



NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE
2023–2024 ANNUAL REPORT

• **3 -** We built trust, accomplished major milestones and provided students with an education and the basic needs that fulfill our mission: to transform lives.

Most visibly, we saw three buildings for on-campus housing rise to reality, providing living spaces for students, employees and community partners in the fall of 2024. Significantly, our planning considered the holistic experience of our students, including support to help address basic needs: housing and food security, transportation and mental health. We're excited about having a new, vibrant, around-the-clock community on campus.

Meanwhile, we broke ground on a Wine Education Center, thanks to a generous \$10 million donation from the Wine Spectator. Simultaneously, we launched a fundraising campaign to add a Wine and Hospitality Training Center, which together will more than double classroom and training space and enable us to create a new winery chef certificate to meet a growing need in the Napa Valley.

The campus did a great deal of work to help build on our strong foundation and plan for the future. The campus clarified procedures, responsibilities and transparency, leading to positive affirmation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) that we are on the right track.

We created a five-year Educational Master Plan, or what I like to call our North Star, to help guide our priorities and decisions for 2024-2029. It's more than a plan; it's truly a roadmap, with specific goals and metrics that will measure our progress to helping students and employees succeed, while addressing Napa Valley's labor needs.

The board reaffirmed our commitment to diversity and inclusion, while going a step further with our first equity definition. The board also enthusiastically approved our updated our mission, vision and values, which includes inclusion, equity-mindedness, social justice and sustainability.

We worked closely with community partners, sharing resources, ideas and devotion to supporting the entire Napa Valley.

Of course, we provided an outstanding and affordable education, with the personal attention students could not get at a large university. In the spring, we awarded 881 degrees and certificates to more than 530 students. More than one-quarter of our graduates were among the first in their families to receive a college degree. Half identified as Latinx.

New Educational Master Plan creates a campus North Star

During this academic year, Napa Valley College created a 2024–2029 Educational Master Plan (EMP), a long–term planning document that is a significant milestone for the college.

The plan is our North Star; it sets the course for our subsequent initiatives, helps inform our future decision–making and provides a foundational set of clear priorities that will strengthen the bonds with our community stakeholders.

The EMP also reflects our commitment to innovation and embracing the dynamic world of education, which centers student success, equity and social justice as guiding pillars.

More specifically, it prioritizes five areas of focus, with goals within each:

- **ENROLLMENT STABILIZATION**
- **EQUITABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES**
- **PROGRAM ALIGNMENT WITH THE REGIONAL LABOR MARKET**
- **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY**
- **CULTURE AND CLIMATE**

The plan is needed because the dynamics of higher education have changed – most dramatically in a post–COVID world where student expectations, delivery of instruction and the provision of support services have shifted. The landscape of our region also continues to evolve, as economic and demographic factors alter the composition of Napa Valley, including who we serve and how we best serve them.

The plan is the product of many months of input from stakeholders from within the college and from our extended community. We will continue to count on this input from all as we boldly step into the future of Napa Valley College.

6,473
535

NEW PROJECTS

New on-campus housing helps students meet basic needs



Just in time for fall classes, NVC opened the doors for its new on-campus student housing in August 2024.

River Trail Village, on the north end of campus, features 580 beds in three four-story buildings. There's a mix of options to meet the needs of students, ranging from traditional students looking for a residence hall experience to small groups of students who want to live together, and even small families.

NVC is one of only 13 community colleges out of 116 in the state that provide on-campus housing.

While the housing is primarily designed for students, NVC opened its doors to a limited number of employees and community partners as well to help meet general housing needs in the Napa area.

In addition to creating housing, the team devoted a great deal of resources to creating a welcoming and valuable student experience, including basic needs such as food security and transportation; student-inspired murals, as well as fun activities and events.

"We're providing students with a convenient place to live right on campus to help them succeed and remove some of the barriers related to commuting to class," said Dr. Alejandro Guerrero, vice president of Student Affairs. "River Trail Village adds a great new energy to the campus around the clock, supporting sports, theater and other activities nearby. It's a very big step in our evolution."

"It's a season of change, not only for the students at Napa Valley College, faculty, and staff, but also for our community," said Robin Darcangelo, Dean of Student Affairs, Student Life and Engagement. "River Trail Village will provide much needed opportunities for our students who are housing insecure, and it will create an environment that strongly supports educational and personal outcomes."



Construction is under way on a new \$10 million Wine Spectator Wine Education Center, thanks to a lead \$10 million donation from the Wine Spectator that is the largest in the college's history and the largest from the magazine.

The center will include two flexible sensory classrooms with seating for up to 80 students at a time, and an upgrade to the existing Trefethen laboratory classroom with 28 lab stations. Construction is expected to be completed in summer 2025.

The new facilities will support the Napa

Diversity, equity, inclusion, and access are priorities at Napa Valley College and are integral to the success of our students and our employees. We have been active in a number of areas to advance DEI at the college, including defining what equity means at Napa Valley College; integrating DEI priorities into a range of strategic plans; creating professional learning opportunities for faculty and staff in DEI concepts and best practices; establishing a work group to develop spaces across the campus that reflect the diversity of our students and region; and offering cultural programs that celebrate and educate the community about the rich diversity of our region and the nation.

NVC adopted its first equity statement--“Equity at Napa Valley College”—that defined the term “equity” and highlighted guiding principles, while also acknowledging that the achievement of equity requires ongoing work and is an aspirational goal. Equity is multifaceted, designed to remedy systemic inequalities – to give the most to those who need it the most. The next step is developing a framework to help bring equity to day-to-day operations at NVC.

DEI became more integrated into the NVC community through the year. DEI was a lens through which campuswide decision-making and governance occurred, including the identification of strategic initiative funding priorities, and in aligning the work of the budget, planning, and equal opportunity committees with DEI principles and priorities. The DEI committee revised the land acknowledgement to incorporate values from the college’s updated mission, vision and values.

With funding from the Culturally Related (Coe) Co-Sponsored (C) Program (or Concepts and Innovation-making a (Coe) C DEI Concepts to Inhibit (W) in-making.) of the equity committee (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z) (aa) (ab) (ac) (ad) (ae) (af) (ag) (ah) (ai) (aj) (ak) (al) (am) (an) (ao) (ap) (aq) (ar) (as) (at) (au) (av) (aw) (ax) (ay) (az) (ba) (bb) (bc) (bd) (be) (bf) (bg) (bh) (bi) (bj) (bk) (bl) (bm) (bn) (bo) (bp) (bq) (br) (bs) (bt) (bu) (bv) (bw) (bx) (by) (bz) (ca) (cb) (cc) (cd) (ce) (cf) (cg) (ch) (ci) (cj) (ck) (cl) (cm) (cn) (co) (cp) (cq) (cr) (cs) (ct) (cu) (cv) (cw) (cx) (cy) (cz) (da) (db) (dc) (dd) (de) (df) (dg) (dh) (di) (dj) (dk) (dl) (dm) (dn) (do) (dp) (dq) (dr) (ds) (dt) (du) (dv) (dw) (dx) (dy) (dz) (ea) (eb) (ec) (ed) (ee) (ef) (eg) (eh) (ei) (ej) (ek) (el) (em) (en) (eo) (ep) (eq) (er) (es) (et) (eu) (ev) (ew) (ex) (ey) (ez) (fa) (fb) (fc) (fd) (fe) (ff) (fg) (fh) (fi) (fj) (fk) (fl) (fm) (fn) (fo) (fp) (fq) (fr) (fs) (ft) (fu) (fv) (fw) (fx) (fy) (fz) (ga) (gb) (gc) (gd) (ge) (gf) (gg) (gh) (gi) (gj) (gk) (gl) (gm) (gn) (go) (gp) (gq) (gr) (gs) (gt) (gu) (gv) (gw) (gx) (gy) (gz) (ha) (hb) (hc) (hd) (he) (hf) (hg) (hh) (hi) (hj) (hk) (hl) (hm) (hn) (ho) (hp) (hq) (hr) (hs) (ht) (hu) (hv) (hw) (hx) (hy) (hz) (ia) (ib) (ic) (id) (ie) (if) (ig) (ih) (ii) (ij) (ik) (il) (im) (in) (io) (ip) (iq) (ir) (is) (it) (iu) (iv) (iw) (ix) (iy) (iz) (ja) (jb) (jc) (jd) (je) (jf) (jg) (jh) (ji) (jj) (jk) (jl) (jm) (jn) (jo) (jp) (jq) (jr) (js) (jt) (ju) (jv) (jw) (jx) (jy) (jz) (ka) (kb) (kc) (kd) (ke) (kf) (kg) (kh) (ki) (kj) (kk) (kl) (km) (kn) (ko) (kp) (kq) (kr) (ks) (kt) (ku) (kv) (kw) (kx) (ky) (kz) (la) (lb) (lc) (ld) (le) (lf) (lg) (lh) (li) (lj) (lk) (ll) (lm) (ln) (lo) (lp) (lq) (lr) (ls) (lt) (lu) (lv) (lw) (lx) (ly) (lz) (ma) (mb) (mc) (md) (me) (mf) (mg) (mh) (mi) (mj) (mk) (ml) (mm) (mn) (mo) (mp) (mq) (mr) (ms) (mt) (mu) (mv) (mw) (mx) (my) (mz) (na) (nb) (nc) (nd) (ne) (nf) (ng) (nh) (ni) (nj) (nk) (nl) (nm) (nn) (no) (np) (nq) (nr) (ns) (nt) (nu) (nv) (nw) (nx) (ny) (nz) (oa) (ob) (oc) (od) (oe) (of) (og) (oh) (oi) (oj) (ok) (ol) (om) (on) (oo) (op) (oq) (or) (os) (ot) (ou) (ov) (ow) (ox) (oy) (oz) (pa) (pb) (pc) (pd) (pe) (pf) (pg) (ph) (pi) (pj) (pk) (pl) (pm) (pn) (po) (pp) (pq) (pr) (ps) (pt) (pu) (pv) (pw) (px) (py) (pz) (qa) (qb) (qc) (qd) (qe) (qf) (qg) (qh) (qi) (qj) (qk) (ql) (qm) (qn) (qo) (qp) (qq) (qr) (qs) (qt) (qu) (qv) (qw) (qx) (qy) (qz) (ra) (rb) (rc) (rd) (re) (rf) (rg) (rh) (ri) (rj) (rk) (rl) (rm) (rn) (ro) (rp) (rq) (rr) (rs) (rt) (ru) (rv) (rw) (rx) (ry) (rz) (sa) (sb) (sc) (sd) (se) (sf) (sg) (sh) (si) (sj) (sk) (sl) (sm) (sn) (so) (sp) (sq) (sr) (ss) (st) (su) (sv) (sw) (sx) (sy) (sz) (ta) (tb) (tc) (td) (te) (tf) (tg) (th) (ti) (tj) (tk) (tl) (tm) (tn) (to) (tp) (tq) (tr) (ts) (tt) (tu) (tv) (tw) (tx) (ty) (tz) (ua) (ub) (uc) (ud) (ue) (uf) (ug) (uh) (ui) (uj) (uk) (ul) (um) (un) (uo) (up) (uq) (ur) (us) (ut) (uu) (uv) (uw) (ux) (uy) (uz) (va) (vb) (vc) (vd) (ve) (vf) (vg) (vh) (vi) (vj) (vk) (vl) (vm) (vn) (vo) (vp) (vq) (vr) (vs) (vt) (vu) (vv) (vw) (vx) (vy) (vz) (wa) (wb) (wc) (wd) (we) (wf) (wg) (wh) (wi) (wj) (wk) (wl) (wm) (wn) (wo) (wp) (wq) (wr) (ws) (wt) (wu) (wv) (ww) (wx) (wy) (wz) (xa) (xb) (xc) (xd) (xe) (xf) (xg) (xh) (xi) (xj) (xk) (xl) (xm) (xn) (xo) (xp) (xq) (xr) (xs) (xt) (xu) (xv) (xw) (xx) (xy) (xz) (ya) (yb) (yc) (yd) (ye) (yf) (yg) (yh) (yi) (yj) (yk) (yl) (ym) (yn) (yo) (yp) (yq) (yr) (ys) (yt) (yu) (yv) (yw) (yx) (yz) (za) (zb) (zc) (zd) (ze) (zf) (zg) (zh) (zi) (zj) (zk) (zl) (zm) (zn) (zo) (zp) (zq) (zr) (zs) (zt) (zu) (zv) (zw) (zx) (zy) (zz)

Graduate praises college as a place of “fertile ground”

Unlike generations before her, Agatha had the privilege of completing high school almost effortlessly.

Her grandmother was prohibited from pursuing education, but secretly took occasional classes and eventually completed up to the fourth-grade. Her mom dropped out of high school and returned a decade later to get a certificate and a bachelor's degree. Her father prioritized helping siblings, yet managed to earn a high school diploma and a professional degree later in life.

Agatha enrolled in a four-year university, but lost momentum. She moved from her native Brazil to the United States and discovered Napa Valley College. “Few other places provide as much fertile ground for

self-discovery and personal growth as community colleges,” she told graduates as a valedictory speaker at commencement in May.

“I understood how personal growth and education are not confined to scholarship, but incorporated into all life experiences,” she told graduates. “Anything that you do, if you are dedicated to a vision greater than yourself, will create a positive impact in the world.”

Agatha was active on campus while graduating with a 4.0 and an Associate of Sciences degree in Natural Sciences. She advocated for STEM students; served as co-chair of the districtwide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee; mentored freshmen and conducted weekly study sessions to help peers understand concepts of human biology. She also was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and graduated with a place in the President's Honor Roll.

“Higher education is important—when aligned with authentic, mindful goals,” she said at commencement. “Use it to create a better life not only for yourself but those around you, because more rewarding than seeing yourself grow, is sharing that feeling among a crowd.”

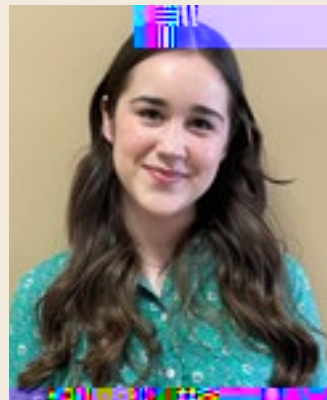


and eventually completed up to the fourth-grade. Her mom dropped out of high school and returned a decade later to get a certificate and a bachelor's degree. Her father prioritized helping siblings, yet managed to earn a high school diploma and a professional degree later in life.

Graduate emphasizes importance of “showing up”

Vienna fell in love with public speaking at the age of five when she did a presentation on nutrition at the Napa County Library.

She hasn't stopped since then, overcoming a learning difference that slowed her ability to read until



later in elementary school. Since then, she graduated in May with an AA in Theater Arts and a 4.0 GPA, won a Regent's Scholarship to the University of California at Davis and was a valedictory speaker at commencement.

For Vienna, it's all about showing up.

“May you feel proud of what you have accomplished,” she told graduates.

Vienna's introduction to NVC was in middle school when she was cast in Matilda the Musical. At age 15, she began taking NVC classes through the dual enrollment program and advocated for it during a public Q&A session.

Since her initial production at NVC, Vienna has been involved in seven more productions. “Being involved with the performing arts department was so much more than just getting to act and perform,” she said. “Being a part of the community was the best part.”

Although she lives roughly an hour away in Lake County, Vienna formed connections and took advantage of opportunities at the NVC Performing Arts Center and the main part of campus.

“Without exaggeration, NVC has been a critical aspect of not just my education, but in the creation of who I am today,” she said. “I will forever be grateful for the people at NVC and beyond who have made this experience possible.”

An unlikely path and wisdom for others leads to recognition

Ms. V. took an unlikely path.

She began her studies at age 64, pursuing a degree in Communications, graduating with an Associate of Arts two years later, and transferring to Cal State East Bay to continue her education.

This year, Napa Valley College recognized the Administrative Assistant of the Umoja Program as the recipient of the esteemed Dr. Ed Shenk Award. This award, established in honor of Dr. Ed Shenk's profound dedication to student services, celebrates staff members who significantly contribute to student success and growth within our college community.

“Ms. V,” as she is affectionately known, embodies the spirit of this award through her unwavering commitment, passion, and care for every student she encounters.

She inspires others with her words of wisdom, encouraging fellow students to approach their studies with dedication and purpose.

Ms. V attributes her success to the support she received from programs like Umoja and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), alongside her unwavering faith and prayer.

“Gratitude overwhelms me,” she says. “I am humbled knowing that receiving this award is a testament to all my hard work and dedication for the students and the Umoja Program. This recognition fuels my passion to continue striving for excellence in all future endeavors.”

Longtime employee dedicated to service



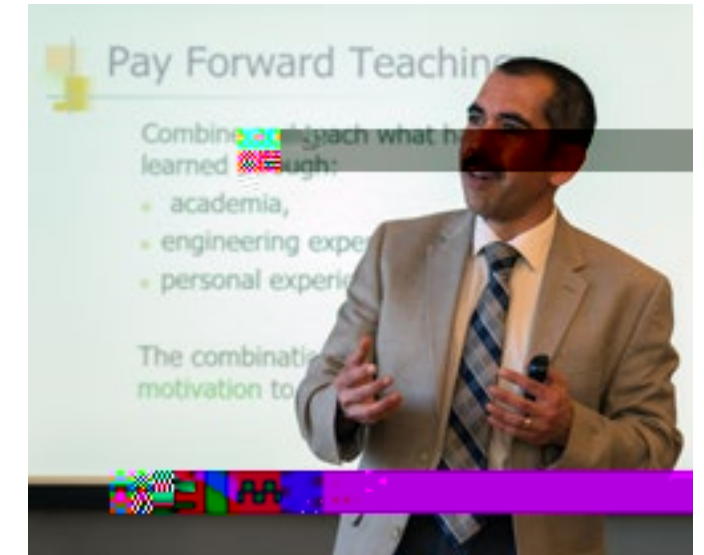
Imelda has dedicated 33 years of service to Napa Valley College, most recently as Director of Payroll Services.

For her service and dedication, Imelda was named the Administrative/Confidential Employee of the Year.

The nominations submitted for Imelda emphasize dedication and diligence in her role, collaborative approach to problem-solving, and quiet leadership that has seen the college through the most challenging times.

“Imelda has stayed steadfast and has been a strong leader through fires and COVID. Imelda stayed calm, thought things through, worked cooperatively with other departments and came up with solutions to keep Payroll operations moving,” said one individual who nominated her for the recognition. “Imelda embodies all of the qualities of a true leader: caring, committed, dedicated, high integrity, hardworking, respectful and resilient.”

Teaching beyond the classroom



For Ms. V., teaching goes beyond the classroom.

The winner of the McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award believes teaching includes engaging students with hands-on, motivating activities; outreach to schools; and volunteering with organizations to mentor and motivate students.

During a reception in his honor, Castro gave an “EDtalk,” titled “Pay Forward Teaching,” about integrating and teaching what has been learned through academia, professional and personal experiences. He told the audience that the combination helps provide student motivation, making the point through an engaging discussion that ranged from atoms and photons to light, glass, physics, engineering and AI.

“In 15 minutes time he had us thinking, he had us asking questions, we saw his passion, his love for his students and his belief in possibilities,” one attendee said. “It was really profoundly moving.”

Castro obtained his bachelor's degree from California State University Fullerton and his master's degree from Stanford, both in electrical engineering. He has taught math, science and engineering courses in high school and college. He has taught design and installation of photovoltaic systems in the United States and in Chile.

As an engineer, he has designed and manufactured electrical communications test equipment, and worked with digital and analog circuit designs.

The award is named after Napa Valley College founding president Dr. Harry McPherson, who touched many lives with his vision, institutional leadership, support of scholarships and encouragement for individual students.

Napa Valley College is a place where students who thrive in creativity can explore their passions.

The Theater Arts department creates high-quality theater experiences on stage and in the classroom, training to become performers, directors, producers, playwrights and designers. The year's student stage productions showed the program's vast range, including the Wizard of Oz, Spring Awakening and the Emergence Festival of New Works, in addition to world premieres of Holiday Happenings and Shakespeare Napa Valley's production of Es Una Vida Maravillosa.

It was an active year for the Music Department as well, with events such as Jazz Ensemble Concert, student recitals, a second annual Cookies and Carols Concert and Considering Matthew Shepard. NVC's music program serves lifelong learners, conser-

**Career education programs support
a lifetime of learning**

At Napa Valley College, we provide high-quality, affordable and personalized edu-

**Basic Needs Center supports
student holistic health**

Brandon went on from NVC to study Computer Engineering at Sacramento State University. Now he's back, working as a Student Affairs Specialist/Machine Tool Technician in the Makerspace.

"MESA was instrumental in shaping my experience at NVC when I was a student. It provided me with not just academic support but also a sense of belonging and community. Now that

I'm working at NVC, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to the same community that supported me."

"It's incredibly rewarding to be able to contribute to an environment that nurtured my growth and helped me achieve my goals."

Brandon found his path at Napa Valley College.

Originally starting as a nursing major, Brandon eventually discovered science and technology where he found his passion. He transferred to San Jose State University with his associates degree in physics, mathematics and computer science.

"The NVC community and the MESA center were really special," he said. "I was able to make lifelong friends that helped guide me in the right direction."

"I'm looking forward to being at SJSU," he added. "It'll be a new experience to be away from home and have more independence, and I'm thrilled to embrace university life to the fullest."

Michael graduated this year from the Viticulture and Winery program, earning his degree in viticulture and winemaking, along with a certificate in wine marketing and sales.

"I admire how this program is not just designed to teach but also to launch students

into a career in the industry. It took a lot of hard work and a deep passion for winemaking to not just make wine, but also see wine as a form of art. There's always something to learn."

"My journey in NVC has prepared me to make my mark in the wine industry, blending tradition with new trends and always striving for excellence," he said.

Meet Ashley, a student worker in the Student Life Office at NVC, who excels academically while being actively involved in campus life.

Ashley is pursuing studies in Addiction

Studies, Sociology, Human Services and Social Work, with the goal of becoming a licensed clinical social worker. She serves as the Executive Vice President for Phi Theta Kappa and the Events Coordinator for student government.

Ashley's passion for helping others began when she worked with developmentally disabled children. She saw firsthand the need for more support and became determined to be a voice for these kids and help families affected by addiction.

"I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone and get involved," Ashley shared. "I wanted to make the most of my experience at NVC. This journey has taught me so much about leadership, community service, and the impact we can have on others. It's incredibly fulfilling to know that I'm contributing to positive change and making a difference in the lives of those who need it most."

Michael and Ashley are both biology students who transferred to four-year universities.

"Attending Napa Valley College has been an incredible journey for both of us. The campus has treated us well, and the sense of community here is truly special. We're thrilled to be heading into this new chapter, transferring to a four-

year university. NVC has prepared us well, and we're looking forward to new experiences and meeting new people. It's been amazing to connect with people from different backgrounds and ages, creating a sense of community that we'll always remember."

Michael is a returning student pursuing journalism.

"NVC has provided me with a relaxed envi-

NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE VALUES

INTEGRITY

ACCOUNTABILITY

RESPECT

INCLUSION

EQUITY MINDEDNESS

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SUSTAINABILITY