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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MWA Employee Deronda Smith Among Top Students in VVC Graduating Class of 2016

Apple Valley, CA—The Mojave Water Agency's (MWA) Deronda Smith is one of five valedictorians graduating June 10 at Victor Valley College (VVC). Smith represents a growing segment of students choosing to pursue higher education later in life.

Smith, 57, has attended VVC since 2013 and earned a GPA of 4.0 with an A.S. in Business Administration. Currently, Smith serves as an Administrative Assistant at MWA.

Board President Beverly Lowry said Smith exemplifies the MWA culture. "Deronda Smith is a great asset to MWA. She brings a strong work ethic, is always helping others, and has a desire to never stop learning. That's what we look for in our employees— a dedication to our mission to ensure a sustainable water supply, a desire to help others, and innovation to get it done."

Smith, an Apple Valley resident, said while she has been an avid reader her entire life, she didn't apply herself in high school. "When I decided to pursue a college education, I was determined to do it right, and to be dedicated and committed to finishing well, and it paid off."

She credits her success to her faith in God, her husband Robert's support, and some excellent VVC professors. "The business professors are top notch," Smith said. "They have high expectations, and are really preparing students for the business world. I had some amazing instructors."

Future plans for the valedictorian include continuing to learn the complexities of the water world and apply her knowledge and skills to help others.

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