



# Board Report

MARCH 10, 2016



## Record Attendance at Black History Month Breakfast



On February 26, San Bernardino Valley College culminated a month-long celebration of Black History Month with a Black History Month Breakfast for members of the local community.

The event's featured speaker was Pastor Sam Casey of New Life Christian Church in Fontana, who discussed the importance of the local community coming together to achieve social progress. Over 260 people attended the event, with the majority being community members. Many notable guests received awards from the college's Black Faculty & Staff Association for their commitment to student success, including Pastor Joshua Beckley, Dr. Gloria Fisher, Walt Hawkins, Ratibu Jacocks, Eloise Reyes, Dr. Tom Rivera and Clyde Williams.

"We haven't really counted attendance in previous years," says Shalita Tillman, one of organizers of the event, "but everyone seems to agree that this is the biggest turnout we have ever seen for the breakfast. We hope that it grows even more in the coming years, with the community becoming more aware of the crucial role San Bernardino Valley College plays in the Inland Empire."

# Student Spotlight: Keishelle Shelton

When Keishelle Shelton starts at Tuskegee University on a full academic scholarship later this year, she'll be making history as the first San Bernardino Valley College student to transfer to a HBCU (Historically Black College or University).

"It's an honor and one large accomplishment, not just for me, but also for the entire San Bernardino Valley College community," she said. "I could not have done it alone. I have San Bernardino Valley College and its incredible staff educating me and pushing me towards greatness."

Shelton, 27, is majoring in math and science with an emphasis in food science and technology. While attending an HBCU fair on campus, she "fell in love with the idea of attending a school that graduated high numbers of STEM majors and prominent leaders," and decided she wanted to take her educational journey as far as possible.

When Shelton received the news she was accepted, she was "blown away," and "screamed from the mailbox to the front door." Once she realized she had been offered a full academic scholarship, she was ready to do flips. "I was completely humbled and grateful, and in complete awe," Shelton said. "I ran around my house screaming with excitement." The feelings of elation still haven't worn off yet. "I think I've read my letters repeatedly since receiving them," she said.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in the Bronx, Shelton eventually moved back to California and graduated from high school in 2006. She became a licensed cosmetologist in 2009, and said she felt out of place until she returned to school in the fall of 2014. At Valley, Shelton said she met "staff, instructors, and students who inspired, motivated and encouraged me to be my very best." She became involved in several organizations on campus, joining the Success Through Achievement and Retention (STAR) program, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), and she is currently the president of Tumaini. "This has been the best time of my life thus far, and truly helped me mature as a student, leader, sister, daughter and friend," she said.

At Tuskegee, Shelton will study food science and technology in a program that integrates food science, chemistry, physics, biology, microbiology, and mathematics. She's looking forward to attending the same school as her brother, as well as experiencing the "culture" and "history" that "all HBCU alumni brag about." Shelton also has a message for anyone thinking about going back to school: "When it comes to education, the possibilities are endless and truly worth it."



# SBVC Celebrates African American Achievements Through Music & Art

Throughout the month of February, the Arts, Lectures & Diversity Committee, the Black Faculty & Staff Association, the Student Services Division, and the Arts & Humanities Division hosted a diverse combination of arts and musical events to commemorate the achievements of African Americans throughout history.

These events brought hundreds of community members to campus for the first time ever, reinforcing the college's presence as a cultural center in the Inland Empire.

"I was pleasantly surprised by how many arts events were put on this month," says Maggie Castaneda, an art major at SBVC. "It's very encouraging to see that there are so many opportunities for arts students to have a place for artistic expression. I think it really boosts our confidence in arts as a valuable major."

During February, there were ten arts events for the community to attend, including guest speakers, concerts, art shows, educational and comedy shows.



# Middle Schoolers Learn Coding at SBVC



On February 19, middle school girls from Colton Joint Unified School District visited SBVC for coding lessons, reaffirming a partnership between the college and school district that was first formed in 2015.

"This program gives young girls a chance to participate in STEM activities and to learn about careers in the field while spending time on a college campus," says Dean Henry Hua, who initiated the partnership last year.

"We are excited to partner with the Girl Scouts and San Bernardino Valley College to bring this outstanding opportunity to our students," stated CJUSD Superintendent Jerry Almandarez. "This is a great example of our community working collaboratively to ensure that our students are college and career ready and excited about what the future holds."

# Save the Date!

**3/11 Planetarium Show** (7:00pm, Planetarium, \$3.00 admission)  
The Little Star That Could. Open to the public.

**3/21 Diversity Committee** (2:00pm, Library Viewing Room, free)  
Elimination of Racial Discrimination: poetry readings, discussion, open mic session. Open to the public.

**3/23 Battle of the Bands** (11:00am, Greek Theatre, free)  
Club fundraiser, musical performances. Open to the public.

**3/24 Stress Solutions Oasis** (11:00am, B-100, free)  
Join us for a relaxing and restful atmosphere to decompress your week. Open to district staff and students.

