



# President's Board of Trustees Report

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community | August 2018

## Three Wolverines Named in Regional '30 Under 30' Award

The 47th State Assembly District announced its award recipients for the Annual '30 Under 30' Award Ceremony & Art Showcase this summer, which recognizes the accomplishments of young adults 30 or younger who live or work in the assembly district. Over 80 nominations were received and three Wolverines were selected as part of the final 30 awardees.



**Autumn Blackburn** (left) was born and raised in San Bernardino. She was elected as the 2017-18 San Bernardino Valley College Student Trustee and helped to co-found Student Jibe with a group of friends on campus. Student Jibe is a student-led effort to help formerly-incarcerated individuals navigate the college system, get help with FAFSA, and connecting them with other resources already available in San Bernardino. Autumn volunteers at the House of Hope IE and continues to be a big advocate for women's rights through Planned Parenthood.

**Anthony Victoria** started his career as a community watchdog right here at SBVC, helping shine a spotlight on Inland Empire policymakers and government agencies and their policy positions on immigration, homelessness, job creation and public safety. He is a former reporter for the Inland Empire Community News and newly-appointed Director of Communications at the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAIEJ).

**Juan Villa** is a lifelong resident of San Bernardino who is currently attending SBVC in pursuit of an AA-T in Political Science. Because of his political interests, he is a California Democratic Delegate for the 47th Assembly District. In his free time, he serves as the president of La Plaza/Ramona Neighborhood Association and youth leader for the Youth In Action ministry of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

## Campus CTE Programs Acquire State-of-the-Art Technologies

Over \$1.2 million in new funding from the Strong Workforce Program has helped SBVC programs continue to excel by purchasing new equipment and hiring additional instructors. These Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at SBVC are now able to work with the most technologically advanced equipment and provide students the highest quality, hands-on training. The funding has been used to expand equipment in several CTE programs, including a 3D printer for its graphic design department and a 2017 Ford Focus hybrid electric car for automotive classes. The nursing program also benefitted from newly-acquired equipment typically found in hospital settings. One piece of equipment, called a Pyxis, is an automated system that will help nurses distribute medication accurately and efficiently. Mechanical mannequins were also purchased to provide students with a realistic way to diagnose symptoms of common illnesses in a supervised environment. Additionally, the funding has been used to onboard experienced instructors for faculty positions. Culinary Arts has welcomed Chef Danny Babin, baking expert Sohrab Zardkahi, and laboratory technicians Christine Camarena and Andres Dominguez to their department. The new faculty members will be able to train students in a kitchen environment that matches the state-of-the-art standard of the current hospitality industry. This has been made possible with the Strong Workforce Program purchase of a new industrial Rational brand oven that can proof, bake, roast, and hold large amounts of food for the culinary program's student projects. The Strong Workforce Program helps to strengthen CTE programs through regional collaboration and by preparing more students for high-demand, high-wage jobs. Through equipment upgrades and the hiring of expert instructors, SBVC will continue to provide state-of-the-art equipment and technology to better prepare students for their technical careers.



# 'Amazing Counselors' Help Student Overcome Adversity

San Bernardino Valley College student **Devonte Kilgore** admits he had doubts along the way about what it takes to get through college, but one thing he didn't want to be was another statistic — unless he was actually studying statistics. If not for Guardian Scholars Foster Youth Services and several dedicated counselors who guided him through the process, he doesn't think he would have made it this far. "When I came to college, I gained an insight into life, and started to do better," he said.

Kilgore's counselors made sure he had his textbooks, financing, and all of the support services he needed to succeed. One of his professors, Craig Luke, had a special impact in reassuring him that college is the right place for him, and that his presence on campus alone was an indicator of success. The message to keep mentally tough and push ahead kept Kilgore looking to all the good things in life he has in store for him after graduation. "[Dr. Luke] said people don't think you're supposed to make it. You're supposed to be the 50 percent that drops out of college. Don't allow that to mess up your mind. There are people out there looking for people like you to fail." Through the Guardian Scholars Program for foster youth, he accessed many forms of student assistance, including on and off campus resources to help meet his educational goals. At SBVC, foster youth students receive priority registration, financial aid, textbooks, supplies, housing resources, and field trips. Both current and former foster youth from 17 through 24 years old are welcome to apply for services leading to post-secondary education, a certificate, or transfer program. "Without it, I don't think any of the foster youth would have made it through college," said Kilgore, whose major is sociology with a minor in criminal justice. Kilgore, who graduated from South High School in Bakersfield reflects on what it was like bouncing through several states and foster homes from a young age. Coming from an abusive household, Kilgore and his nine siblings were split up when he was just six years old. One of the hardest parts was the forced separation this created between Kilgore and his identical twin brother, Devon. By age 17, Kilgore was placed into a stable family in Rancho Cucamonga, and—three years ago—enrolled at Valley College. According to Kilgore, his academic experience has greatly changed his perspective about the possibilities in his future. Like a few of his siblings, he is leaning towards a career in law enforcement. Today, he also works as an after-school teacher, where he tries to reach young students not only on an academic level, but to give back the kind of advice and hope through academic tutoring that first helped move him toward higher education. Lately, he has bonded with another like-minded student that confided in him about how bad it feels to be a foster child, and to be looked at and sometimes treated as a social outcast. The ability to give direction to kids that are also dealing with the same emotions and confusion that he remembers in his own life has been an important part of Kilgore's personal growth. "Life throws curve balls," he said. "I told him that I'm a foster youth, it's not bad. I told him that he's not the only foster child. That opened his eyes, but I was that kid." For the students he works with, and all those that come his way, he wants to pass on the kind of advice that has motivated him to try harder. He credits SBVC counselors for having been his best support system. "Words can't describe it. Without them, I honestly don't think I would have made it this far in college. Their impact is tremendous, not just for me, but also for other foster youth."



## SBVC Art Department Featured in 'California Educator' Magazine

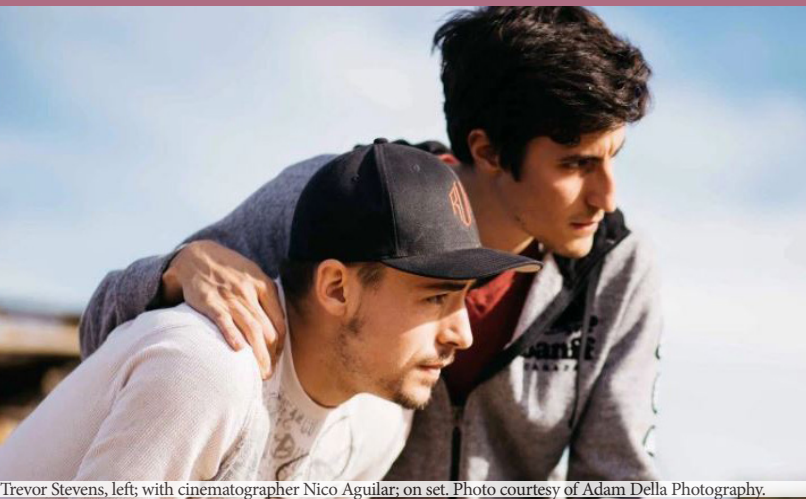


The Inland Empire Museum of Art (IEMA) exhibit that recently held a showing at San Bernardino Valley College was featured in the latest issue of California Educator Magazine. "I was frankly surprised at the depth and breadth of the IEMA collection. The quality of art in the display was a revelation to me and, I'm sure, to the hundreds of students and community members who came to view the work," SBCCD Chancellor Bruce Baron said in the publication. The IEMA exhibit *Faces: Portraits from the Collection* featured Art Department Chair Mandi Batalo and Ceramics Adjunct Professor Gina Lawson-Egana from SBVC, who were two of only 43 artists featured in the IEMA exhibit. Congratulations!

# Short Film by SBVC Alumnus Wins at National Film Festival

San Bernardino Valley College alumnus Trevor Stevens was honored with two impressive awards at the 2018 Slamdance Film Festival. His first feature film, "Rock Steady Row," won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Narrative Feature, as well as the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature. Slamdance is a festival of independent filmmakers that takes place each year in Park City, Utah, at the same time as the Sundance Film Festival. Born and raised in Redlands, Stevens attended San Bernardino Valley College before transferring to Chapman University. There, he joined the crews for several films, including "Glazed and Confused," which garnered his first festival success at the Palm Springs International Shortfest, part of the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

"The short film got me in the room with executives and producers as well as representation to push forward towards the bigger goal of making my first feature film, which was 'Rock Steady Row,'" Stevens said to the Press Enterprise. With "Rock Steady Row," he intended to bring a whole different look and genre to university life, focusing in on an incoming freshman who gets his bike stolen on day one and comes face to face with its two warring fraternities. "Ultimately, we wanted to bring a metaphorical view to issues on a college campus, and have some fun while doing it," he said.



Trevor Stevens, left, with cinematographer Nico Aguilar, on set. Photo courtesy of Adam Della Photography.

After its success at Slamdance, the film will play at festivals in Chicago, Chattanooga, Brazil, Spain and elsewhere before Stevens and his team sees distribution. Stevens said his proudest achievements have not been accomplished by himself alone. "I'm very lucky to have worked with such amazing people, both cast and crew, who have made the impossible possible," he said. "For me, directing means igniting the fire inside each of these individuals and ensuring that everyone is working towards the same vision." Now a North Hollywood resident, Stevens stresses that he is never far from his hometown of Redlands. "I'm very humbled and appreciative to my hometown and for all the good people who have offered their resources and time to help me from project to project," he said. "I wouldn't be where I'm at now without the amazing support of my family, friends, mentors and community, that's the truth."



## SBVC Student Crowned Queen of Fontana

SBVC student Bryzeyda Santibanez was crowned 'Miss Fontana' in June at the Fontana High School Auditorium. Before the pageant, contestants participated in a variety of character-building functions, gaining valuable tips on how to accomplish important job-related tasks such as writing resumes and speaking during interviews. Events before the big day also included dance rehearsals, business mixers, and a photoshoot day. Santibanez was selected as the city's queen on June 9 at the annual Miss Fontana Scholarship Pageant. Congratulations!

## Applied Tech Encourages Students to Pursue Careers in the Sciences

The Applied Technology Division of SBVC hosted a seminar for Middle College High School students to encourage careers in technology and science. The "Cultivating Diversity in a 2+2+2 Collaboration" Symposium featured Dr. Milt McGiffen, CE Vegetable Crops Specialist and Plant Physiologist, along with graduate students Sam Patton and Asma Ayyad from the University of California, Riverside. The trio presented three symposium topics, including "Biochar Improves Root Growth", "Water Chemistry Research at UCR" and "Nitrogen Cycling in High Temperature Agriculture Systems." Students in attendance had the opportunity to interact with the presenters and learn directly about careers within the sciences.



# Two Wolverines Named 'Athletes of the Year'



The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation honored a pair of athletes with the William Harrison Jr. Memorial Award, presented to the male and female athletes of the year, at an awards ceremony last month. Men's distance runner **Carlos De la Torre** and women's soccer player **Jordan Steele** were selected for the honor from a pool of nominations submitted by the SBVC coaching staff.

Steele, a sophomore who is graduating this summer, will be transferring in the fall with a full scholarship to Louisiana State University-Alexandria, where she will continue her career. The graduate of Tahquitz High School was a two-year captain for the Wolverines - leading the team to conference championships both seasons - and was selected to the All-Pacific Coast Athletic Conference team both seasons. She earned the PCAC Player of the Year award following the 2017 season, and was selected for the California Community College Soccer Coaches Association Sophomore Showcase. She was a two-year All-State and All-Region selection as well.

De la Torre just completed his freshman year at SBVC. A Jurupa Valley Patriot High School graduate, de la Torre had a stellar first season with the Wolverines. In cross country, he won the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference championship, setting a course record at Gaujome Park in Oceanside, finishing the course in 20 minutes, 31 seconds. His victory helped propel the Wolverines to their 22nd straight conference championship. He finished fifth at the Southern California championships and eighth at the State championships, earning All-American designation. In track, he was the PCAC champion in the 800 and 1500 meters, and finished sixth in the state at 5,000 meters, earning second team All-American designation.

The William Harrison Jr. Memorial Award is a scholarship given annually to one male and one female athlete from SBVC. Harrison graduated from SBVC in 1935 and owned Harrison Sporting Goods, providing several gifts of service to the school. In 1947, he annually awarded a Harrison Sporting Goods Trophy to the school's athlete of the year.



## Upcoming Events



**August 2**  
**Psych Tech Graduation**  
6:00pm / Auditorium

**August 8**  
**New Student Welcome Day**  
8:00am / SBVC Campus

**August 9**  
**Flex Day**

**August 13**  
**Semester Begins**