President's Welcome:

College presidents typically write a welcome message as part of the class schedule. And of course, I do warmly welcome you to West Valley College! But I want to go beyond the traditional message and insert a critically important question for you to ponder: Why pursue a college education? I’d like to give you my answer to this question.

Why?

Because a college education is a special gift that you are giving yourself that no one can take away. Because a college education strengthens your ability to think critically, apply analytical reasoning to issues, and communicate effectively. Because a college education gives you choices and options in your life. Because a college education enables you to adapt to the ever-changing workplace. Because a college education provides you with the knowledge and skills to continuously learn as our dynamic world evolves and changes around us. Because college graduates earn significantly higher lifetime earnings on average than non-college graduates. Because a college education empowers you to create the future of your choosing. Because a college education lasts a lifetime (and beyond).

Do it now. Become a college student. Become a college graduate!

Welcome,

Lori Gaskin, Ph.D. President, West Valley College

Important Notice About Fee Payments

Important notice to all West Valley College students concerning registration fee payments.

Our new “Payment policy” is now in effect. Students registering for Fall 2011 semester classes have a specific time period to pay for their classes. Fees are now always due by the 15th of each month. Students WILL be automatically dropped for non-payment of fees on the 16th of each month.

Here’s how it works. If you register between:

- April 15 – May 14, you must pay by May 15
- May 15 – June 14, you must pay by June 15
- June 15 – July 14, you must pay by July 15
- July 15 – August 14, you must pay by August 15

Students who register after August 15, must pay at the time of registration or will be automatically dropped the next day. Financial Aid recipients are not exempt. Please visit Financial Aid or Admissions for more information.

Dr. Andy Kindon named California’s 2010 “Professor of the Year” by the Carnegie Foundation

Each year, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of teaching recognizes a select group of college professors throughout the country as being exceptional teachers. Professors who receive the Carnegie award are recognized by other top educators, peers, administrators, and students as being model teachers who create a positive, if not a life-changing learning environment.

What actually happens in Dr. Kindon's classroom? Dr. Kindon has earned the campus reputation of being a provocative, entertaining, informative, intense, and fun instructor. Many students have remarked that while his tests can be challenging, he is one of the best teachers they’ve ever had. A number of students actually take additional Anthropology classes because he makes the subject so interesting.

How does he do this? According to Andy, he strives to make Anthropology relevant to the lives of his students. If you happen to take one of his classes, don’t be surprised if the day’s lecture material happens to be something right off an up-to-the-minute Internet news feed. You will also begin to appreciate how closely the past and present are linked. One of Dr. Kindon's favorite lecture topics is how different cultures respond to similar situations, both currently and historically. Each culture has its own uniqueness and Dr. Kindon wants his students to understand and appreciate that individually and as groups our responses to similar situations can be totally different. If you happen to disagree with one of Dr. Kindon’s opinions, that’s quite alright with him, but be prepared to discuss why you think what you think. And if you haven’t thought things through very carefully, he’ll challenge you to question your assumptions. One of the net results from his classes is that students end up learning a lot from each other and also learn to respect diverse points of view.

So what does it really take to be named Professor of the Year? Besides brewing his own beer and being the former lead singer in a punk-rock band, it’s his disarming smile, relaxed, approachable nature, high standards for student achievement, passion for his subject matter, patience, and wry sense of humor. Throw Andy’s creativity into the mix and you get an awesome instructor. Andy’s former students remember his classes long after the midterms and finals are over.

Wise advice from Dr. Kindon:

“Don’t take life too seriously and learn to laugh at yourself.”