



APRIL 29, 2016

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Victor Valley Union High School District

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hinojos placed in vacant seat

The Victor Valley Union High School District Board of Trustees has announced the provisional appointment of a new board member.

The board appointed Rosalio "Rosie" Hinojos last week to fill the seat vacated last month by Lisa Crosby, who said she was stepping down to spend more time with her family.

With board member Tim Hauk absent due to illness, board members Penny Edmiston, Tim



Hinojos

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NATIONAL RECOGNITION

UP named tops in county

University Preparatory School added to its long list of accolades last week with a third straight Gold Medal ranking from U.S. News & World Report.

University Prep, a grade 7-12 public school of choice within the

Victor Valley Union High School District, was ranked No. 66 in the state and No. 411 in the country by U.S. News in the magazine's 2016 Best High Schools rankings. University Prep is the only

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Admins honored



Award winners (from left) Scot Williams, Dr. Melda Gaskins, Kevan Loyd and Carlos Cerna pose with Victor Valley Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams, right, at the ACSA Region 12 awards dinner.

Four administrators, one VVUHSD student recognized by ACSA

The Association of California School Administrators recognized four Victor Valley Union High School District administrators as ACSA Region 12

Administrators of the Year, and a VVUHSD student was awarded a scholarship at the organization's Spring Celebration last week.

Dr. Melda Gaskins of Cobalt Institute of Math and Science was named the region's Principal of the Year for secondary schools;

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SCHOOL SECURITY

VVUHSD's Poohar gives safety talk in Tahoe

A Victor Valley High School campus security officer represented the Victor Valley Union High School District with a well-received presentation on campus safety at the recent School Climate and Culture Summit hosted by the California League of Schools in North Lake Tahoe.



Poohar

After Poohar presented the results of a district-wide safety

analysis at a VVUHSD Stakeholders Roundtable earlier this year, Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams was so impressed that he suggested Poohar share his strategies with a larger audience.

Poohar's presentation at the CLS conference provided information on how to do a security and safety analysis of a school site.

Poohar, who has worked in the

district since 2008, said he was asked to become a long term presenter for CLS and has applied to speak at an upcoming conference in Southern California.

"Everyone told me I hit it out of the park; they enjoyed my presentation and got a lot of information to take back to their district," Poohar said. "Huge appreciation to Dr. Williams for giving me the opportunity and having faith in me to represent the district."

VVUHSD IN THE NEWS



• The Daily Press covers an Adelanto High School event that teaches students about safe driving with a fun and interactive game show: <http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160422/NEWS/160429916>

• The Daily Press reports on the hiring of VVUHSD's new Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources: <http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160418/NEWS/160419752>



WHO WE ARE

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UP from Page 1

school in San Bernardino County ranked in the top 100 in the state or the top 500 nationally. In the High Desert, the next-highest ranking school is Apple Valley's Academy for Academic Excellence, which ranks 425th in the state and 2,241st nationally according to U.S. News.

"This is a direct correlation to the hard work of our faculty, staff, students and parents of UP," Principal Valerie Hatcher said.

"The overall goal is to be No. 1, so we're still pursuing Whitney," Hatcher added, referring to No. 1-ranked Whitney High School in Cerritos.

One of the key factors for the rankings is college readiness, and U.S. News gave UP a college readiness score of 58.9 — roughly twice the state average. UP



has also earned a National Blue Ribbon Award and a Title 1 Academic Achievement Award, as well as being named a California Distinguished School.

"University Prep continues to set the bar high, not just for our district but for the entire High Desert," Victor Valley Union High School District Superintendent Ron Williams said. "The ultimate goal of our district is to prepare young men and women for college and the workforce, and UP is achieving that goal with its students year after year."

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Jerry Ho

Victor Valley High School

Victor Valley High School senior Jerry Ho has been named the VVUHSD Student of the Month after earning the prestigious Dell Scholarship, becoming the first student in the school's history to receive the award.

Jerry, with a 4.5 grade point average that puts him at the top of VVHS' class of more than 430 seniors, was selected this month as one of the recipients of the \$20,000 scholarship from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.

Jerry has been a part of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program since his freshman year at Victor Valley High, and he says entering AVID was "the best decision I've ever made."

AVID is a voluntary program aimed at first-generation college students who have academic potential and may also be part of ethnic or socioeconomic groups that are traditionally underserved. AVID students get tutorials related to their coursework as well as

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEXTBOOK ADOPTION



VVUHSD staff members listen to a publisher presentation during Thursday's ELA textbook adoption event.

List narrowed to two

Victor Valley Union High School District teachers and administrators took an important step in the English Language Arts textbook adoption process this week.

Nearly two dozen teachers from all of the district's school sites and grade levels gathered at the district office Thursday to hear presentations from five different publishers. Using a predetermined rubric, the teachers narrowed the list down to two publishers.

If the VVUHSD Board of Trustees approves the two selections, each book will be taught by

selected teachers as part of a pilot program. After the pilot program, a final selection will be made by the end of this calendar year.

The new books and accompanying electronic content will be in use beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

Thursday's textbook adoption was facilitated by ELA Coordinator Lauren Beyer and VVUHSD Librarian Teri Nowacki, who were on hand Thursday along with Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Ratmony Yee, Director of Curriculum/LCAP Lauren Francoisse and ELD Coordinator Heather Durant.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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THE ARTS

Board recognizes District Art Show winners

The top winners at the inaugural Victor Valley Union High School District Art Show were recognized at the most recent meeting of the VVUHS Board of Trustees.

The District Art Show featured more than 200 works of art in various mediums from five schools: Adelanto High, Cobalt Institute of Math and Science, Silverado High, Victor Valley High and University Prep.

District personnel judged works from five different categories: Painting, Drawing, Photography, Sculpture/Ceramics and Mixed Media/Miscellaneous. First through third place and honorable mention ribbons were awarded based on the judges' picks. Participating art teachers were given the opportunity to vote for Best of Show, and they were barred from voting for their own school.

The first-place and Best of Show winners were honored at the April 20 board meeting with \$25 gift certificates provided by the VVUHS administrative cabinet. All honorees, including the second-through third-place and honorable mention winners in each category, were given ribbons and certificates.

The art show was held April 11-15 in the Board Room, with Opening Night festivities featuring Silverado guitar students and refreshments from Silverado's



Top photo: Silverado students (front row, from left: Elaine Notes, Ruqayya Saiyad, Sheena Panitan and Armando Olivas) accept their awards and gift certificates at a recent board meeting after winning their respective categories in this month's District Art Show. Joining the students in the back row, from left, are: Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Ratmony Yee, Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams and board members Penny Edmiston, Barbara Dew and Tim Norton. Bottom photo: VVHS student Kalana Em poses with her drawing "City Block" — which won Third Place in the drawing category as well as the overall Best in Show.

Culinary Arts program. Winners in all categories are listed below.

VVUHS 2016 DISTRICT ART SHOW

Winners by Category

Photography

- First place: Elaine Notes (SHS)
- Second place: Briane Matteson (SHS)
- Third place: Yesenia Madrigal (SHS)
- Honorable mention: Isaac Sumaran (SHS)

Drawing

- First place: Michelle Mejia (VVHS)
- Second place: Mallory Vidales (AHS)
- Third place: Kalana Em (VVHS)
- Honorable mention: Isaac Honesto (AHS)

Painting

- First place: Sheena Panitan (SHS)
- Second place: Jonathan Mardoyan (SHS)
- Third place: D'Shawn Sua (SHS)
- Honorable mention: Estafani Vargas (SHS)

Ceramics/Sculpture

- First place: Armando Olivas (SHS)
- Second place: Armando Olivas (SHS)
- Third place: Taylor Fox (SHS)
- Honorable mention: Mary Flores (SHS)

Mixed Media/ Miscellaneous



First place: Ruqayya Saiyad (SHS)
 Second place: Jed DarJuan (VVHS)
 Third place: Alena Linn (SHS)
 Honorable mention: Angelica Herra (AHS)
Best of Show
 Kalana Em (VVHS, drawing)

— Victor Valley Union High School District —

ACSA from Page 1

Goodwill Education Center Principal Kevan Loyd was named Continuation/Ed Options Administrator of the Year; Silverado Assistant Principal Carlos Cerna was named Co-Administrator of the Year in the secondary school category; and the district's CTE/ROP Coordinator Scot Williams was named Career/Tech Administrator of the Year.

The recipients were cheered on

by a large contingent of VVUHSD personnel at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in San Bernardino on Monday night. ACSA Region 12 President Lonnie Keeter, the principal of VVUHSD's Lakeview Middle School, emceed the event, which honored school administrators throughout the county.

"These are four talented and knowledgeable individuals who are deeply committed to our students and to our community," VVUHSD Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams

said. "They exemplify the kind of dedication that continues to move our district in a positive direction, and I sincerely thank them for all that they do."

ACSA Region 12 also presented \$1,000 scholarships to standout students, including University Preparatory student Corey Elder.

Another student honoree was Oyindamola Stacy Akinnusi, an Etiwanda High School student and the daughter of VVUHSD Director of Student Support Services Margaret Akinnusi.

HINOJOS from Page 1

Norton and Barbara Dew interviewed five candidates in open session at the April 20 board meeting before selecting Hinojos.

Barring a petition calling for a special election, Hinojos' position will become official 30 days after the appointment, which means Hinojos would be on the dais for his first VVUHSD board meeting in June. The seat is up for reelection this November.

Hinojos, 72, first came to the Victor Valley at age 6, when his family immigrated here from Mexico. He is a 1961 graduate of Victor Valley High School. He was a 33-year employee of Southwest Gas in both California and Nevada, serving in

a variety of roles including District Manager for the Big Bear area before retiring in 1999.

"I wanted to do something to stay active in the community, and I felt that being a past graduate of Victor Valley High School, I could do something to help out my old alma mater as well as the other seven schools in the district," said Hinojos, who has resided in Helendale with his wife, Jan, since 2000.

Hinojos is currently a member of the Knights of Columbus in Adelanto and serves on the fines review committee for the Silver Lakes Association. He served three different terms on the San Bernardino County Grand Jury, including a stint as Foreman Pro Tem and Foreman. He has also been a

past president and board member of the Big Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce, president of the Big Bear Rotary Club, a member of the Youth Accountability Board in Big Bear Lake, past president of the Hesperia Rotary Club, district chair for the Serrano District of the Boy Scouts of America, a board member of the Desert Communities United Way and a member of a VVUHSD Bond Oversight Committee.

"I look forward to devoting my time to serving on the school board," Hinojos said. "I have several family members, including my two daughters, a sister, a brother-in-law and a nephew, that are involved in the education field so I have a fairly good idea of some of the challenges they face each and every day."

STUDENT from Page 3

mentoring in time management, writing skills, collaboration and more.

VVHS AVID Coordinator Shannen Avila has been Jerry's AVID teacher for all four of his years at VVHS, and Jerry said the stability of having the same teacher as well as having a stable "cohort" of classmates have been keys to his success.

"Jerry is one of the most polite, dedicated, hard-working students I've ever had the opportunity to teach," said Avila, who has been at VVHS for eight of her 15 years as an educator. "He's a student that truly desires to learn. Rather than just earning a grade, he truly values education and the process of learning."

Jerry plans to attend Cal Poly Pomona next school year, with

the aim of becoming an electrical engineer. He said he's interested in designing new technology for fighter jets, which is something he mentioned on his application for the Dell Scholarship. Jerry said he also received the \$2,000 Oro Grande scholarship.

Jerry is also a member of the Key Club, a former VVHS soccer player and president of the school's AVID Club.