



President's Board Report

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community | March 2017

SBVC Dominates SkillsUSA Competition



On January 28, the Campus Center at San Bernardino Valley College was teeming with activity. Thousands of local college, high school and middle school students had arrived early to compete in the SkillsUSA Region 6 Competition, an opportunity to showcase their prowess in culinary arts, welding, automotive technology, diesel technology, crime scene investigation, robotics, web design, and many other challenging professional fields.

For several weeks prior, Chef Stacy Meyer—chair of SBVC's culinary arts program and the college's liaison with SkillsUSA coordinators—had been busy securing judges, making sure classrooms were prepared, and buying all of the necessary supplies for the day of the competition. "Now I am ready," she said, "for an event that goes off without a hitch and gives students a chance to shine."

Several intense hours later, the competition was finally over, and hundreds of jubilant competitors and their families gathered in the Auditorium to receive recognition and awards from judges. Dozens of gold, silver and bronze medalists were SBVC students, who would now be advancing to the state-level competition in April.

"Our students will be competing against other students from all over the state—the best of the best, if you will," said Chef Meyer. "If one is lucky enough to win at national level, they will be awarded scholarships to various colleges. These events are sponsored by some of the largest companies in America."

Congratulations, Wolverines!



Distinguished Alumna Sworn In to State Assembly



In front of hundreds of people in the SBVC Auditorium, distinguished SBVC alumna Eloise Gómez Reyes was sworn in Feb. 4 as a California State Assemblymember. She graduated from SBVC in 1976 and became the first Latina to start her own legal practice in the Inland Empire. She also provided free legal services to area residents in need and served on the board of the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation. "I am honored to be president of this amazing college during such an exciting time, when one of our very own distinguished alumni is sworn in to the California State Assembly to advocate on behalf of our community, our college and our students," SBVC President Diana Z. Rodriguez said. Students from the SBVC culinary arts program prepared the event's appetizers, and the Sinfonia Mexicana music group provided entertainment.

SBVC Instructor's Compositions Performed Regionally

In January and February, several original pieces by SBVC music instructor William Beuche were performed during the Inland Empire Composer Concert series in various music venues across the Inland Empire. On Feb. 1, More than 70 people attended the first-ever concert of this type on campus, which featured players from SBVC, the Manzanita Septet and the San Andreas Chamber Orchestra. On Feb. 3, members of the SBVC faculty had their own concert, which opened with a performance by the SBVC Choir.



SBVC Celebrates Black History Month Through Arts



SBVC's Performing Arts Department has developed a reputation for putting on some of the most dazzling performances of music, theatre and dance in the region. In February, true to its reputation, the college launched an impressive lineup of arts activities to bring the campus and community together in celebration of Black History Month.

Organized by the college's Arts, Lectures & Diversity (ALD) Committee and the Arts & Humanities Division, these events brought hundreds of community members to campus.

"This is a time-honored tradition at SBVC," said President Diana Z. Rodriguez. "I am proud that our campus and community continue to come together to celebrate the achievements of some of the greatest men and women in our country's history."

U.S. Rep Hosts FAFSA Workshop on Campus



On February 18, U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar hosted a FAFSA and College Affordability Workshop at San Bernardino Valley College. The session, which included presentations from Patricia Aguilera of Cal State San Bernardino and Fermin Ramirez, Financial Outreach Coordinator at San Bernardino Valley College, addressed the FAFSA application as well as additional information for parents and guardians with children navigating the student loan process for the first time. "College affordability is one of the most pertinent issues Inland Empire families - and all Americans - face today," said Aguilar. "I wouldn't have been able to afford college without federal assistance, so I know how important it is to offer workshops and resources like this."

Remembering SBVC Trailblazer Dorothy Inghram



After a lifetime of breaking down barriers, Dorothy Inghram, Class of 1932, was inducted into the San Bernardino Valley College Hall of Fame in 1989.

"San Bernardino Valley College provided the opportunity for me to pursue the professional career which I thoroughly enjoyed for 30 years," she said at the time. "For this, I shall always be grateful."

Born in San Bernardino in 1905, Inghram attended Mt. Vernon School, Sturges Junior High School, and San Bernardino High School, where she graduated in 1923. During her life, she wrote five books, and in one, she recalled that her parents emphasized the importance of education, and told her to strive for success during a time of racial discrimination. While a student at SBVC, she wrote the music for the hymn that was chosen as the college's alma mater, and after graduating in 1932, she earned her elementary teaching credential. In 1942, she was hired as a second grade

teacher at Mill Street School - the first African American teacher in San Bernardino County.

SBVC Hosts Post-Election & Inauguration Forums

To reassure students about the college's commitment to its Dreamer population, the Executive Team hosted several public forums throughout the months of December and January.

The forums helped address concerns among students, staff and community members about the legal status of Dreamer students statewide in case DACA legislation is no longer supported at the federal level. "We want you to know that we are here for you," said Sylvia Juarez, SBVC's Dreamer Liaison. "No matter what happens at the federal level, the State of California, the California Community College Chancellor, and this district are committed to serving all students, regardless of their immigration status."



SBVC Professors Help With Veteran Reintegration



Since the beginning of the academic year, SBVC and Cal State San Bernardino professors have been working with veterans of all ages to help them process their experiences in the military and back home.

The *Dialogues on the Experience of War* program uses comparative literature to start a "circle of trust," where veterans are able to express themselves openly.

The group is facilitated by SBVC English Professors Edward Jones and Joe

Notarangelo and CSUSB English Professor Jennifer Andersen.

"We see the value in what we're doing," Jones told the Inland Empire Community News in November. "Hopefully we're able to bring in more people next year." The discussions will continue to take place through May, and the professors are hoping to secure a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to extend it for another year. Jones served in the Army during Desert Storm, and said it is vital to reach out to soldiers of all ages. "It's a difficult transition," he told IECN. "They have to be taught that it's okay to disagree or have your opinion about something. That's something soldiers have to get used to."

Upcoming Events

March 10
Planetarium Show
The Little Star That Could
\$3 / 7:00pm / Planetarium

March 24
Planetarium Show
The Dawn of Astronomy
\$3 / 7:00pm / Planetarium

March 22
CTE Open House
free / 12:00pm / Tech Bldg

April 27
FoodIE Fest 2017
free / 12:00pm / Auditorium

March 22
Crescendo Music Festival
free / 5:00pm / Greek Theatre

May 12
22nd Annual Spotlighting
\$16 / 5:00pm / Campus Center

