I have forty extra reasons to express my appreciation for your investment in student success as the VC Foundation celebrates 40 Years of Making Dreams Come True!**

Over the past four decades, the VC Foundation has raised over \$48 million to benefit Ventura College students and programs. This support has taken many forms, from scholarships to textbook and equipment lending, Basic Needs and emergency grants, to numerous campus programs. We are proud to have pioneered the VC Promise, California's first community college Promise program, providing a tuition-free education for full-time, first-time students served as a model in the creation of the California College Promise Grant program.

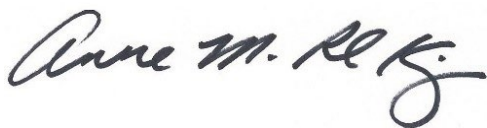
Generous donor support for the past 40 years has empowered tens of thousands of Ventura College students to achieve their educational goals and to fulfill their dreams of a rewarding career, higher income, and a better quality of life for generations.

During the 2022-23 academic year, **your unwavering support enabled us to provide \$809,995 in direct assistance to over 5,000 students. Additionally, we facilitated an impressive \$1.17 million for 68 unique programs across 16 different departments/divisions at Ventura College. To acknowledge and celebrate your remarkable philanthropic investment, I invite you to explore our 2022-23 online Donor Honor Roll at: [venturacollegefoundation.org/donor-honor-roll/](https://venturacollegefoundation.org/donor-honor-roll/)**

While these achievements are commendable, **the need to remove financial barriers and expand educational access is more pressing than ever.** Community colleges are the least funded educational system in the state; K-12, UC and Cal State schools all receive significantly more funding per student. **A striking 55 percent of VC students face food insecurity.** Yet our determined students persevere. **Previously serving 250 students weekly, this semester, VC Food Pantry serves 250 students daily** and the VC Foundation Board has escalated our financial commitment to the VC Basic Needs Office going forward.

Your generosity opens doors to opportunity by breaking down financial barriers so VC students are empowered to succeed. With your continued philanthropic support and our collective determination, we can achieve even greater milestones **TOGETHER** by investing in VC students!

Gratefully,



Anne Paul King  
Executive Director, Ventura College Foundation  
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**P.S. - If you've already made a year-end gift, thank you! If not, please give to the VC Foundation and increase access to education, eliminate equity gaps in academic achievement, and empower all students to succeed. Please **GIVE TODAY** at: [venturacollegefoundation.org/donate/](https://venturacollegefoundation.org/donate/) or Text: **Give2VC To: 91999****

SCAN TO GIVE





# STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

## OCTAVIUS LICON: DANCING INTO A NEW ERA

Octavius Licon's life journey has been a tumultuous one. From a foster child to battling homelessness and alcoholism, he subsequently worked in construction before embarking on his path as a re-entry student at Ventura College. He initially aimed for a business degree but faced a setback when the Woolsey Fire in 2018 destroyed his carpentry business.

Turning the page, thirty-year old, Octavius, was afforded the opportunity to attend Ventura College because of the VC Promise and credits the grant to allowing him to follow his dreams of studying music.

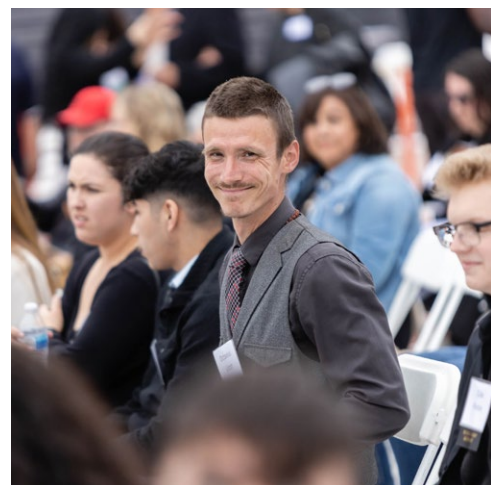
Since attending VC, Octavius has been able to maintain a 4.0 grade point average and has received numerous Ventura College Foundation scholarships. In 2022, he was the recipient of the Dave & Liz Kraus Phoenix Scholarship, the Frank S. and Ardella J. Watts Memorial Scholarship, the Kenneth D. Helms Memorial Choral Scholarship, the Robert and Regina Lawson Music Competition Scholarship and The Ventura College Foundation Pirate Pride Scholarship. Last spring, Octavius was awarded the David P. Bianco Family Scholarship, the Helen Yunker Scholarship, and re-awarded the Kenneth D. Helms Memorial Choral Scholarship.

"Receiving scholarships from the VC Foundation and having the VC Promise Grant approved for me has provided such a level of support in my schooling that I've been able to focus so much more and dig so much more into the material," he says. "I firmly believe that without the grant, and without the scholarships, that I wouldn't have had the time to truly learn the subjects... and follow my dreams."

Octavius dreams of becoming a college music professor by day and a performer by night. In 2024, he will graduate from Ventura College with a California Community College Degree for Transfer (CCC-ADT) in music, art, and humanities. His future may lead him to CSU Channel Islands or UC Santa Barbara, but one thing is certain – his path will be guided by the sweet sound of music, and he's currently working on recording his first album.

Watch a video about Octavius at the link below:  
[venturacollegefoundation.org/octavius-licon/](https://venturacollegefoundation.org/octavius-licon/)

SCAN TO  
WATCH VIDEO

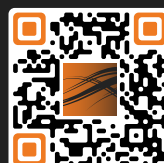






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