



President's Board of Trustees Report

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community | February 2019

SBVC Computer Science Receives 'Top 50' National Ranking

Students seeking careers in computer technical professions can sharpen their industry skills at San Bernardino Valley College, which recently ranked in the top 50 for offering affordable quality education for one of best online software engineering programs in the nation. In its selection, AffordableCollegesOnline.org considered data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the availability of career and academic counseling, and student access and awards to direct financial aid. "284,000 California students earning graduate and undergraduate degrees are taking at least one online course," said Dan Schuessler, CEO and Founder of AffordableCollegesOnline.org. "The institutions featured on our ranking acknowledge the importance of online learning and are making higher education accessible to a broader group of students." Dr. Stephanie Lewis, Dean of Mathematics, Business & Computer Technology at SBVC, said in one form or the other, information technology has taken off in nearly every sector of society. "It's everywhere," she said. "Having the information, having the data and being able to acquire it, data mining is huge in this environment." Congratulations, SBVC!



SBVC to Receive \$200,000 Volvo Grant

As a partner in the Volvo LIGHTS (Low Impact Green Heavy Transport Solutions) project, the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation will receive a \$200,000 grant for SBVC's diesel and automotive departments. The Volvo LIGHTS project will transform freight operations at the facilities of two of the United States' top trucking fleets. As part of the project, California's South Coast Air Quality Management District will deploy 23 electric battery trucks and 23 zero-emission forklifts, with the trucks shuttling freight between the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and warehouses in Southern California. "The LIGHTS project is a truly unique opportunity to showcase a holistic approach to electrification of the freight transport industry as we handle ongoing challenges including electricity generation and battery optimization," said Peter Voorhoeve, president of Volvo Trucks North America. "In addition to introducing the VNR Electric, through LIGHTS we will bring a complete sustainable freight solution with end-to-end electrification coordination with our many partners." SBVC will use its grant money to design technician training programs specific to heavy-duty electric truck maintenance.



The Washington Post Recognizes SBVC for Hispanic Enrollment

In a recent article from *The Washington Post*, Hispanic-serving institutions nationwide were recognized for serving Hispanic undergraduate students. San Bernardino Valley College was specifically identified as an inspiring example for campuses to funnel K-12 Hispanic students through the university system. Antonio Flores, president and chief executive of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, said in the article that regional colleges are responding to the surge of Hispanic students in elementary and secondary schools. Some universities, he said, have become particularly skilled at partnerships with K-12 school systems and community colleges. He cited California State University at San Bernardino, which works closely with San Bernardino Valley College. At both schools, the Hispanic share of students exceeds 60 percent, and the teamwork, Flores said, "has paid off, big time." SBVC is considered an HSI, or Hispanic-serving institution, where at least a quarter of undergraduate students are Hispanic. There were 229 HSIs in 2000, according to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. By fall 2016, the total had more than doubled, to 492. It is projected to grow further. Congratulations, SBVC!



Six Wolverines Awarded at SBVC's 15th Annual Speech Tournament



Striving to hone their public speaking skills in front of a new audience, SBVC students participated in the 15th annual Fall Speech Tournament, held in front of the SBVC Library. Sponsored by the SBVC Communication Studies Department, this tournament-style forum allows participants to present informative speeches in front of an audience and subsequently receive feedback from judges and spectators. This year, 25 students competed, and six participants were given special awards as the top speakers. **Josue Ramirez Mercado** took home the first place trophy, followed by **Patricia Milosevich** and **PJ Rubio** in second and third place, respectively. Minh Hoang, Kierra Anderson, and David Ramos were finalists. Event organizers would like to give a special thank you to the judges, Diane Alblinger, Ariana Cano, Jay Danley, Suzie Mattson, and Dr. Kay Weiss.

Premier Diesel Equipment and Guidance at SBVC Entices Distant High Schools

When diesel and auto shop students take on the highly anticipated SkillsUSA Championship competition every year, they are tasked with performing on the spot, demonstrating their knowledge of valve and brake adjustments, or showing off their skill at building engines. To better prepare themselves for such tasks, high school students throughout Southern California have been seeking more training with premium equipment and resources, and any have found it at San Bernardino Valley College. Diesel faculty chair Berchman Melancon said SBVC is the only local college with all tools required to help students prepare for the big competition. His department readily embraces high school programs eager to expose their students to a professional, hands-on experience. Most recently, Van Nuys High School bussed 20 students all the way to SBVC to prepare for their upcoming SkillsUSA State competition. Having made it all the way to nationals in New York in the competition two years prior, the high school was seeking guidance from SBVC to reach their goals once again. Melancon noted that the students traveling from Van Nuys passed four other college diesel programs on their way, but chose to go the distance to utilize the resources at SBVC. While visiting, the students were exposed to the one of the best training facilities in the Inland Empire, working side-by-side with college students on electrical diagnostics, meters, testers, and scan tools. Over the years, sizable donations have helped take the Diesel program at SBVC to new levels, where cutting edge tools mark the prestige of the department. In the past two years, the department has received \$200,000 in donated tech equipment, as well as the recent \$90,000 donation of a diesel freightliner. SBVC offers an associate degree or certificate in Heavy/Medium Duty Diesel Truck Technology. It also recently started instruction with clean vehicles, including electric trucks, as well as hands-on training with a CNG 2012 Cascadia Luxury Truck, donated by Velocity Vehicle Group. Congratulations, SBVC!



9-Foot 'Shout Your Dreams' Megaphone Unveiled

The SBVC Welding Department recently unveiled a 9-foot megaphone sculpture to represent the college's theme for 2017-18, "Shout Your Dreams." This art project was created by a group of welding students, led by instructors Joshua Milligan and Bryce Cacho, for the WeldItForward student competition. In 2018, the department submitted an essay detailing their department's efforts to promote this in-demand career, and as a result, seeing an increase in female students entering the program. Out of hundreds of submissions from colleges nationwide, SBVC was chosen as one of the six finalists. The program received \$6,000 worth of equipment and supplies that was to be used to build the project they would submit for the final phase of the competition. A team of 5 students was determined, which included Dulce Benavides, Alex Diaz, Jasmin Hernandez, Edgar Ramirez, and Mynor Pablo. This team chose to create a fabricated metal megaphone to represent the campus's goal of encouraging students to shout, build, and implement their dreams. As a result, SBVC had the highest-placing team from California. To commemorate their success and encourage students to literally shout their dreams, the team established a permanent place for the megaphone on the campus lawn for all students, staff and visitors to enjoy. It was unveiled on Opening Day, following keynote presentations from SBVC's executive team encouraging campus staff and faculty to help students build their dreams at SBVC.



President Diana Z. Rodriguez Endorses Countywide Partnership

San Bernardino County's Board of Supervisors has endorsed an ambitious plan to connect students with employers in collaboration with school districts, community colleges and universities. During a recent meeting, the board endorsed the Vision2Succeed program that will do just that. In a statement, Chairman Robert Lovingood said the county board supports Vision2Succeed because "a skilled workforce encourages a vibrant economy." San Bernardino Valley College currently has a program underway for students from Cajon High School who are interested in entering the medical field. The 14 students intern at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, while also earning college credits from SBVC. President Diana Z. Rodriguez spoke to the board regarding her excitement for the opportunities Vision2Succeed will provide for the district's students. "We're proud to call the county a key partner in building a stronger local workforce with initiatives such as GenerationGo!, which puts high school students on the path to success with internships and tools to succeed in the workplace," she said.



SBVC Alumnus Awarded at Scholarship Gala in Nation's Capital



Angelo Hopson, a transfer student from San Bernardino Valley College and Umoja-Tumaini alumnus, was honored at the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Gala in Washington, D.C. Hopson received an all-expenses-paid trip to attend the event, which recognizes individuals who have a positive impact on his or her industry, as well as belief in the power of education to impact the lives of students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). He is currently a junior at Clark-Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, and is the recipient of many scholarships that he applied for based on the additional financial assistance that he received through guidance from counselors Kathy Kafela and Daniele Smith at SBVC. As a result, Hopson was awarded numerous scholarships during his first semester at Clark-Atlanta University, including:

- Clark-Atlanta University Transfer Student Scholarship: A \$5,000 scholarship for incoming transfer students.
 - Thurgood Marshall Scholarship: A \$30,000 scholarship (\$20,000 in tuition assistance, a summer internship in Seattle with Boeing, and a \$10,000 signing bonus when he graduates from Clark-Atlanta and begins working for Boeing).
 - California Congressional Black Caucus Scholarship: A \$2,500 scholarship plus a laptop.
 - United Negro College Fund General Scholarship: A \$4,000 scholarship.
 - Panda Cares Scholarship: A \$2,500 scholarship.
- In total, Hopson has received \$44,000 in scholarships. Go, Angelo!

SBVC Valley 360 Resource Center Moves to Bigger Location on Campus

The Valley 360 Resource Center has expanded, and in its new, larger, location, can now help more students than ever. The center, which provides food and hygiene items for Wolverines, is now in the library by the rear exterior entrance, facing AutoZone. "The move was necessary because we needed a larger space so that we could hold more food items," administrative secretary Amanda Moody said. "We are also expanding the services the center offers to include a clothing closet, computers, and a commercial refrigerator." Having a food pantry on campus is "vital," Moody said. "Some students are in need and we as campus staff need to try and help as much as possible." A luncheon was held to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the center's opening in November. Approximately 120 students attended, with each receiving a tote bag, water tumbler, and reusable utensils.





Student Recruited by Chicago State after 1 Year at SBVC

Noah Bigirumwami always believed that he belonged in Division 1 basketball, and SBVC has helped him find the path to his dream. However, it didn't start off too easily. While attending high school at Village Christian Academy in Sun Valley, California, Bigirumwami was part of the CIF-Southern Section Division 1 AA Championship team in his senior year. Yet, upon graduation, he lacked any collegiate basketball offers. Bigirumwami decided to train with professional basketball player Taylor Statham, and also opted to take a prep year at Mount Zion Christian Academy in Durham, North Carolina in order to attract some attention. His decision paid off as he was offered a partial scholarship from Vanguard University. However, after a year of playing, he felt unsatisfied with the playing opportunities with which he was presented. After much deliberation, Bigirumwami opted to instead enroll at SBVC on a full-ride scholarship to better develop his game on a community college level. Under the guidance of head coach Quincy Brewer, he flourished as the team's 6'9" center. "I developed a lot of toughness thanks to coach Brewer," Bigirumwami said to *The Signal*. "He and his coaching staff always pushed me and believed in me, helping me with my confidence and things like that. It was really a big jump from Vanguard to SBVC, but every day they would push me to my limit and I got a lot of out of it." His strong development attracted Division 1 attention, where after a year at SBVC, Bigirumwami transferred to Chicago State University. Congratulations, Noah!

SBVC Welcomes New Vice President of Instruction

In January, SBVC welcomed its new, permanent Vice President of Instruction, Dina Humble. Dina began her career as a faculty member in the Riverside Community College District and served in that district for thirteen years. At Riverside City College and Norco College, she was an Associate Professor in the discipline of music. As Dean of Social Sciences and Arts at Long Beach City College, she led the departments of Social Sciences, History and Political Science, Business Administration and Economics, Performing Arts and Visual and Media Arts. She also served on the district negotiation team for the faculty contract for three years. Her most recent position was as the Dean of Academic Affairs at Anoka Technical College in Minnesota, where she oversaw all instructional programs at the college. Dina brings over eighteen years of experience as a faculty member and academic administrator to SBVC, as well as a passion for student success and the community college mission of access, success, and inclusion. "I am thrilled and honored to be joining the team at Valley College as the Vice President of Instruction," Dina said. "During my most recent visits to campus, it was evident that all campus stakeholders value instruction and support that enable students to achieve their educational goals. From the beautiful campus grounds to the halls of the buildings, SBVC provides a warm and welcoming place for all students. I look forward to meeting every single person I can in order to listen and determine how I can help to support the needs of the college community."



Upcoming Events



February 22
Black Excellence Educational Summit
8:00am / Auditorium

February 27
Guest Speaker Dr. Mualana Karenga
6:00pm / Auditorium

March 1
7th Annual "Inspire Success" Brunch
9:00am / B-100

March 7
Police Academy Class 213 Graduation
6:30pm / Abundant Living Family Church