



# President's Board Report

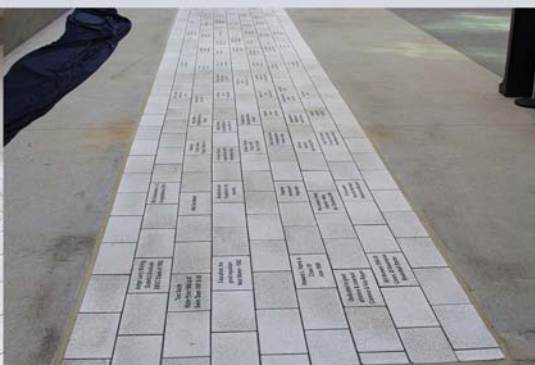
The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community

| November 2017



## SBVC Foundation Unveils Engraved Walkway

On October 20, the San Bernardino Valley College unveiled a special new walkway in the breezeway of the Kinesiology and Athletics Complex that features the names of over one hundred supporters of scholarships for SBVC students. Dozens of students, faculty, staff, and community members attended the unveiling to be among the first to see the new structure, as well as to see bricks engraved with their names for the first time ever. "The SBVC Foundation is thrilled to debut this exciting new project which is filled with a sense of community and SBVC pride," said SBVC Director of Development and Community Relations, Karen Childers. "Creating a personalized brick is an excellent way to honor family and friends or commemorate time as a student at SBVC."



# Evelyn Luna: From DREAMer Student to SBVC Counselor



Evelyn Luna

Evelyn Luna knows what it's like to walk in her students' shoes. As a San Bernardino Valley College counselor, Luna works with current and former foster youth enrolled in the Guardian Scholars program as well as DREAMers. Many of these individuals have a background similar to hers. In 1996, she came to the United States from Guatemala as an undocumented immigrant.

"I feel like I am making a difference and the students can connect with me and know that I went through something similar," Luna said. "It's about what I can give to the students, not about what I can get. I never imagined I'd also have the opportunity to work with foster youth, it's amazing that they are here after everything they've gone through." It took years of hard work for Luna to get to where she is today. When she enrolled in college, she wasn't eligible for financial aid, and had to work 50 hours a week as a full-time student in order to pay her tuition. To get to class, she rode the bus from Pomona to California State University, Fullerton, which took hours and had multiple stops.

"There were times when I thought, 'What am I going to do?'" she said. "I wasn't documented at the time, and was working under the table with whatever jobs I could find, and I wondered, 'How am I going to pay for this?' I told myself no, I am not giving up, I want to succeed. Everyone in my family was educated in Guatemala, and I wanted to succeed for my grandpa and grandma. It was hard, sometimes I had to get on the bus at 5 a.m. and I was always working, but I finished. I am here to support our students, and want them to know if I could do it, they can do it, too."

After earning her bachelor's degree at Cal State Fullerton, Luna got married and became a citizen, and said she told herself, "Nothing is going to stop me now." She received her master's degree from the University of Redlands, and prior to coming to SBVC, was an academic adviser at University of California, Riverside. However, Luna always knew she wanted to work at a community college. "I went to community college at Mt. San Antonio, and the treatment I got from my counselor made an impact on my life and I knew that's what I wanted to do," she said. "My heart is in community college." Luna said she works with a "very unique student population," and her days are busy with everything from counseling appointments to workshops for students.

"Every day is something new," Luna said. "We have so many resources available, and sometimes students don't even know that we are here, but once we get them into the office, I will help them from day one to when they walk across the stage at graduation." Luna lives in Perris with her family, including her two-year-old daughter, and is active in her church and doing community service in Moreno Valley. Before her daughter was born, Luna was accepted to a doctoral program and she hopes to start next year, but nothing will get in the way of her helping the DREAMers and foster youth on campus. "I love this opportunity," she said. "I am so blessed to work with these groups, and my heart is for them. I never imagined I would be able to do this, and my dream came true. I'm here to help them, and want them to hear my story. They will know I went through a lot and it wasn't easy, but with the resources we have, I am here to help them and will support them with anything they need."

## Local High Schools Bring Games to SBVC Athletics Complex & Stadium

It's always a delight when, between regional high schools, there is a nexus for all to unite and play, to express their talents and showcase their efforts. This is what San Bernardino Valley College has done since 1997: provide not just an arena for high schools to host their games, but also a personal relationship between local schools' athletic departments.

Spearheading this effort at SBVC is Dave Rubio, head of the athletic department since 1982. At the mention of the partnership, Rubio is quick to express that he is "more than happy to help [the schools]." Help is an understatement, for this unifying effort has made SBVC host to one of the largest high school tournaments in the nation, the Desert Classic Volleyball Tournament, which caters to a variety of varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams.



# SBVC Introduces "Fitness Fridays" for Staff

San Bernardino Valley College has recently launched "Fitness Fridays," a weekly yoga class designed for campus staff and faculty. The Professional Development Committee at SBVC started this initiative on October 13 to help release any tension in the body, mind, and spirit for these hard-working campus personnel.

"We want to provide some stress management workshops for employees," says Rania Hamdy, Coordinator of Professional & Organizational Development. "For the duration of the year, it will be low impact yoga, breathing exercises, and ways to relax." Hamdy intends for the weekly class to be an outlet for employees to leave their desks and relax with coworkers. "It's something to help connect with other colleagues, everyone has their yoga mat no matter if you are the president of the college or part-time faculty," she said.



Staff participate in Fitness Fridays at SBVC

The weekly class is taught by Danielle Smith, a certified yoga instructor, who has been registered with Yoga Alliance since 2015. Smith utilizes evidence-based stress reduction methods alongside traditional breathing techniques and exercises to promote physical and mental wellbeing. Her teaching style can be described as compassionate, rooted in tradition, and disciplined. Smith seeks to inspire others to establish their own daily health and wellness practices.

Staff and faculty can participate every Friday from 11:15am- 12:15pm in Gym 214. Smith recommends bringing your own yoga mat and exercising in bare feet or slip-resistant socks.



From left: Bruce Baron, SBCCD Chancellor; Carmen Rodriguez, Interim Dean of Student Equity; Diana Rodriguez, SBVC President

## SBVC Dean Named *Educator of the Year*

On October 7, the Northside Impact Committee spotlighted more than a dozen youth and community service leaders during its annual Recognition and Scholarships Awards.

In attendance were many local community leaders, educators, students, and parents, with substantial representation from the San Bernardino Community College District.

Among those recognized was Interim Dean of Student Equity & Success, Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez, who received the committee's Educator of the Year Award. Congratulations, Carmen!

## Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration Brings Community to Campus

On October 7, dozens of students, staff, faculty and community members celebrated joined in to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day on campus. This annual event, organized by SBVC faculty and students, has become a campus tradition every year.



Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration

# SBVC Staff Attend Regional Leadership Summit



SBVC staff attend 2017 IEPI CCC Leadership Summit

On October 5-6, a team comprised of SBVC administrators, faculty and classified professionals attended the IEPI CCC Change Leadership Summit in Irvine, California.

Attendees at the conference learned how to develop approaches, mindsets and tools that enhance local leadership efforts, assess challenges and opportunities for collective leadership within and across institutions, and identify and explore the leadership demands for undertaking whole systems change to further close achievement and equity gaps.

Staff are currently implementing lessons learned from the conference in their work on campus.

## SBVC Graduates Class 36 of Extended Basic Law Enforcement Academy

On October 14, 26 graduates were recognized for completing their coursework and training to become police officers. After 52 weeks and 920 hours of training, graduates have completed the required coursework in ethics, criminal law, first aid, cultural diversity, persons with disabilities, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations, firearms, and physical fitness. Most graduates are either already employed or in the process of becoming employed with local and regional law enforcement agencies.

This graduation was also the last one for longtime Director Jeff Klug, who is retiring from SBVC. Mr. Klug was presented with a special plaque of recognition from President Rodriguez and Dean Wally Johnson. Congratulations, Jeff and graduates!



## Upcoming Events

**November 10**  
**Men's Soccer vs. MiraCosta**  
3:00pm / Soccer Field

**November 16**  
**1st John Trudell Poetry Festival**  
6:00pm / B-100

**November 30-December 2**  
**Fall Theatre: It's a Wonderful Life**  
7:00pm / Auditorium

**December 2**  
**SBVC Day of Service**  
9:00am / Campus Center

**December 5**  
**WinterFest 2017**  
3:00pm / All Campus

Greek Theatre, WinterFest 2016

