



Board Report

APRIL 14, 2016



SBVC Recognized for Increased Graduation Rates



Earlier this year, SBVC was nominated for the prestigious Aspen Prize, naming it one of the 150 best community colleges in the country.

This nomination is given to colleges that have demonstrated the strongest student success outcomes based on publicly-available data.

Over the last five years, SBVC has seen a 36% increase in the number of students who graduated with degrees or certificates, even though overall enrollment dropped by 8% during the same period. At the same time, SBVC's attrition rate decreased 3%, confirming a correlation between student engagement and completion.

As Chancellor Baron recently noted, engaged students tend to share similar characteristics: intellectual participation in their course work, interaction in their classrooms, participation with the campus community, and commitment to enhancing their personal growth.

SBVC is very thankful to all of the staff and faculty who have contributed to making SBVC students more engaged, whether through counseling, advising, or innovative instruction. These staff have directly impacted thousands of student lives and are responsible for the college's nationwide recognition. Congratulations!

Police Academy Graduates 200th Class



On March 10, the graduation of Session 200 of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy was held in Rancho Cucamonga. The event was hosted by San Bernardino Valley College and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Public Safety Regional Training Center. Sheriff John McMahon and Chief of Police of the San Bernardino Police Department, Jarrod Burguan were in attendance. The keynote speaker for the night was San Bernardino County District Attorney, Mike Ramos. It was special night celebrating the fifty-five that graduated. Out of the fifty-five, 54 were already hired by police agencies, making the evening especially festive.

STEM Students Help Promote Science Careers



On March 18, students from the SBVC STEM program volunteered at STEM Day, a major gathering of local middle school students at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana. The event provided students with a fun way to see science in action and to learn more about the STEM programs SBVC has to offer.

While local fans may be thrilled that NASCAR is making its annual stop in Fontana, they may not realize something that our STEM students already know: that, without science, technology, engineering and math, NASCAR would be impossible.

Student Spotlight: Jerel Smith

A few years from now, the next major technological breakthrough could come courtesy of Jerel Smith.

After successfully taking apart his cell phone and replacing the back screen, Smith knew he wanted to embark on a career as an electrical engineer. "I was instantly fascinated with the motherboard and all the components that were so small and intricate yet allowed you to gain access to a new world of information," he said. "I am interested in technology and the ever-growing industry of power and technology.



Every year, our electronics and gadgets and devices are evolving and I just wanted to take part in changing the world and bringing forth new technology, and fixing the old as well."

Smith, 23, enrolled at SBVC last year, ready to embark on a new chapter in his life. Born in Loma Linda, Smith lived in different foster homes growing up, and "had to adjust to being a nomad at a young age." At 18, Smith was homeless, and reeling from the death of his firstborn daughter. Fast forward a few years later, and with the help of several groups, he's on his way to graduating from SBVC with the goal of transferring to his dream school — USC.

Thanks to assistance from Transitional Age Youth (TAY), Smith is no longer homeless and able to maintain his studies without worrying about having a place to live. He works with the Employment Development Department (EDD) to change the lives of young people in the community, and credits Guardian Scholars, which promotes secondary education and offers support for foster youth, with inspiring him to further his education. "The program has been here for me since day one," he said.

At SBVC, Smith met Benjamin Quinones, "my first English teacher who motivated me to be something more," and says his positive experiences at the college make him feel like "I belong here. I'm supported and encouraged to try my best on a daily basis."

When Smith is done at SBVC, it will make him the first male in his family to finish college. It will be an important milestone not only for himself, but for those who look up to him.

"I have a lot to prove to my family and my kids, along with myself," he said. "I would like to contribute to changing my world, and I know I will need a higher education to make an everlasting imprint on it."

Students Study California Air Quality Systems



On March 11, the Californian Geography class and some geology students visited the offices of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) in Diamond Bar. The AQMD monitors the air quality for Orange County and the urban portions of LA and the Inland Empire. The region has over 17 million residents. One of the air quality systems closest to SBVC is located at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railyard in San Bernardino. The students looked at alternative fuel vehicles that use hydrogen or electricity, then had a behind the scenes tour of the lab and met with scientists who collect and analyze data. The data collected and analyzed by these scientists is used to inform statewide policy and legislation.

Theatre Arts Steals the Show in Hawaii

The Theatre Arts Department is proud to announce that student Stephen Diaz won the "Next Steps Auditions" Competition in Hawaii in February, receiving a full scholarship to an Acting Intensive Program in Monterey Bay for the summer. The department also learned this month that the following cast and crew from the spring production of *Into the Woods* were nominated for Inland Theatre League awards: Alecia Ontiveros as Jack's Mom, Angie Quigley as the Witch, Gilbert Archuletta as Baker, Kristine Lucrida as Cinderella, Melinda Fogle Oliver for Director, and Michael Gonzales for Scenic Designer. Way to steal the show, Theatre Arts!



SBVC Hosts First "Battle of the Bands"



On March 23, SBVC's Music Appreciation Club hosted its first "Battle of the Bands" event. This event was held in the Greek Theatre in conjunction with the Inter-Club Council's Unity Club Festival. Seven bands battled it out into the night, with alternative rock band Kings Trio winning the competition. Thank you to all student bands for your participation and for sharing your amazing musical talents!

Save the Date!

4/15 Abduction: the Seraglio (10:00 AM, NH-164, free)
An Opera. Open to the public.

4/22 Choir Festival (9:30am, NH-164, free)
Presented by the SBVC Music Department. Open to the public.

4/22 Planetarium Show (7:00pm, Planetarium, \$3.00 admission)
The Dawn of Astronomy. Open to the public.

4/26 Graduation Fair (9:00 AM, Campus Store, free)
A major sale for all of your graduation needs. Open to the public.

