



President's Board Report

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

| December 2017



SBVC Unveils 'Valley 360 Resource Center'

On November 14, San Bernardino Valley College unveiled its first-ever resource center for homeless and needy students, named the Valley 360 Resource Center for its potential to provide 360 degrees of support for students during their academic pursuits at SBVC.

The resource center will provide meals, clothing, and baby items for hundreds of San Bernardino Valley College students who will need them most, allowing them to focus more time on their studies and on completing the degree or certificate that will lead them to employment in the high-paying career of their dreams.

"As college administrators, we perceive the rising need among our student body as a significant challenge that needs to be addressed in order to help all students be successful while they are studying and preparing for their careers," said President Diana Rodriguez.

This resource center is made possible through the generosity of the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino, as well as the work of SBVC's Administrative Services division, which prepared the facility for operation, and the Student Services division, which operates and staffs the center.

SBVC Foundation Inducts Newest Hall of Fame Alumni and Athletes



On November 3, the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation inducted ten new honorees into its Alumni and Athletics Halls of Fame. Among the inductees were Olympic-level athletes, educators, philanthropists, and more.

The newest Alumni Hall of Fame inductees Marta Macias Brown, Dr. Tom M. Rivera, Dr. Willie Roberts (posthumous), Roger Schmidt, and Dr. Julius Zelman (posthumous). SBVC's Athletics Department inducted athletes and coaches to its Athletic Hall of Fame: David Lang (posthumous), Coach Gene Mazzei, David Olbright, Dane Selznick, and Tyree Washington.

The accomplished group was recognized for activism, philanthropy, pedagogy, public service, and contributions to higher education and medicine in Bernardino County. Congratulations, SBVC!

Classified Professional Spotlight: Mary Valdemar

The work Mary Valdemar does makes an impact beyond San Bernardino Valley College.

Valdemar is part of the library and learning support services team, and is active in several groups that aim to make a difference in the lives of others. She is a member of the college's Sustainability Committee, co-chair of the Ethnic Studies Coalition, mentors the SBVC chapter of MEChA, serves as vice president of the Latino Faculty Association, and co-founded ChICCCAA (Chicano Indigenous Community for Culturally Conscious Advocacy and Action), which focuses on Chicano indigenous reconnection, environmental justice, and sacred site protection.

Through these organizations, Valdemar has helped countless students find internships, start advocacy groups, and prepare for careers in community organizing and local and state government. Congratulations, Mary!



Fall Music Concert Delights Campus & Community Audiences



On November 9, concertgoers convened on campus for the Fall Music Concert, which featured students and staff playing a variety of classical pieces under the direction of instructor Maggie Worsley.

Attendees enjoyed the performance of several classical pieces on woodwinds and brass instruments with one of the biggest groups of performers seen in recent years. The SBVC Concert Band was just brought into existence in 2016 through the efforts of SBVC's music department, with support from the SBVC Foundation and its donors. Congratulations, SBVC!

Student Spotlight: Raymond Allison



Not so long ago, San Bernardino resident Raymond Allison, 52, was shunned by his community due to his criminal record. Donning long hair and a beard that passed his chest, he became addicted to multiple drugs and resorted to living on the streets of San Bernardino.

These days, however, Raymond Allison occasionally hobnobs with top dignitaries in his community. "I spent my life in prison, I didn't know how to deal with a lot of stuff. Today I sit for lunch with mayors, the dean of the school district, the president of Valley College. I'm comfortable in that environment," he said.

It wasn't so much that he was raised in a particularly bad way, but he ended up there. Growing up in upscale Orange County "with a bunch of trust fund babies" as he calls them, didn't give him much advantage when he veered in the opposite direction of his peers. Crime and drugs came early on.

Arrested for his first felony at age 11, he spent nearly two decades in the criminal justice system. "I was destined to spend the rest of my life in prison and I was okay with it," he said.

This was until five years ago when, suddenly, there was an opening. Raymond was offered visitation rights to his toddler son, whom he had not been previously allowed to see. It took him three years, but he cleaned up his act and finally won his son back. "Little Earl is why I do what I do. All those people that say you can't get clean for someone else, they're crazy," he said. "This little guy is my hero."

He's also stepped up his obligations, now working 32 hours a week while carrying a full course load. He interns at Salvation Army in drug counseling and has sole custody of his six-year-old.

As a student ambassador for San Bernardino Community College District, which includes Crafton Hills and San Bernardino Valley College, he regularly shares his own transformational experience as he goes out to recruit others to tap the kinds of services that helped him turn his life around.

He attributes much of his personal and professional growth to his probation officer, to San Bernardino Valley College, and three CalWORKs caseworkers in the office above the SBVC Bookstore. They were all instrumental in guiding Raymond back to the real world.

"I've had a lot of help along the way," he said. "They were like angels, and I was not the easiest person. They got me a job in work study, which wasn't easy. Nobody they sent me to would hire me because they all thought I would steal their tools," he said. "CalWORKs found a spot for me looking the way I looked."

Granted, his appearance has changed quite a bit over the years. Today, he dresses for success and often hears comments that he should have a before and after marketing campaign with pictures as proof.

"I had hair halfway down my back, it was wild like a caveman. I don't look like I used to. Today, I wear a tie and I have short hair," he laughs. Raymond is a proud member of drug court, and by next May, he will receive his certified drug and alcohol counselor certification. In working public outreach with the San Bernardino Community College District, he said the experience has opened many new possibilities.

Solid employment options lie ahead. He has been offered a position at a county department as a parent advocate for people going through the types of struggles that he has overcome. He also has a potential counseling job, and yet another opportunity to join up as a professional outreach expert for college recruiting.

SBVC Launches Emergency Response Training for Managers



Throughout the fall semester, SBVC managers have devoted a significant portion of their monthly meetings to a series of emergency response trainings to ensure preparedness for a variety of unexpected emergency situations. Led by Vice President Scott Stark, these trainings covered emergency communications protocols, use of emergency stations around campus, and evacuation procedures for different types of emergencies on campus.

SBVC Holds Inaugural John Trudell Poetry Festival

On November 16, San Bernardino Valley College hosted its inaugural John Trudell Poetry Festival, honoring the Native American author, poet, actor, musician, political activist and SBVC alumnus John Trudell.

After leaving the Navy in 1967, Trudell studied radio and broadcasting at SBVC and used the skills he learned to launch a radio station, becoming the spokesperson for the United Indians of All Tribes' occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1969. He then went on to establish himself as a nationally-renowned writer, actor and musician.

The poetry festival at SBVC drew community members as well as student, faculty and staff poets for the first-ever celebration of John Trudell's artistic legacy.



SBVC's Annual Día de Los Muertos Celebration Brings Community to Campus

A flurry of traditional dances, music and art--as well as a mini car show--marked the jubilant celebration of Día de Los Muertos on campus on November 1.

Known by the community for its dazzling student-made altars and unique dances performed by local folk ensembles, the event has been growing steadily over the years, becoming a well-known fall tradition on campus.

Congratulations, SBVC!

Upcoming Events



Detail from the ceiling of the SBVC Auditorium

December 14
Psychiatric Technology Graduation
6:00pm / Auditorium

December 14
Police Academy Graduation
7:00pm / Abundant Living Family Church
10900 Civic Center Drive, Fontana, CA

January 12
Spring 2018 Opening Day
8:00am / Auditorium

January 16
Spring Classes Begin