



# President's Board Report

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

| April 2018



## Civil Rights Icon Dolores Huerta Speaks to Hundreds at SBVC



On March 7, 2018, San Bernardino Valley College hosted labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta in an event titled *Si Se Puede: A Dialogue with Dolores Huerta*. This free event that was open to the public drew hundreds of campus and community members to the SBVC Auditorium to hear her speak about issues regarding politics, education, immigration, and women's rights.

Huerta was introduced to the eager crowd by John Longville, member of the SBCCD Board of Trustees. He said he first met Dolores Huerta more than 49 years ago, where they became good friends in subsequent decades. "There is no one alive whom I admire more," he said. Huerta, born in 1930, is a California labor and civil rights activist who co-founded the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) labor union along with fellow activist César E. Chávez in 1962.

Greeted by cheers and applause, Huerta proceeded to discuss issues that she endured in the past, as well as issues we as a society are facing today. She walked the audience through the history of civil rights in our country, and highlighted the contributions of people of color, the importance of activism, and the reasons people should fight for social justice. She urged those in attendance to elect progressive candidates who represent their values, familiarize themselves with their district officials, and to vote on both minor and critical issues. Most importantly, Huerta emphasized that whatever your social justice fight, you must remain optimistic.

The riled up crowd joined her in a concluding "Si Se Puede" chant, the rallying cry she helped originate during the UFW movement in 1972. Following her hour-long lecture, event attendees were able to speak and pose with the icon in a meet-and-greet session. Perris resident Bianca Lopez was thrilled to have her hero autograph her book "Rad American Women from A-Z," which featured the influential labor activist.

The day's events concluded with a screening of the documentary "Dolores". The film, detailing the life and achievements of Huerta, was specially screened by KVCR in the campus's Library Viewing Room. Bruce Baron, San Bernardino Community College District chancellor, called the day celebrating Huerta a "historic moment" for the college and for the district.

# SBVC Hosts Black Excellence Education Summit



On February 23, hundreds of local high school students were invited to San Bernardino Valley College for the Black Excellence Education Summit. The event served as an introduction to the college lifestyle, and presented the numerous special programs and resources SBVC has to offer.

Nearly 400 students from 10 local high schools were guided into the SBVC Auditorium, where campus faculty and community officials welcomed them with upbeat music and a line of high-fives. Several guest speakers, including SBCCD Chancellor Bruce Baron and SBVC Career Counselor Keynasia Buffong, addressed the crowd of eager students by stressing the importance of higher education and excellence in the African American community. President Diana Z. Rodriguez was then presented a certificate of recognition from Assembly member Eloise Gomez Reyes.

Following a guided tour of the campus, the students participated in several workshops and seminars that introduced them to the resources, programs, and career opportunities offered on campus. Panels of campus and community members familiarized the attendees about concurrent college enrollment while still in high school, as well as transfer pathways available while studying at SBVC. They were informed about campus workforce development options, and the employment opportunities within these programs.

The summit also addressed one of the biggest factors for students considering college: the ability to afford higher education. Students were steered through the financial aid process and how to apply for various scholarships. The goal of these workshops was to answer any questions regarding the college process and illustrate the financial opportunities when transitioning from high school to college.

Among the summit attendees were Mayor of Rialto Deborah Robertson, SBUSD Police Chief Joseph Paulino, and SBUSD Superintendent Deel Marsden. Several members of the SBCCD Board of Trustees and the San Bernardino City Council also joined the day's festivities to inspire the group of future college students. San Bernardino, Pacific, Cajon, San Geronio, Arroyo, Sierra, Rialto, Eisenhower, Milor, and Indiana Spring High Schools were represented in the exciting event.



## SBVC Staff Member Awarded by California State Assembly

Mary Valdemar, member of the SBVC library and learning support services team, was honored with the #Fab47 award by Assemblymember Eloise Reyes. This honor goes to nominated individuals, businesses, and community organizations that are making a difference.

"I'm not sure who nominated me, but it's my guess that it's based on my work with youth here in the IE and on equity and diversity issues here at San Bernardino Valley College," she said. "In both these areas, I have been a voice for change and innovation as we push to ensure that the community is not left behind, especially our young people who deserve an education, safe community, healthy environment, equitable justice, and to be empowered to heal and love themselves."

Valdemar is involved in several groups, and is a mentor to students through the SBVC chapter of MEChA 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, she has helped numerous students with internships and advocacy work, and she credits many of her former professors and current co-workers for getting her to where she is today.

Read the rest of this article at [www.valleycollege.edu/news](http://www.valleycollege.edu/news)



## SBVC Foundation Continues to Support Students through Scholarships and Program Funding

The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation has grown to \$4 million in assets, and has awarded over \$200,000 in scholarships this academic year. A nonprofit organization, the SBVC Foundation has raised funds since 1973 to support student scholarships and educational programs at SBVC.

“Our whole purpose is philanthropy and to get people to financially support the college so that we can do more,” said Lois Carson, Chair of the Board Development Committee. “If the physical education department or the music department needs equipment, the foundation can help in that regard so that students are exposed to all that we can possibly provide for them.”

The foundation also received a \$300,000 donation from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, which has been used to support the school’s Valley-Bound Commitment (VBC). The VBC Recognition of Excellence Luncheon took place in February to welcome new students to the program, which is designed to remove economic barriers for local low-income high school graduates by covering enrollment fees and textbooks for the first year of attendance. The donation will go far toward helping low-income students with tuition and resources if they are dealing with a financial crisis. Read the rest of this article at [www.valleycollege.edu/news](http://www.valleycollege.edu/news)

## Diana Z. Rodriguez Named 2018 ‘Woman of the Year’ by California’s 47th Assembly District

Diana Z. Rodriguez, President of San Bernardino Valley College, was named 2018 Woman of the Year by California’s 47th Assembly District today at a special ceremony in the State Capitol. She was presented with the award by Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes, who is herself an SBVC alumna. “Diana is a perfect example of a champion for the Inland Empire,” said Reyes in an announcement on her Facebook page.

The 2018 Woman of the Year Award, which recognizes women in the 47th Assembly District for accomplishments in their respective fields and for their dedication to improving the lives of others, received fifty-two nominations from throughout the community. Nominees came from a variety of different backgrounds, ranging from educators and community advocates to county employees, students, business owners and heads of local nonprofits.

The award is one of several recognitions Rodriguez has received in less than two years since becoming the first Latina president of San Bernardino Valley College. In 2017, she received the Legacy of Service Award from the Librería Del Pueblo, a local community services agency. Read the rest of this article at [www.valleycollege.edu/news](http://www.valleycollege.edu/news)



# Local Elementary School Enjoys Black History Month Offerings at SBVC



San Bernardino Valley College came alive with flips and fast tumbles of the Zuzu African Acrobats, offering an exciting off-campus getaway for 253 first through sixth graders of Urbita Elementary School. Students flocked to discover Kenyan culture, and learn more of higher education in the process.

Urbita Sixth grade teacher Jennifer Guerrero, said the field trip was a big hit with her students, who were eager to see the acrobats. They were also in awe of the campus architecture. She said the exposure to college life at such a young age strikes up meaningful conversations about their options for the future.

"They made many connections to classroom content, as we're currently studying other cultures in our class. My students were recently exposed to Chinese acrobats in their studies and were able to compare and contrast visual and performing arts across the nations as a result of their participation in the field trip," she said.

The performance was part of numerous Black History Month events presented by the SBVC Arts, Lectures & Diversity Committee in conjunction with the Black Faculty, Staff & Administrator's Association on campus. The series of events commemorating African American achievements aimed to entertain, educate, and inspire members of our campus and community.

Sarah B. McCain, principal at Urbita Elementary School, said their partnership with SBVC has helped bring the experience home for the students. "We have been able to extend student learning beyond the boundaries of our classroom walls. It has been an enriching experience and has allowed us to promote an attainable goal of attending and succeeding in college," she said.

## SBVC Pitcher Throws Historic No-Hitter

SBVC sophomore Andrew Aguilera threw a historic no-hitter while pitching against the San Diego City College Knights on March 7. This was the first documented no hitter for SBVC since 1935, and the first ever against a collegiate opponent. The left-handed pitcher from Aquinas struck out five Knights and only allowed three base-runners during the game. He faced a total of 29 batters, which is two over the minimum. The Wolverines won the game 14-0, and went on to complete a series sweep over the Knights the following week.

Congratulations, Wolverines!



## Upcoming Events

**April 18**

**Wolverine Showcase**

Free / 11:00am / Greek Theater

**April 20**

**Planetarium Show**

*The Hubble Space Telescope*

\$3 / 6:30pm / Planetarium

**April 24**

**FoodIE Fest 2018**

Free / 3:00pm / Auditorium

