



# Board Report

JULY 14, 2016



## Positive Changes Lead to Dramatic Rise in Graduation Rates

Between 2010 and 2016, the number of degrees and certificates received by graduates at San Bernardino Valley College has increased from 964 to 1421, or by 47%.

According to Dr. James Smith, Dean of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness, this increase can be attributed to a number of positive changes that have transformed the college's academic environment over a short time period. One major change has been an expansion of the number of courses offered online, which makes studying at SBVC much more convenient for employed students and part-time students.

During this same period, the college launched several major grant-funded programs, such as HSI STEM PASS GO and HACU, which provided many SBVC students with increased access to support services like tutoring and supplemental instruction.

Another major change was the college's adoption of requiring comprehensive educational plans for all students, which clarified the exact pathway every student needs to take to complete the requirements for a degree or certificate.

During this same time, faculty and administrators began to explore a number of innovative course delivery models, such as accelerated basic skills courses and learning communities.

This dramatic increase of the number of degrees and certificates awarded brought SBVC to the attention of the Aspen Institute, a prestigious national organization that rewards community college excellence and improvement with a \$1,000,000 prize every two years. The increase in SBVC's graduation rates contributed to the campus being selected as one of the 150 most improved community colleges in the nation from a total of more than 1,500 community colleges.

On June 2, 2016, SBVC was one of only 27 colleges that were interviewed to be selected among the top 10 community colleges in the nation. We will be notified in mid-August about whether we are in the 10 improved community colleges in the nation. Being selected in the top 150 has brought positive attention to the campus and city. Being selected in the 10 will be an even greater honor. We'll keep our fingers crossed as we continue to strive for success!

## Local Businesses Recruit SBVC Students



On June 1, SBVC's CalWORKS and Workforce Development Department hosted a job fair that included representatives from Starbucks, IEHP, FedEx, and other local organizations.

Students were given the opportunity to learn more about these employers and interview with many of them same day. Starbucks interviewed 189 students and 113 of them will be contacted for a second interview. Way to go, Wolverines!

## Student Services Celebrates Year of Success

As the year drew to a close, many Student Services departments and programs celebrated a year of accomplishment.

SBVC's EOPS/CARE program celebrated its End of the Year Dinner at San Manuel Event Center on May 5. There were approximately 200 in attendance. Nine instructors were nominated by EOPS students as making an impact in their academic progress.

Isabel Rodriguez and Maurice Woods were the mistress and master of ceremonies. They did a wonderful job in conducting the ceremony. The guest speakers for the night were Angel Agudo and Angel Orozco, former Valley-Bound and EOPS students.

Angel Agudo will begin his master's program in Social Work at CSUSB in the fall and Angel Orozco is currently working as an engineer for a construction company.

Congratulations!



# Alumni Spotlight: J.M. Moore



Had an elevator malfunction not occurred, J.M. Moore's new book, *The History of the Barclay Hotel*, might not exist. Moore, a 2015 San Bernardino Valley College graduate, lived in the downtown Los Angeles building, built in 1897, from 2005 to 2012. One day in 2008, she was in the elevator, trying to get to her fifth floor apartment, when she was taken to the basement instead. "I found it very odd because a key needs to be used in order for the elevator to open at the basement

level," she said. "Nevertheless, the door slowly slid open and there I stood, exposed to its stagnant, stale and murky atmosphere." Moore could hear the hum of the furnace and a small animal scattering away, and was "over-come with a feeling deep within myself warning me not to step foot off of that elevator and into the basement." She quickly pushed the up button and made her way to her apartment, but she was intrigued by what she saw: "It was then that I knew something not so pleasant happened in that basement." Wanting to know more about the Barclay Hotel, Moore searched through the Los Angeles Public Library's databases and microfilm collection, and after discovering facts about the building, realized that a lot of the information online was incorrect. "The deeper I got into research, the more events I uncovered and the higher the body count got," she said. "I decided that since there were so many events that occurred at the hotel, it was worth compiling all of the stories into one book."

Moore uncovered information on murders, suicides, accidental deaths, fires and other unexplained events at the hotel, and she started to feel uncomfortable living in the building as she re-searched its sordid history. She took a break from her studies, moved to San Bernardino and after graduating with honors from SBVC in December 2015, thought it was time to revisit the project. "I already had the stories that I wanted to highlight, tucked safely away in my mind," she said. "I just needed to research and record the resources." For nearly two months, Moore spent about 15 hours a day working on the book, sometimes not even stopping to eat. She says it's the only book that chronicles the history of the historic monument. She's also not finished writing books. In *The History of the Barclay Hotel*, Moore briefly discusses her seven years spent in the building, and her next book will "go into detail about the events that happened to me while I was a tenant," she said. "Some happenings were unsettling and in-explicable in nature, while others were divine and captivating." Moore will be holding book signings in San Bernardino and Los Angeles this summer and fall. For more information, or to purchase her book, visit [barclayhotelhistory.com](http://barclayhotelhistory.com), [Face-book.com/BarclayHotelHistory](https://www.facebook.com/BarclayHotelHistory) or [Twitter.com/TheBarclayHotel](https://www.twitter.com/TheBarclayHotel).

# Sheriff's Academy Graduates 201st Class



On June 16, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and San Bernardino Valley College hosted the Sheriff's Academy's 201st Graduation Ceremony. After the successful completion of an intensive 23-week program, 52 newly-graduated police officers will be joining local law enforcement agencies. 51 out of 52 graduates have already been recruited by law enforcement agencies and are now sworn officers. The guest speaker for the event was California Senator Mike Morrell, who praised and wished luck to the graduates. Congratulations!

## SBVC Foundation Brings Alumni to Campus



On June 9, the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation hosted an Ice Cream Social to bring alumni back to campus. All SBVC alumni and recent graduates were invited to enjoy ice cream and root beer floats. The event was an opportunity for alumni to network with each other, as well as a reason to revisit the SBVC campus and be reminded of the college's contributions to each new graduate's success. The Foundation raffled off prizes to those at attendance. *What a great way to begin the summer break!*

