

SP25.01 Conferring Professor Emeritus for Dr. Peter John Stankas
03/03/25

Whereas, San Bernardino Valley College expresses deep gratitude to Dr. John Stankas for his unwavering dedication to students, the campus community, and the California Community College System; and

Whereas, Dr. Stankas earned his Doctorate in Nuclear Chemistry from the University of Maryland and pursued his passion for teaching at San Bernardino Valley College, beginning as an adjunct faculty member in 2001 and becoming a full-time Chemistry faculty member in 2002; and during his tenure, Dr. Stankas served in numerous leadership roles, including Academic Senate President, Dean of Science, and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, profoundly impacting the lives of students and colleagues; and

Whereas, his contributions extended beyond SBVC, serving as President of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, where he championed the interests of faculty and students statewide; and

Whereas, AP 7210 Academic Employees (Academic Rank) authorizes the conferral of Professor Emeritus status to retiring faculty with a minimum of 10 years of service upon favorable recommendation by the Committee on Academic Rank and approval by the Academic Senate; and the advancement in academic rank recognizes exceptional service to the college and promotes a culture of dedication to the college community;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Academic Senate of San Bernardino Valley College hereby grants Professor Emeritus status to Dr. John Stankas in recognition of his outstanding contributions, distinguished service, and lasting impact on San Bernardino Valley College and the California Community College System.

An addition remembrance statement with various faculty support follows...

Remembering Dr. John Stankas

03/03/25

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with profound sadness that we come together to mourn the loss of our dear friend, colleague, and mentor, Dr. John Stankas. John was a remarkable individual whose warmth, intelligence, and unwavering commitment to education and advocacy left a profound impact on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

John's inspiring journey began in a small town, where he yearned for a larger, more vibrant community—one he found through education and service. After earning his Doctorate in Nuclear Chemistry from the University of Maryland, he pursued his passion for learning & teaching at San Bernardino Valley College. There, he profoundly impacted the lives of countless students and colleagues. Over the years, John held numerous leadership roles, including Academic Senate President, Dean of Science, and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. Beyond SBVC, his influence extended statewide as President of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, where he championed the interests of faculty and students alike.

Outside of his professional accomplishments, John built a beautiful and fulfilling life with his husband, Jesse Lopez, and their two cherished children, Julian and Cathryn, whom he officially adopted in November 2013. John's love for family shone brightly in all he did—from fostering a welcoming home to hosting his treasured annual holiday gatherings, where friends and colleagues shared in warmth and celebration.

John's kindness, sharp wit, and boundless generosity enriched our lives in countless ways. Whether he was sharing stories about his Great Dane, Honey, or amusing us with his clever insights about backyard chicken coops—particularly timely given today's egg shortages—John had a unique ability to make us smile and connect with one another.

Although he left us far too soon, John's legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, the policies he shaped, and the relationships he nurtured. To honor his extraordinary contributions, we are nominating Dr. John Stankas for the distinguished title of Professor Emeritus.

Our deepest sympathies are with Jesse, Julian, Cathryn, and all who held John close to their hearts.

Rest in peace, John. You will be missed more than words can express.

With sincere condolences,

Dr. Carol Jones
Chemistry Department Chair

Dr. Ana Mayo
Chemistry Faculty

Angie Vogel
Nursing Department Chair

Joan Backey Murillo
Biology Faculty

Ferando Gomez
Biology Faculty

Dr. Soha Sobhanian
Biology Faculty

Dr. Mezhgan Hassanzadah
Biology Faculty

Melissa Romero

Biology Department Chair
Anna Tolstova
Physics Department Chair

Dr. Todd Heibel
Co-Chair for Architecture,
Environmental, Earth, and
Spatial Sciences

Prof. Matt Robles
Co-Chair for Architecture,
Environmental, Earth, and
Spatial Sciences

Mary Copeland
Professor of English

Dr. Melissa King
Chair and Professor
Anthropology and Global
Studies Department

Dr. Daniel Mayo
Director of STEM-MESA

Kellie Barnett, M.S.
Child Development
Professor/Faculty Co-Chair

Dr. Susan Bangasser
Retired Faculty and Science
Division Dean

Andrea Hecht, M.S.
Counselor &
Academic Senate President

Interim Dean
Lorrie Burnham
Dean of Science Division

Dr. John Stankas text for Plaque

03/03/25

Dr. John Stankas was a remarkable individual whose warmth, intelligence, and unwavering commitment to education and advocacy left a profound impact on everyone fortunate enough to know him. After earning his Doctorate in Nuclear Chemistry from the University of Maryland, he pursued his passion for learning & teaching at San Bernardino Valley College. There, he profoundly impacted the lives of countless students and colleagues. Over the years, John held numerous leadership roles, including Academic Senate President, Dean of Science, and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. Beyond SBVC, his influence extended statewide as President of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, where he championed the interests of faculty and students alike.

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With sincere condolences,

San Bernardino Valley College Faculty & Staff