



ANTELOPE  
VALLEY  
COLLEGE

# HONORS CONVOCATION

Performing Arts Theater (PAT)

May 8, 2025 | 6 to 8p.m.

Class of  
**2025**

*Congratulations*

# 2025 HONORS CONVOCATION PROGRAM

---

## **National Anthem**

Brianna Elissa Hernandez

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Dr. Darcy Wiewall  
Honors Program Co-Coordinator  
Anthropology Full Time Faculty

## **Welcome**

Dr. Darcy Wiewall & Towana Catley  
Honors Program Co-Coordinators

## **Introductory Comments**

Dr. Jennifer Zellet  
AVC Superintendent/President

## **Honors Scholar Certificates**

Dr. Darcy Wiewall & Towana Catley  
Honors Program Co-Coordinators

## **Alpha Iota**

Dr. Matthew Jaffe  
Alpha Iota Advisor & Honors Faculty

## **Subject Area Award Scholars**

Dr. Darcy Wiewall & Towana Catley  
Honors Program Co-Coordinators

## **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Darcy Wiewall & Towana Catley  
Honors Program Co-Coordinators

# HONORS TRANSFER ALLIANCE PROGRAM (TAP) GRADUATES

## *Honors Scholars*

The Honors Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) is a tailored initiative aimed at high-achieving and self-driven students who meet specific admission criteria. Honors TAP provides a valuable opportunity for these students to elevate their academic performance and readiness for transfer by engaging in challenging honors courses.

Historically, participants in the honors program have shown remarkable success, frequently taking on leadership positions within both the campus and the broader community. This success can be attributed to their inherent motivation, the supportive collaborative learning environments, and the mentorship provided by honors professors, educators, and fellow students.

Notably, while traditional transfer students encounter admission rates below 40% at local colleges and universities, AVC students who complete the Honors TAP enjoy an impressive acceptance rate of over 90%. Those who meet program requirements—completing five honors courses, maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and finishing transfer major preparatory courses—are awarded the esteemed Honors TAP Certificate of Completion.

### **The 2025 Honors Scholars are as follows:**

Grace Acevedo	Marc Henriquez
Sarah Alcalá Inda	Rita Jarbanda
Luis Miguel Antonio-Cruz	David Jordan
Blake Arthur	Nyomi Lara
Adam Ayala	Hongli Ma
Mallak Azulbi	Isabel Martinez
Hannah Bailey	Paulina Martinez
Isabela Bercian	Abram Miron
Megan Bennet	Camille Murray
Sabrina Burgess	Jorge Navarro V.
Kelsey Jade Cano	Ivan Parra
Anthony Mathew Dakarmenjian	Havlyn Pettus
Janet Díaz De Leon	Gustavo Quintero Diaz
Leah Dilger	Vivian Isabel Sanchez
Emily Elersich	Elijah Sayres
Dellen Garcia	Bridget Esmeralda Sedano
Jackelyn Gomez	Dana Schroer
Kelly Graves	Shelby Sprague
Ashlynn Danielle Grimes	Aria Tafarella
Ashlee Guardardo	Marisol Valdez
Joshua Haro	Jesus Emmanuel Vizcarra Gomez
Alaina Henderson	Jasmine Walters
	Micah Wilson
	Jason Yang

# ALPHA IOTA CHAPTER OF ALPHA GAMMA SIGMA

The California Community College System provides students with the opportunity to join the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. High school graduates can apply for temporary membership right after graduation. AVC's local chapter, Alpha Iota, operates as a campus club. Students are welcome to join at any stage of their college journey, provided they maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and remain in good standing.

The club organizes various events and holds regular meetings, offering experiences in fundraising, community service, club activities, and campus involvement. Additionally, students are encouraged to participate in AGS conventions and conferences. The club elects its own officers, follows a constitution and bylaws, and recommends members for AGS scholarships, including the Ed Walsh Award for exceptional community service and the Kathleen D. Loly Scholarship for remarkable academics.

Furthermore, each spring, the scholarship committee may award cash prizes to students recognized for outstanding service to the club, high cumulative GPAs, or honor roll achievements. The ultimate accolade within the organization is the attainment of permanent membership, which is granted to both active and inactive members and celebrated at this Honors Convocation.

## **AGS Officers & Members**

**Mallak Alzubi**, President & ICC Rep

**Renelyn Wilson**, Vice President

**Liezl San Andres**, Secretary

**Leah Castro**, Treasurer

**Alaina Henderson**, Public Relations

**Vivian Sanchez**, Web Historian

**Shelby Sprague**, Member

**Jasmine Walters**, Member

# SUBJECT AREA AWARDS

The Subject Area Awards signify a noteworthy recognition of academic achievement Faculty members carefully select recipients of this esteemed award to honor their excellence in specific subject areas. To qualify, students must meet exceptional criteria, which includes maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0, achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least three relevant subjects, and having attended AVC for a minimum of one year.

## **Aerospace, Industrial Arts, & Applied Technologies**

**Alma Torres**, Electrical Technology  
Nominating Faculty: Miguel Rodriguez & Adel Ramos

**Alexis Lopez**, Electrical Technology  
Nominating Faculty: Miguel Rodriguez & Adel Ramos

## **Arts & Humanities**

**Jerry Leyva**, Dance  
Nominating Faculty: Cynthia Littlefield & Rochelle Guardado

**Appolline Carella Villanueva**, Digital Media-Graphic Design  
Nominating Faculty: Rae Agahari & Paul Taglianetti

**Max Mendoza**, Film & Television  
Nominating Faculty: Kevin North & Mustafa Yasar

**Michael Contreras**, Music  
Nominating Faculty: Gary Heaton-Smith & Lee Matalon

**Joanna Krzysiak**, Studio Art  
Nominating Faculty: David Babb & Christine Mugnolo

**Anthony Mathew Dakarmenjian**, Theatre Arts  
Nominating Faculty: Carla Corona & Kirk Vichengrad

## **Health & Safety Sciences**

**Sean McElroy**, Respiratory Therapy  
Nominating Faculty: Charles Burke & Cory Kuroyama

**Erika Ortega**, Respiratory Therapy  
Nominating Faculty: Charles Burke & Cory Kuroyama

**Lesley Padilla**, Vocational Nursing  
Nominating Faculty: Elinda Parkinson & Jennifer Taylor

## **Language & Communication Arts**

**Savannah Casaubon**, Communication Studies  
Nominating Faculty: Dr. Tina McDermott & Nari Kaseforth

**Maria Caputo**, English  
Nominating Faculty: Dr. Rachel Jennings Tafarella & John Toth

**Natalie Gray**, English  
Nominating Faculty: Vejea Jennings & John Toth

# SUBJECT AREA AWARDS

## Math, Sciences, & Engineering

**Joshua Gabisan**, Anatomy & Physiology

Nominating Faculty: Kaitlin Bessinger, Patricia Butterworth,  
& Dr. Joseph Esdin

**Megan Bennett**, Biology

Nominating Faculty: Dang Huynh & Osvaldo Larios-Perez

**Kaylie Brehm**, General Chemistry

Nominating Faculty: Dr. Thamrongsak Cheewawisuttichai,  
Dr. Jessica Harper, & Dr. Alexandra Schroer

**David Jordan**, Chemistry

Nominating Faculty: Dr. Alexandra Schroer, Dr. Yonis Ahmed, &  
Dr. Thamrongsak Cheewawisuttichai

**Josephine Rauda**, General Microbiology

Nominating Faculty: Dr. Bassam Salameh & Dr. Joseph Esdin

**Reyna Gutierrez**, General Molecular Cell Biology

Nominating Faculty: Dr. Zia Nisani & Osvaldo Larios Perez

**Mario Castro**, Geology

Nominating Faculty: Dr. Aurora Burd & Dr. Mike Pesses

## Social & Behavioral Sciences

**Emily Elersich**, Anthropology

Nominating Faculty: Dr. Darcy Wiewall & Dr. Gil Ramos

**Ashlynn Danielle Grimes**, Business Administration

Nominating Faculty: Stacey Adams & John Vento

**Gavin Norris**, Business Administration

Nominating Faculty: Stacey Adams & David Adams

**Mahin Ahmed**, Economics

Nominating Faculty: Ibrahim Ganley

**Marley Delgado**, History

Nominating Faculty: Dr. Matthew Jaffe & Dr. Cynthia Lehman

**Anthony Rivera Estrada**, Political Science

Nominating Faculty: John Vento & Fritz Hemker

**Jin Chung**, Professional Bookkeeping

Nominating Faculty: Stacey Adams & Megan Owens

**Paula Fowler**, Professional Bookkeeping

Nominating Faculty: Stacey Adams & Megan Owens

**Yuki Takenaka**, Professional Bookkeeping

Nominating Faculty: Stacey Adams & Megan Owens

**Nicole Gil**, Psychology

Nominating Faculty: Dr. Fredy Aviles & David Lewis

# WITH GRATITUDE

The Honors Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) expresses gratitude for the ongoing partnership and support from the college, which plays a vital role in the program's success. We would like to highlight the following Honors TAP Champions:

## Honors Committee

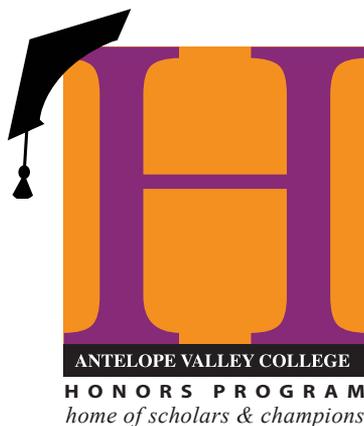
Rae Agahari  
David Adams  
Kaitlin Bessinger  
Reina Burgos  
Towana Catley  
Dietra Jackson  
Dr. Matthew Jaffe  
Dr. Rachel Jennings-Tafarella  
Greg Langner  
Dr. Jedidah Lobos  
Kevin North  
Tamira Palmetto  
Elinda Parkinson  
Mike Pesses  
Jacqueline Seekamp  
John Vento  
Pavinee Villapando  
Dr. Darcy Wiewall  
Sarah Alcala Inda, ASO Representative  
Camille Murray, Honors TAP Representative

## Honors Counselors

Reina Burgos  
Towana Catley  
Rosa Fuller  
Kristal Ibrahim  
Dietra Jackson  
Audrey Moore  
Tamira Palmetto  
May Sanicolas  
Rodney Schilling

## Influential Figures Behind the Scenes

Burton Arceneaux	Suzanne Olson
Megan Acevez	Sheri Langaman
Denise Bayers	Michele Lathrop
Jose Blanco	Trisha Lopez
Kelly Brogan	Maisha McCord
Rich Caton	Esperanza Perez
Melissa Chavez	Dean Van Rider
Kim Covell	Susette Rivas
Samantha Darby	Mary Skipper
Dr. Jessica Eaton	Angela Urbanoski
Nathan Gallego	Sheryl A. Williams
Kyle Jacobsen	Cristine Wisdom
Darlene O'Keefe	Anet Youkhana
Lisa O'Leary	



# WITH GRATITUDE

## Antelope Valley College **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Dr. Jennifer Zellet, Superintendent/President

Shami Brar, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Administrative Services

Dr. Lauren Elan Helsper, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Human Resources

Dr. Kathy Bakhit, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Academic Affairs

Idania Padrón, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Student Services

Dr. Rebecca Farley, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Equity and Student Achievement

## Antelope Valley College **DEANS & DIRECTORS**

Kathryn Mitchell, Dean, Arts & Humanities

Wendy Stout, Dean, Health & Safety Sciences

Kathryn Mitchell, Language & Communication Arts

Jedidiah Lobos, Dean, Math, Science, & Engineering

Nate Dillon, Dean, Social & Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Windy Franklin-Martinez, Interim Dean, Admissions & Records/Enrollment Services

Dr. Jill Zimmerman, Dean, Student Health & Wellness

Leonardo Ayala, Dean, Student Support Services

Svetlana Deplazes, Interim Dean, IERP & Library

Christina Tangelakis, Interim Senior Director, Financial Aid

Van Rider, Dean, Workforce Development & Community Engagement

Kendra Ruff, Director, Extended Opportunity Programs & Services, CARE, NextUp

Irene Carbajal Perez, Director, STAR TRIO Program

Carlos Rosas, Director, Office for Students with Disabilities & Interim Dean of Counseling

Ramon Castillejo, Director, Student Development

Ashley Hawkins, Director, Learning Center

Director James Nasipak, Director Auxiliary Services

Ashley Chavez, Coordinator, Veteran Resource Center

Alejandro Guzman, Executive Director, Marketing & Public Information

## Antelope Valley Community College District **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Michael Adams

Steve Buffalo

Barbara Gaines

Michelle Harvey

Michael Rives

Anthony Rivera, Student Trustee

