



David Viar

VIAR

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Viar in 2013, I knew his tenure at Glendale College would be a good one," said Emily Haraldson president of the Glendale College Guild. "He brought a sense of collaboration to our college and worked in cooperation with our shared governance process and campus leaders. Dr. Viar has been an invaluable asset to our college community, and he will be missed."

In his tenure, Viar touts the college attaining the highest-level accreditation for the past seven years, awarding record numbers of degrees and certificates, amplifying dual enrollment and passing the \$325 million Measure GC item among the school's chief accomplishments.

"We are much better off than we were when I arrived," Viar said. "I knew of that history and those traditions of the period of John Davitt, because I had in effect been personally involved in a lot of the things he was doing. After his retirement, the college had lost its stability and moved in a number of different directions as a result of having three chief executives over a five-year time."

Viar and the college's legion of instructors, staff and administrators mobilized quickly in response to the coronavirus pandemic, which initially paused classes to transition to a remote instruction model and outright pulled the plug on a number of workshops and lectures open to the community.

"There are no [doubts] that over my decades of leadership that there have been serious emergencies for community colleges," Viar said. "They have primarily been fiscal crises and about the state running out of

Working to Halt Domestic Violence



Photo courtesy Zaw Studios

YWCA Glendale and Pasadena this week held its Purple Tie Awards ceremony on the steps of Glendale City Hall, recognizing local community members striving to halt domestic violence. Pastor Todd Leonard of Glendale City Church received the Faith Advocate Award, and Glendale police Sgt. Aaron Ziegler was given the Law Enforcement Advocate Award. Mher Baghdasaryan, who hosts the "Good Morning Armenians" program, received the Community Advocate Award. Pictured here are Leonard, YWCA Glendale and Pasadena CEO Tara Peterson, Ziegler, Mayor Paula Devine, Baghdasaryan and event emcee Elen Asatryan.

money and slashing programs. For me, and others, there have been no issues as dreadful as this, which affects so many peoples' lives negatively."

The pandemic became an opportunity for the college's new Office of Basic Needs to launch its Fresh Success program, which is designed to help at-risk students obtain food, shelter, transportation and other essential needs to help them finish their education. The city kicked in \$1.3 million in the spring to fund a Low Income Student Rental Assistance Program, which GCC administered through Fresh Success.

Additionally, GCC ran a number of food collection drives during the pandemic.

"There's no question that the pandemic did exacerbate what we already knew, which was that so many of our students seeking to improve and seek social mobility had issues related to food and housing stability," Viar said. "It's easy to imagine how hard it is to

sit down and study when you're worrying about how you're going to get housing or food for your family."

The college continued to distinguish itself during the pandemic, with its nursing students working with USC Verdugo Hills Hospital to earn experience hours by helping administer COVID-19 vaccines and GCC playing host to the city's Jewel City Vax Clinic. Congressman Adam Schiff recognized GCC engineering instructor Nareh Manooki as one of his district's women of the year for utilizing her program's equipment and students to 3D print personal protective equipment for healthcare workers.

"I still, to this day, am pleased, not surprised, but heartened by what people did to keep us open and serving," Viar said.

"Dr. Viar provided Glendale Community College with extremely insightful and stable leadership throughout his tenure as Superintendent/President, and especially during

the past two very difficult years," said Roger Dicks, GCC Academic Senate president. "As senate president, it was my good fortune to have been able to work with him and I enjoyed our conversations very much."

In retirement, Viar will continue to live in Glendale with wife Jane. In their time here, Viar has been involved with Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club, Glendale Fire Foundation Board and the Glendale YMCA Board. He has been recognized as Man of the Year by the Glendale Latino Association and Community Leader by the YMCA of Glendale.

Viar said the decision to take the GCC job was made much easier by the fact that their son — and now a grandchild — live locally as well.

"My wife and I knew not only about the college and its needs, but we knew about this wonderful community in Glendale. It was all meant to be," he said. "This is where we want to be and we'll stay here."



NEW LISTING

3145 Menlo Drive, Glendale

This is a rare two-story post and beam home on a knoll with city views in two directions. With its open floor plan, exposed wood beams, and walls of glass it is a work of art in which one is graced to live. This original vision of architects Hawkins and Lindsey has been meticulously maintained by just two owners since it was commissioned in 1964 on these two view lots in Glendale's sought-after Montecito Park neighborhood.

The living and dining rooms with their wide plank flooring enjoy a striking view of downtown Los Angeles. The oversized family room/conservatory is like none I have ever seen with a 14-ft ceiling, an indoor garden, and a tall wall of glass overlooking the lush rear grounds and pool. The kitchen is updated yet preserved, and true to the original design. The main level continues with three bedrooms and two updated baths, with the rear two bedrooms enjoying a view out over the Crescenta Valley. There is also a very cool reading lounge with a custom bar. Downstairs there is a large master retreat with its own view, large closets, and a remodeled master bath.

With over 13,000sf, these parcels have a grass play yard, an elevated viewing deck, outdoor dining areas, a dog run, and a beautiful pool and spa. A few additional features of this exceptional home are newer roofing, solar panels, central air and heating, an attached two car garage with electric car charging station, and the award-winning schools of this neighborhood.

Offered at: \$2,695,000

by: *Craig Farestveit*

Contact Craig to schedule an appointment.

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