

Vallejo is grateful for...

Vivet Beckford-Nelson



Place of birth: St. Mary, Jamaica

Year arrived in Vallejo: 2009

Occupation: Lead teacher, Vallejo High School Engineering Academy

Language: English

What is your most important contribution to Vallejo? Providing the students of Vallejo High School Engineering Academy with equitable access to experiences such as yearlong mentorships, industry certification opportunities, career and college fairs, and awards. These events help to develop students as whole people and prepare them for college and career.

What have you done during the pandemic to help others? At school, we celebrated students

in the presence of their family members during our annual award ceremony and facilitated a career and college fair. Personally, I got vaccinated with my family members to help prevent the spread of the virus and held online family birthday celebrations.

What is one pandemic silver lining? We were able to develop programs such as our career technical student organization, SkillsUSA, and provided students with opportunities such as certification programs to ready them for careers.

What is your special skill or talent? Adaptability, determination, leadership and loyalty.

What do you appreciate about your Vallejo neighborhood? The diversity of the community.

What is a special memory of Vallejo? Volunteering with students, their parents/family members, and community members on International Coastal Clean-up Day in September.

What is a favorite place to hang out in Vallejo? The Vallejo waterfront. This allows me to see members of our community and visitors moving about.

What is your favorite Vallejo event or activity? International Coastal Clean-up Day at Lake Dalwigk. I also like to walk in the park.

What is your favorite food or drink at a Vallejo establishment? Breakfast at Black Bear Diner. I love the family atmosphere inside the restaurant.

What do you hope for yourself in the next 10 years? For Vallejo? I hope I will be able to retire and visit places I love. For Vallejo, I hope for more community involvement with our schools, especially business establishments, and not just for sports.

What person in Vallejo do you really appreciate? Deborah Ceryes. I met Deborah when I was assigned to be the Engineering Academy lead teacher. She was always there to support the academy and willing to volunteer in any way she could to ensure that the goals of the academy were met. I also appreciate Jennifer Kaiser at the Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District, who helps the Engineering Academy develop new programs, which adds to its success.