



2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

YOUR 2023-24 IMPACT

Dear Ventura College Foundation Community,

As I reflect the milestones of the 2023-24 academic year, I'm filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support. Each gift, partnership, and shared vision has empowered Ventura College students to reach new heights, overcome challenges, and embrace the future with confidence.

Thank you for your generosity and belief in our mission! In 2023-24, the VC Foundation provided over \$738,558 in support to serve 7,858 students and facilitated another \$1.33 million for 56 Ventura College Programs from 14 dept./divisions.

This past year, your contributions have been especially vital in sustaining two VC Foundation support initiatives: the VC Promise and the VC Basic Needs Center programs. The VC Promise continued to open doors to higher education and reduced financial barriers for 4,195 first-time, full-time, first and second year students to pursue their dreams without the heavy burden of tuition fees. Of that number, **the VC Foundation ensured that all eligible students were served by providing 1,136 with gap funding in response to statewide Promise budget cuts.**

Equally essential is the VC Basic Needs Center, which last academic year provided food, housing, and financial assistance to 2,750 students of which 2,355 of those were served through the food pantries on both the Ventura and East Campus in Santa Paula. With demand up by 40% from last year, these pantries now serve 350 students each day. **The VC Foundation Board understands that educational success is closely tied to overall well-being and we must expand our support to give all students a fighting chance to reach their full potential.**

Thank you for being a remarkable force behind our mission. The power of education and the heart of our community are joining forces to empower scientists, first responders, educators, public servants, workforce technicians and innovators. These real-life superheroes will lead our community into a brighter and stronger future for generations to come.

Gratefully,



Anne Paul King
Executive Director, Ventura College Foundation
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P.S. - Thank you if you've already made a year-end gift! If not, there's still time to make a meaningful difference before the year ends. Your support today will help open doors to education and close equity gaps. Please GIVE TODAY: venturacollegefoundation.org/donate/ or Text: Give2VC To: 91999

SCAN TO GIVE



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

DAISY CASTILLO: TURNING STUDENT LEADERSHIP INTO A CAREER

Daisy Castillo is a shining example of resilience and determination, a proud first-generation college student who is currently pursuing her Master of Arts in Education (MAEd), Educational Counseling at the University of Southern California (USC).

Her journey began at Ventura College, where she laid a strong academic foundation before transferring to UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) to complete her Bachelor of Arts in Chicana/o Studies and Educational Studies. As the daughter and granddaughter of migrant farm workers, Daisy's story is deeply shaped by the values instilled in her by her family.

Initially, Daisy faced setbacks when she was denied admission to her top-choice universities after graduation from Santa Paula High School. Rather than give up, she enrolled at Ventura College and received the VC Promise. Receiving the tuition support of the VC Promise allowed her to save money and better prepare for her academic future. Despite starting her college experience with early morning and late-night classes due to late registration, Daisy took proactive steps to maximize her time. She spent her summer on campus, exploring transfer options and getting involved.

Her participation in the Associated Students of Ventura College (ASVC) was transformative and she served as the ASVC President in 2018-19. It allowed her to develop advocacy skills, and through the Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS), she found counselors who believed in her potential. The Ventura College Foundation also played a critical role as Daisy benefited from VC Foundation's textbook lending and scholarships programs.

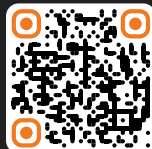
Daisy's path as a first-generation college student was fraught with challenges. However, she found a supportive community at Ventura College, which helped her navigate higher education while discovering her identity and aspirations. Reflecting on her journey, she expresses deep appreciation for her time at Ventura College, stating, "If VC had bachelor's degrees, I would have stayed. It was the most transformative experience of my life."

Today, as a USC Trojan, Daisy is committed to a career in student affairs, hoping to empower future students just as she was supported. Her story is a powerful reminder of how education and community support can change lives, demonstrating that it's not where one starts, but the dedication and effort invested along the way that truly matters.





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