

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Newsletter from the VP Academic Affairs Office

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## Dear AVC Community

Midway through my third month as a member of this terrific AVC community, I have been awestruck by the warm welcome from so many. I am extremely grateful for this welcome and am honored to be at AVC and serve in this role. Please find below an update on matters in Academic Affairs.



### Myles Kyrie Darby Arrives

We have a new member of the Marauder family! On February 25, Samantha Darby, Academic Affairs Specialist, gave birth to Myles Kyrie.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Darby Family. Sam and Myles are enjoying baby and mommy time.

## AB 705 UPDATE

In the fall, AVC will be fully compliant with AB 705 with no pre-transfer level course offerings in math or English. Faculty in both divisions have worked diligently to put structures in place to support those students who need it. Our excellent Learning Center will continue to innovate and provide critical supports to these and all students. The Basic Skills Committee (soon to be re-named) has also done terrific work in building structures for our students who may not be fully prepared to excel in transfer level math and English.

## Our FIRST Prison Graduation!

Our Prison program, led by Dean Cathy Hart, will be graduating its first cohort of 14 students very soon. While everyone at AVC is in the life transformation business, the Prison Program takes that work to a completely different level. All faculty who have taught in this program should be extremely proud of their part in this life-changing work. Beyond the immeasurable impact on individual lives, the taxpayer dollars saved with this program is astronomical.



Any faculty interested in learning more about teaching in the prison, please contact Cathy Hart. We are looking to expand this program. There are unfortunate and untrue rumors circulating about teaching in this venue. Cathy is anxious and happy to provide accurate information about this teaching opportunity and experience.

## Ethnic Studies Development

An email went out to all faculty on April 7th offering opportunity to develop an Ethnic Studies program and/or courses over the summer. These CSU-required Area F courses are critical for our students. We hope to have two to three courses written and ready to enter the AP & P process almost as soon as the fall semester begins.

## OER/ZTC



Another priority is to support the advancement of Open Educational Resources (OER)/Zero Textbook Costs (ZTC) in many more AVC courses. There are compelling data that indicate **all students having all the instructional materials from the very first day of instruction** (or before) may be the single most impactful thing an instructor can do to mitigate equity gaps.

In that vein, I hope to announce another supplemental pay offering very soon for a faculty member to build a structure whereby other faculty will be compensated for the work to convert their courses to OER/ZTC. This position would lead the effort and champion OER/ZTC across campus.

## AVC Deans Rock!

I want to express publicly my gratitude for our excellent dean team (Greg Bormann, Dr. Maria Clinton, Riley Dwyer, Tom Gang, Cathy Hart, Kathryn Mitchell, and Duane Rumsey Christos Valiotis). They are extremely knowledgeable about their programs and people. All are hard-working leaders who advocate and support the programs at an elite level. We all are fortunate to have such competent people in these critical leadership roles. In my limited dealings with our Student Service dean team, it is clear they are equally outstanding (Rashitta Brown-Elize, LaDonna Trimble and Dr. Jill Zimmerman).

## SHOUT OUT

to the **Instructional Technology/Design Team!**

The GREAT WORK by our instructional technology/design team must also be acknowledged. Dr. Alex Parisky and Greg Krynen have done phenomenal work in supporting faculty through the pandemic.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

**Robyn Serrano, Academic Affairs Specialist**



Meet the newest member of the Academic Affairs team, Robyn Serrano, who began this role in February. Robyn began work at the college as a Bookstore Assistant in 2014. She promoted to Clerical III in the President's Office in May 2021. Prior to her AVC employment she was a 15-year employee of Toys 'R Us ending as a Front-End Supervisor.

Robyn lives in Quartz Hill and is Mom to Selena, 24, Vanessa, 21 and Max, 12. She loves family time, including a weekly Game Night at her brother's home, where board games of all types are put to the test. Robyn's favorite family time, though, is vacationing with her clan, and she fondly recalls one Bass Lake/Yosemite vacation that was especially fun and memorable.

Robyn puts her high school softball playing experience to work as she helps with Max's softball team in a pseudo assistant coach/scorekeeper/whatever-is-needed role. She also loves attending concerts, especially of her favorite band, the Foo Fighters. Interestingly, she has won tickets to approximately a dozen concerts over the years in radio station giveaways. She even won a trip to Italy once.

Robyn earned an associate degree in Professional Bookkeeping from AVC last year.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING ACADEMIC AFFAIRS EVENTS

### Faculty Recognition

Thursday, April 21st  
4:00-5:30 p.m. — Ceremony  
5:30-7:00 p.m. — Music and Fun  
**Fine Arts Quad**

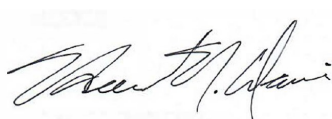
### 2020-2021 "Makeup" Commencement

Wednesday, May 4th  
7:00 p.m.  
**Marauder Stadium**

### 2022 Commencement

Friday, May 6th  
7:00 p.m.  
**Marauder Stadium**

Thank you,



Howard