



President's Board of Trustees Report

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

Valley-Bound Commitment Scales Up to "Free College Promise"



The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation hosted its annual Valley-Bound Recognition of Excellence Luncheon to celebrate the continued success of SBVC's Valley-Bound Commitment (VBC) Program and the generous support of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. SBVC President Diana Z. Rodriguez announced the scaling up of VBC to the Free College Promise, which will provide incoming students with 100% free education over two years. Rodriguez said, "If you had not been this successful, we would not be able to do this for students in the future, and I hope you are as proud as I am of the legacy that you have built here at the campus." Board member of the SBVC Foundation,

Rich Beemer, also introduced and welcomed Nick Nazarian, the Interim Director of Development and Community Relations, to the podium. Nazarian thanked everyone for their support and commitment to the Foundation. Now in its 11th year, VBC is designed to remove economic barriers for low income students and to create an environment that fosters student success.

SBVC Highlights Impact of Open Educational Resources in Summit

SBVC recently hosted an Open Educational Resources (OER) Summit, which included a panel of students discussing the free resources available to students. The panel spoke about the impact traditional textbook costs had on them, and how OER helped them to reach their educational goals. "A lot of times I was really struggling to put gas in my tank and feed myself," said one of the panelists. "When I was able to have the zero cost textbooks, it was really helpful." OER, or "open educational resources," are any types of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt, and re-share them. In 2016, SBVC faculty and students voted to support faculty use of high-quality open educational resources to reduce the costs of textbooks and supplies for students. Another panelist described coming to college with little support and guidance, paying hundreds of dollars for textbooks and supplies, which his family had to take out a loan to purchase. His discovery of OER at SBVC brought great financial relief to his family. "The fact that I'm having such great success here at Valley is due to the fact that I reached out for those resources," he said. Congratulations, SBVC!



SBVC Student Accepted to Study in Japanese Sister City Program



Photo from the San Bernardino Sun

In 1959, San Bernardino and Tachikawa, Japan, became sister cities, and their friendship is still going strong. Every year since 1962, high school students from San Bernardino have flown to Tachikawa in June, staying for a month with host families. Upon their return in July, they are accompanied by their host brother or sister, and they spend the next month together in San Bernardino. Before they head to Tachikawa, San Bernardino students take a 10-week Japanese language course. This year, one of the four high school juniors chosen to participate is Michael Avila, a student at California Virtual Academy and San Bernardino Valley College. Avila is a National Honor Society student, as well as a youth board member of the Sister Cities International Southern California Board of Directors. He recently received a scholarship to attend the Youth Leadership Summit at the annual Sister Cities International Conference in Washington, D.C., and is excited to travel to Japan to learn about its culture. "This is an amazing growth experience, and I'm looking forward to spending time there with my family," he told the *San Bernardino Sun*.

Former SBVC Faculty Member Guest Stars on ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*



Lindsay Wagner is an Emmy award-winning film and television actress, author, and former SBVC faculty member. In her latest achievement, she recently earned a guest role as Alex Karev's mother on the hit medical show, *Grey's Anatomy*. Wagner has decades of experience, having won the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Dramatic Role in 1977 for her role as Jamie Sommers in the hit 1970s television show *The Bionic Woman*. In 2013, Wagner decided to pursue teaching, joining the Radio, Television, Video, and Film department faculty at SBVC and teaching courses in acting and directing. As an adjunct professor, she was a great addition to the SBVC campus due to her years of knowledge and experience. She is also an author, having co-written *Lindsay Wagner's New Beauty: The Acupressure Facelift*, along with her own vegetarian cookbook. More recently, Wagner starred in the 2018 Hallmark Christmas movie *Mingle All the Way* as Veronica Hoffman, and in a recent episode of Netflix's *Fuller House*. Coming soon, Wagner will appear as a voice actress in the new horror action video game *Death Stranding*, joining *The Walking Dead* actor Norman Reedus.

Campus Celebrates Legacy of César Chávez



In honor of civil rights icon and activist César Chávez, San Bernardino Valley College hosted its annual dinner celebrating his life and impact. On March 27th, SBVC's Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán, (M.E.Ch.A) club organized this event, filled with delicious food, folkloric dances and live musical performances to celebrate our country's Chicano culture. Chávez is highly regarded within the Chicano community, as his activism helped

improve working conditions for people of diverse ethnic backgrounds, especially in California. The celebration highlighted that Chávez's fight is still not over, and that the current generation must carry on the metaphorical baton of his hard work. Ed Gomez, a chicano history professor at SBVC, highlighted the importance of embracing Chicano culture and resisting acts of hate or intolerance. During his speech, Gomez said, "The struggles that César Chávez faced were very real; unfortunately, the struggles we face today are still very real." César Chávez has several historic ties to the SBVC campus. He co-founded what is now known as the United Farm Workers Union, along with Dolores Huerta, who visited SBVC in 2018. In 1968, the year of his 25-day hunger strike, Chávez visited the San Bernardino Valley College campus to meet with students and faculty.

Foundation Unveils New Set of Engraved Bricks



The SBVC Foundation recently unveiled the newest set of engraved bricks in the breezeway of the Kinesiology and Athletics Complex. In 2017, the SBVC Foundation first unveiled the engraved walkway project, featuring the names of over one hundred supporters of scholarships for SBVC students. Each brick is a donation by a campus or community member who has chosen to contribute directly to the success of SBVC students. President Diana Z. Rodriguez spoke to the dozens of attendees at the unveiling, saying, "As a lifetime educator and a lifetime learner, time and time again I have seen the impact that even a little financial support can make in the lives of our students and their families at Valley College." She discussed the poverty rates of the area and success statistics of under-resourced communities, emphasizing that the donors' support will "help these students rise up and beat the odds." SBVC Foundation President, Beverly Powell, further explained the purpose and mission of the Foundation in helping students achieve their educational and career goals through financial support. Following the speakers, a cloth was removed from the walkway to reveal the newest set of bricks for the campus to celebrate.

SBVC Hosts Annual International Film Festival



The 5th Annual International Film Festival was held on campus in April, with screenings of *Match Point*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *Rocío*, *The Beach*, and *Lost in Translation*. Hosted by SBVC Arts, Lectures & Diversity and the Library, the screenings included a free pizza dinner and discussions about the films. On April 24, documentarian Dario Guerrero attended the screening of his film *Rocío*, which tells the story of an undocumented mother of three who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Afterward, he spoke about the film and took questions from the audience. Previous international film festivals showed movies about immigrants in America. However, event organizers chose to show films featuring Americans in other countries to highlight the various experiences citizens go through in foreign countries.

SBVC Celebrates Women's History Month



San Bernardino Valley College held several events to mark Women's History Month in March. On March 7, SBVC alumna Dr. Yolanda Moses spoke on campus, sharing her experiences as president of the American Anthropological Association and professor of anthropology and associate vice chancellor of diversity, equity, and excellence at the University of California, Riverside. Moses also talked about her time at SBVC and the importance of encouraging women to pursue STEM careers. On March 20, students enjoyed a screening of the 2004 Golden Globe-winning film *Iron Jawed Angels*, a historical drama about the women's suffrage movement, focusing on leaders Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. The Veterans Resource Center also held its Women's Appreciation event on March 27, featuring games, music, refreshments, and giveaways. The event was open to everyone, and a way for students to discover the many resources the Veterans Resource Center has to offer.

Theatre Arts Department Receives Honors at Annual Kennedy Center Theatre Festival

The SBVC Theatre Arts Department was recently recognized in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Los Angeles. This year's festival was the fifth attended by SBVC. As in previous years, the festival presents a prompt and invites colleges to prepare a devised piece inspired by the prompt. The festival prompt was "Admittance without papers is forbidden," and Valley theatre students entered their performance, "The Journeys to Build a Home" into the festival. This first-ever devised piece entered by SBVC went on to win the Regional Devised Competition. In addition to this high honor, SBVC Theatre won a Tectonic Theatre Artist Residency Workshop. "Tectonic" is the theatre group world-renowned for their creation of "The Laramie Project." SBVC student Monica Hart, who has been a dedicated participant in recent years, said that this trip was "by far the most enlightening and rewarding experience." SBVC students also participated in the Irene Ryan Acting Auditions and the Stage Management presentations, where SBVC students had the opportunity to audition to be a part of various performances that were rehearsed and performed during the festival. Alejandro Sotelo and Pacifique Kabanda performed in "Voire Dire," which went on to win an award in the New Plays Competition. Monica Hart performed in a short play entitled "Value." The students also auditioned to be a part of the Music Theatre International Cabaret. In a first for SBVC, Mathew Braxton and Pacifique Kabanda were cast in the cabaret as dancers. Mathew Braxton and Alejandro Sotelo were also cast in devised pieces created and performed during the week of the festival, with Mathew's piece winning an award. Melinda Fogle, Theatre Arts faculty, advised, directed, and accompanied the acting nominees to the event, saying, "My trip to the KCACTF was one that I will never forget... it was one of the most phenomenal and surreal experiences I've ever had." She emphasized the tremendous effort by the students, who spent hours rehearsing and fundraising for the event. "They represented the department, the college, and San Bernardino, and they will bring all of their experiences and knowledge back to our campus." Congratulations, Wolverines!



SBVC Students Featured in Community Arts Fest

In March, the San Bernardino Arts Fest, held at the San Manuel Stadium, showcased the talents of local artists, including many from San Bernardino Valley College. Hundreds of community members attended, including various local schools, community members who displayed their colorful paintings, and musicians who grew up in the area. Arts Fest attendees were introduced to the event with an opening ceremony performance by SBVC's advanced choral ensemble, Voci Soli. Other live music performances included acts from Sugar Bombs, Alive in the Lights, and the San Bernardino Teen Music Workshop. The sidewalks surrounding the event were covered in chalk art created by event attendees, and an "Author's Corner" highlighted the literary arts as well. Live performances were held by the Multi-Cultural Dance Center, Rancho D'vines, Ballet Folklórico Cultural, the Richardson Prep HI Dance Team, and more. The event's stages showcased the dances of a wide variety of ages and cultures, making sure that the Arts Fest is inclusive to the diverse city of San Bernardino. Lilian Ball, a flute player for the San Bernardino Teen Music Workshop, expressed the great need for communities to showcase local artists. She said that local events like the Arts Fest can "bring communities together to celebrate the uniqueness of individuals," and if younger generations see the joy from local performers, "they can see what their dreams look like in real life, and that will inspire them to keep going." The San Bernardino Arts Fest is a regular fixture in the community that presents its artistry in an encouraging and motivating light, with a special focus on aspiring artists.



'Night of Jazz' at SBVC Features Acclaimed Saxophonist



The SBVC Black Faculty and Staff Association, along with the Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce, held a special night of jazz music in the historic Auditorium featuring acclaimed saxophonist Mark Allen Felton, also known as Panther. A saxophonist since before he was in high school, Felton notes that he draws inspiration from funk, jazz, gospel, and soul music. He has worked with artists such as Patti Labelle, Al Jarreau, Bobby Womack, and Kirk Whalum during his time as a musician.

The event began with a cocktail social, with giveaways and door prizes presented during the night. During the concert, the audience received an exclusive listen to his newest release, entitled "Soul Real," before the album premiered on streaming platforms. Felton has released four other records in the past, but states that this upcoming release is "a little more upbeat, a little funkier than the last record." The lead single from the album, titled "A Place for You," was also one of the songs performed during the night. Felton's music filled the historic Auditorium with the soulful sounds of jazz and received much acclaim from campus and community members in attendance. Congratulations, SBVC!

SBVC Counseling Hosts Annual Student Success Conference

The SBVC Counseling Department recently hosted its Annual High School Counselors and Career Technicians Conference. The theme for the event was "Responsive Trends and Options for Student Success," with Dean of Counseling and Matriculation Marco Cota serving as master of ceremonies. During breakout sessions, attendees were able to take tours of the SBVC Gym and media communications center, as well as learn all about the Zero Textbook Cost Degree, financial aid grants, and the computer information technology and biology programs. The goal of the conference was to explain new ways of leveraging technology for student success and how to successfully make the transition to college.



Upcoming Events



May 17
Black Graduate Celebration
6:00pm / B-100

May 19
Nuestra Graduación
5:00pm / Greek Theatre

May 21
**Pharmacy Technology
Pinning Ceremony**
4:45pm / Auditorium

May 22
MCHS Graduation Ceremony
6:00pm / Greek Theatre

May 24
Commencement 2019
9:00am / SBVC Stadium