



San Bernardino
Valley College

President's Board Report *December 8, 2011*

Computer Class Provides Link from SBVC to Southern California Gas Company's UWUA Local 132 Members

To the uninformed eye, Professor Sandra Balderrama's Monday/Wednesday evening Computer Information Technology class may look like any other at SBVC. However, the flickering lights of the computer screens are feeding the flame of the students' professional development while fueling a brighter future for the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) Local 132 members and employees at the Southern California Gas Company.

But, without the teamwork and persistence of Case Manager Michele Gracia and SBVC Dean of Mathematics, Business, and Computer Technology, Dr. Haragewen Kinde, this opportunity would never have come to fruition for these seventeen students.



SBVC Professor Sandra Balderrama (at right) instructs UWUA Local 132 employee Julia Lyles from the Southern California Gas Company during a Computer Information Technology Class.

AN EDUCATIONAL CONCIERGE

This educational opportunity for the members of Local 132 was made possible by a "Green Skills = Green Jobs" grant provided by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) that was awarded to the National Utility Workers Union of America. Michele Gracia works for the sub-grantee, ACCORD Community First, a non-profit organization based out of Long Beach providing an array of services to promote new job opportunities and enhance career pathways. The presence of a case manager liaison helps ensure all participants in the program will have the best chance of succeeding in the program. In short, she serves as a sort of *educational concierge* for the Local 132 members who showed an interest in the program.

"I did whatever it took to make sure that all they had to do was show up and be ready to learn," Gracia shared. "All of the part-time meter readers were in the path of layoffs and were the primary targets for this program. With upgraded skills and more education, the employees will now have the chance to locate advancement opportunities within the company."

Gracia spent many late nights making sure all barriers to participating in the class were removed. This yeoman's work included filling out applications, registering for WebAdvisor, tracking down transcripts, securing parking permits, providing color-coded maps, and plotting the next steps on this new path regularly with Dr. Kinde to ensure a seamless experience. On the first day of classes, all students met at the SBVC Bookstore to purchase the textbook and software necessary to get started.



(From L to R) Students Justin "Drew" Liggin, Reena Hackett and John Albright work together on a Microsoft Excel project.

Students definitely recognized Michele's efforts in ensuring that all they had to do was show up and be prepared to learn. Students shared comments such as: "Painless," "I didn't have to stand in any lines," and "Fun! That was the LAST thing I expected."

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

"I had been thinking about looking into taking some classes somewhere, but just hadn't gotten around to it yet," said John Albright, Lead Customer Service Representative at the Southern California Gas Company. "Once I heard about the opportunity at a union meeting, I knew this was the time."

Meter Reader Star Valadez tried taking continuing education classes before but found herself underwhelmed with the experience.

"I had taken several small training courses, but would always find a way to miss a few here and there," Valadez admitted. "But I've made sure not to miss a single session of this class."

For meter reader Reena Hackett, trying to find time for school while working two jobs was the biggest barrier. But, only a few weeks into the class, she is already seeing the return on her investment.

"The other day, I was able to prepare mailing labels the correct way and organized safety records in Microsoft Excel for the first time," Hackett said.

Valadez created party invitations complete with images for a recent family get-together and Albright has already used what he's learned about Microsoft Excel to prepare equations at work.

"Based on this experience, I may look to see what else is available here at the college. I didn't even know these classes were offered here and I think I'll be taking a look through the schedule for next semester," Albright said.

“I know that the workforce and upcoming job positions will need these skills. So, when it was offered, I went for it,” Valadez said. “I love how the professor goes step-by-step—it makes me excited to learn. I wouldn’t have been able to do this in an online class at home.”

Many older students in the class who didn’t grow up with computers and the Internet are finding themselves less intimidated by taking control of the mouse.

“My family was always teasing me because I am the least computer-literate person in my family. But now, it’s great because I can show them the RIGHT way to use the programs,” student Chris Almada said. “The other day, I was interviewing for a job and felt confident enough to make some quick changes to my résumé that morning that were relevant to the specific position. Before this class, I would never have done that—I would have been too terrified of messing something up.”

FUTURE OF EDUCATION?

For most of the 17 students, this experience of taking a college course was not their first—a symbol of the challenge that many students face in navigating the pathways to success on the campuses of institutions of higher learning.

“I went to college before, but it was never like this,” Almada said.

SBVC already partners with Stater Bros., where multiple retail management classes are taught on site at their world headquarters in San Bernardino. Building employee skill sets not only benefits the individual and the organization’s human capital, but also positively impacts the local economy, with citizens earning higher wages and the appeal of a skilled workforce to woo employers to the region. Learning in smaller communities (also called cohorts) can also assist in minimizing the intimidation factor as employees learn new skills alongside colleagues.

“We all knew each other already as co-workers, so we are more comfortable in the classroom because we all have something in common,” said student and Local 132 member Justin “Drew” Liggin.

“This could be a ‘win-win model’ of the future of education. We want to build connections with our community because the San Bernardino area needs a skilled workforce,” Kinde said. “Companies that have professional development needs don’t need to spend money on outsourcing—just partnering with their local community college will result in a more educated workforce.”

SBVC and CHC Students Gather For Speech Competition



Twenty-five students from SBVC and CHC competed in the 8th Annual Speech Competition held at SBVC on Thursday, November 17, 2011. After several rounds of competition, awards were given as follows (pictured left to right): Finalist, Jaime Riley (CHC), Finalist, Simon Ogom (SBVC), 3rd Place, Rebecca Hamen (SBVC), 2nd Place, Isabel Garcia (SBVC), Finalist, Jeremy John (CHC), and 1st Place, Andre Burdette (CHC).

The Chronicle of Higher Education Ranks SBVC #38 in Enrolling Hispanics

In The Chronicle of Higher Education's September 30, 2011 *Diversity in Academe* edition, San Bernardino Valley College was ranked #38 amongst two-year institutions enrolling the most Hispanic students in the fall of 2009. According to the figures, 7,108 of the 14,916

students enrolled in the fall of 2009 were of Hispanic descent. Among the 26 California Community Colleges ranked in the top 50, SBVC's percentage of Hispanic students was 6th highest at 48% of all students.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Record Attendance at 42nd Thanksgiving/Retiree Celebration Luncheon



Nearly 275 retirees, students, staff and faculty gathered in the Campus Center for a buffet feast prepared by Chef Stacy Meyer and her Culinary Arts students (pictured above). Sponsored once again by the SBVC Faculty Association, guests at the sold-out event enjoyed everything from turkey and ham to pumpkin rolls and red velvet cake.

Pies and Trivia Served at 85th Anniversary Monthly Celebration

Staff, faculty and hungry students enjoyed historical trivia accompanied by pumpkin and pecan pies prepared by SBVC's Culinary Arts students in the Technical Building (morning) and Liberal Arts Courtyard (afternoon) on Thursday, November 17, 2011 as part of the first 85th anniversary monthly celebrations around the SBVC campus.

Contest winners Steve Race and Ed Szumski answered all five trivia questions about the college's history and won, respectively, a SBVC polo shirt and \$50 gift card to the SBVC Bookstore.



Urinetown Musical Dedicates Performances to Denise Dales Jacobs

Students in SBVC's Theatre Arts classes came together to perform the Tony-award winning musical, *Urinetown*, in honor of their former professor Denise Dales Jacobs who passed away during the summer of 2011.

From November 17-20th, the group performed four shows. Their efforts involved hours upon hours of rehearsal time throughout the fall semester. Presented in the historic SBVC Auditorium, the show was directed by Ron Berglas with musical direction from Julie Edwards-Matanga and choreography by Maura Townsend.



Classified Staff and ASG Distribute Food to Needy Students

In early November, SBVC Classified Employee of the Year Gloria Kracher approached the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino to find out whether they would be willing to donate food for needy SBVC students. To her surprise, they instantly followed through on her request and donated 120 boxes of food to be given to SBVC students just in time for Thanksgiving.

With the assistance of Valley-Bound Commitment students and other generous volunteers around campus, the boxes were distributed during the week of November 21-23rd. Along with turkeys from campus donors and the Associated Student Government, the boxes contained vegetables, juice, beans, and more.



Education Drives Relationships and Future for Diesel Student

SBVC Student Profile: Paul Prado

When Paul Prado enrolled in classes at San Bernardino Valley College in the spring of 2009 at the age of 22, he knew he wanted something more from life besides jumping from one minimum wage job to another. A 2005 graduate of Redlands East Valley High School, Paul admitted to making some poor choices and not exactly filling the role of a model student. In fact, he had no idea what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

With more than 80 different fields of study from which to choose, Paul started taking classes in SBVC's Truck and Bus Technology (Diesel) Program for reasons that would become clearer with each passing day.

"At the time, I didn't actually have a job and did not even know how to change oil," Paul said. "But, my dad is a truck driver and I figured that this would give us something to talk about."

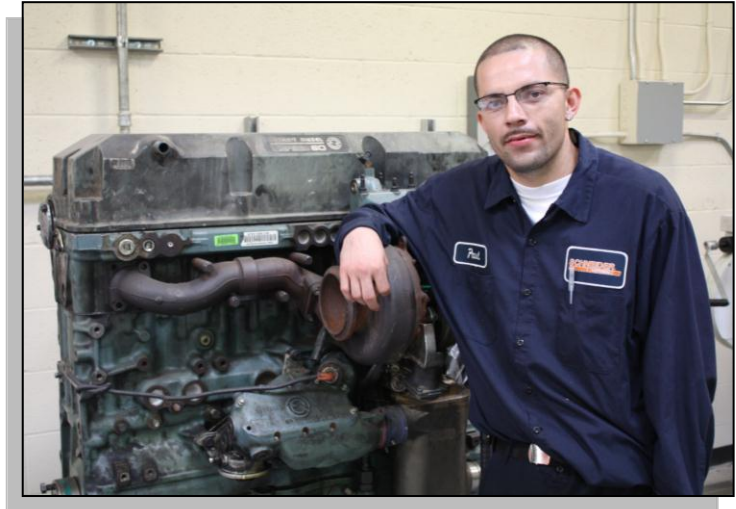
Paul's hypothesis was correct as his relationship with his father began to blossom—one lugnut at a time—as the two found common ground under the giant hoods of diesel trucks.

"Over the last few years, I've gotten closer to my dad," Prado said. "Before, I could never talk or connect with him."

Paul has been focusing on his education while learning on the job at a \$12/hour apprenticeship at Schneider National, Inc., a trucking company in Fontana. Once Paul finishes his Heavy Duty Diesel certificate program in December 2011, he'll be promoted to a full-time technician position that pays nearly \$20 per hour with benefits. In addition, he has plans to don the cap and gown in spring 2012 when he expects to have his associate's degree completed.

"Lots of guys didn't have the chance to get a scholarship and go to school. They had to try and learn on the job," Paul said. "Instructors here take extra time to make sure you feel comfortable—they teach you very well here. Mr. Hook (SBVC Diesel Professor) is a good, patient, teacher who stands right beside you and is very hands-on. There's no way I would be where I am today without him because he has so much experience in the industry. Now, I can actually say I'm doing something with my life. It's not just about the grease, it's learning about computers and technology."

"I am the first in my family to go college and I've worked really hard," Paul said. "My dad said he is proud of me and I've never heard him say that before—and that's why I can't wait to walk in May."



SBVC student Paul Prado poses with his favorite engine—a Detroit 60 series that he's taken apart and put back together several times.

In recent weeks, Paul has been asked to share his story with kids at local charities and at his old high school. So, what is Paul's advice to people looking for direction in their lives or those without jobs?

"There are lots of opportunities out there. Don't complain about your problems, go out there and do something with your life. This program pretty much saved my life. I've made mistakes and paid for them. But, without the education I've gotten here, I'd probably still be messing around with my life."

Student Health Services Celebrates *Come and Play* Theme at Health Fair



On November 9th, Student Health Services held a health fair with educational booths staffed by 43 fourth semester nursing students and attended by more than 500. Guests assisting at the fair included the New Visions Club, GSA Club, Inland Behavioral Health Clinic, West Point Urgent Care, Trihope group with Rx cards, and Bienestar Mobile HIV testing van. Health screening and services included 25 free HIV tests, 260 blood pressure screenings, 146 blood glucose tests, 90 free flu vaccines, and education regarding exercise, posture and walking techniques, healthy eating, BMI and percent body fat (these were also measured on request), and being fit for your size.

SBVC Celebrates Geography Awareness Week

Geography Professor Vanessa Engstrom organized another promotional table staffed by the Geography Club to promote Geography Awareness Week during November 13-19th. The annual event was sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The purpose of Geography Awareness Week was to promote geographic education in schools and among the public. The theme this year was "Geography: The Adventure in Your Community." To share the adventure of our local geography, Professor



Engstrom and seven SBVC students visited Urbita Elementary School to speak in classrooms. Not only were the school children excited, but SBVC students were also elated and plan to do this activity again next semester.

Urbita Elementary Receives Visit from *Amahl and the Night Visitors*

On Friday, November 18th, students in Theatrical Music Workshop performed *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, a one-act opera by Gian Carlo Menotti, for students at Urbita Elementary School. There was a great exchange between the cast and the children. Two additional performances for Urbita students will take place on December 2nd and December 9th (both at 10:00 am.).

Planetarium Featured on Local Television

Chris Clarke, Planetarium Specialist, was interviewed by San Bernardino Public Access Channel 3, for the *Inland Empire Alive* program. The focus of the interview was the Christmas Star planetarium show. Mr. Clarke did an excellent job representing the college and the planetarium program. The ten-minute video segment aired Saturday, November 10th. Mr. Clarke's interview is 21 minutes and 43 seconds into the program and can be found by searching for *Inland Empire Alive* at: iemediagroup.tv.

Save the Date

November 28 – December 16 – Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Richard Johnston: Highlights – Clara and Allen Gresham Art Gallery

California State University San Bernardino Art Professor Richard Johnston brings his *Highlights* sculpture show to the SBVC Art Gallery. Reception will be held on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Emily McNichols at 909.384.4432

Friday, December 9, 2011; 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: SBVC Annual President's Holiday Gathering-Campus Center

Elaborate gift baskets, tasty treats, holiday spirit, and thousands of dollars for student textbooks will highlight this popular event for staff and faculty. For more information contact the Office of the President at 909.384.8573.

Friday, December 9, 2011; 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.: Annual Raku Dinner Party Fundraiser – Art Room #107

Organized by the SBVC Art Department and Friends of the Gallery, this popular fundraising event for the Art Department includes dinner, raku decorating, entertainment, silent auction, and holiday ornaments for sale. Price is \$13 per person, \$25 per couple, and/or \$5.00 for students. Contact Emily McNichols at 909.384.8939.

Saturday, January 7, 2012; 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.: Rio Hondo College vs. SBVC Women's & Men's Basketball – Snyder Gym

Both SBVC basketball teams will host their first Foothill Conference league games with the women's game starting at 1:00 p.m. and the men's game at 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact SBVC Sports Information at 909.384.8516.