



# President's Board Report

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

## Celebrating 9 Years of Free College for Local High School Graduates



On March 10, San Bernardino Valley College celebrated the 9th year of its Valley-Bound Commitment (VBC) program, a privately-funded student support initiative that provides one year of free college and specialized counseling to students from SBVC's seventeen feeder high schools. Thanks to support from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the award-winning program has provided a free first year of college to hundreds of local high school students, including the cost of textbooks, transportation, registration fees, and school supplies. Of the 263 Valley-Bound students who have graduated and transferred since the program's inception in 2008, 55 have earned a bachelor's degree, 17 will earn their bachelor's by the end of this year, and the remaining are in the process of completing their bachelor's coursework. In addition, four students have earned master's degrees, eight are currently in graduate programs, and one is in a postgraduate program.

Devale Haywood, a current Valley-Bound student, is majoring in psychology and plans on transferring to a four-year university. He is considering pursuing a career in psychiatry or clinical psychology. "My counselors have helped me really understand what it takes to transfer and be a good student," he said. SBVC President Diana Z. Rodriguez expressed deep appreciation to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for making the Valley-Bound program possible. Rodriguez welcomed the afternoon's special guest, Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Valbuena reflected on the importance of understanding the challenges facing students from low-income backgrounds and discussed what it meant to give back to the community. "It makes me so happy that we are here to do this for you," she said.



# SBVC Math Instructor Makes Art Gallery Debut



For Professor Jeremiah Gilbert, the boundary between computation and art is nonexistent: his advanced mastery of both mathematics and photography seems to come naturally. An avid international traveler, poet, and professional photographer, Gilbert has developed an impressive collection of artistic landscape photography that he partially debuted in SBVC's Clara and Allen Gresham Art Gallery on February 28.

"Jeremiah represents the brilliance and versatility we are fortunate to have among many of our faculty and classified professionals," said President Diana Z. Rodriguez as she viewed the collection. "I am just awestruck at the ingenuity on display here."

For more information or to purchase prints, visit [jeremiahgilbert.com](http://jeremiahgilbert.com).



## Georgetown University Professor Packs Auditorium



On February 22, SBVC's Arts, Lectures & Diversity Committee hosted one of the biggest events of the year, with guest speaker Dr. Michael Eric Dyson bringing close to 1,000 visitors to campus and the college website to view his remarks live. Speaking on the controversial topics of race and racism in America, Dyson received multiple ovations during his speech, with an especially active audience consisting primarily of community members.

"I am so glad I attended last night," said Kris Peterson, a local musician, on Facebook. "It was an amazing mix of humor, poignant social and political critique, and I've never heard a professor channel Sam Cooke, Biggie, Tupac and Jay-Z quite like that before. Thank you, Dr. Dyson, for an enjoyable and thought provoking night."

# California Attorney General Visits SBVC Campus



On March 23, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra visited San Bernardino Valley College to host a statewide policy forum with SBVC alumna Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes.

During the forum, the Attorney General discussed his plans for helping every Californian achieve the American Dream, especially the population in Southern California that comprises San Bernardino Valley College's service area.

"Alumni involvement is key to the growth and future success of our region," said President Diana Z. Rodriguez, "That is why we are especially proud to host discussions like this one on our campus."

Congratulations, SBVC!

# SBVC Hosts 6th Annual Community MLK Breakfast

On February 24, SBVC's Campus Center was full of community members, elected officials and college employees, all gathering to commemorate the achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After a delicious breakfast provided by SBVC Food Services, attendees were treated to poetry, music, and a keynote speech by Bishop Jelani Kafela of the Imani Christian Cathedral.

"I continue to be amazed at the dedication of the people who work here," said President Diana Z. Rodriguez. "I am so thankful that they have the energy and commitment to organize amazing events like this for our community on an annual basis. Thank you to everyone who was involved!"



# 'Moving the Needle' on Dreamer Student Success



A recent report released by SBVC's Department of Research, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness shows that students who visited the Dreamers Resource Center (DRC) for counseling assistance during the Fall 2016 semester had a success rate that exceeded the state average for all students by 6%. The difference between this population and Dreamer students who did not visit the DRC was even more pronounced, with students who never visited having a 9% lower success rate than those who did, as well as a lower GPA.

"We are thrilled to see the remarkable outcomes for students who utilize the DRC on our campus," said Vice President of Student Services Ricky Shabazz. "I am proud that SBVC supports all students in the attainment of their educational goals."

The Dreamers Resource Center at San Bernardino Valley College was established in 2015, the first of its kind in the State of California. It currently serves about 200 students on campus.

## Upcoming Events



**April 14**  
**Choir Festival**  
free / 7:00pm / Auditorium

**April 21**  
**Art Night, Day 1**  
free / 4:00pm / Downtown

**April 21**  
**Planetarium Show**  
*Images of the Infinite*  
\$3 / 7:00pm / Planetarium

**April 22**  
**Art Night, Day 2**  
free / 10:00am / Downtown

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

**April 27-29**  
**Opera Performance**  
*La Clemenza di Tito*  
free / 7:00pm / MAC

**April 27**  
**SBVC/Crafton Poetry Slam**  
free / 7:00pm / LIB-149

**April 28**  
**Tumaini Fashion Show**  
free / 6:00pm / B-100