



President's Board of Trustees Report

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

SBVC Ranked #1 Most Affordable Community College in California

California community colleges are already an amazing deal in higher education: at only \$47 per unit, course fees are some of the lowest in the country. But SBVC gives its students even more bang for their buck. According to communitycollegereview.com, SBVC was ranked **the most affordable community college in California** for the 2020-2021 school year. In a typical academic year, most SBVC students receive financial aid grants and scholarships, and over 97% avoid taking on any student loan debt while attending. With nearly \$33 million in grants, scholarships, and other financial aid distributed annually, SBVC students can access high-quality, affordable education that propels them into high-paying careers. SBVC President Diana Rodriguez said the college has prioritized affordability and accessibility. "Our mission is to ensure that all students who truly wish to achieve their educational and career goals at SBVC are able to do so, regardless of their income," Rodriguez said. "We are proud to be the most affordable community college in the state, and that we can help make higher education more equitable and accessible."



SBVC Partners with WVWD to Expand Water Supply Technology Program



San Bernardino Valley College recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the West Valley Water District (WVWD) to create new internship and employment opportunities for SBVC students. WVWD Board of Directors President Channing Hawkins said, "Through this partnership, our combined efforts will provide skills, training, and job placement in a steady, growing field to the people of the Inland Empire. With our community still reeling from the coronavirus lockdowns and still 639,000 jobs short of pre-COVID employment, this program could not have come at a better time for the Inland Empire." Amid rising unemployment and anticipation of water utility talent pipeline shortfalls due to coming retirements, leaders with WVWD and SBVC President Diana Z. Rodriguez signed the MOU, which solidified the agreement and relationship that will deliver

mentorship, job training and job opportunities for students. WVWD will provide supervision, support and hands-on experience for aspiring water technology and engineering professionals. SBVC will provide advanced program instruction and promote water supply technology courses to its students that align with ever-evolving industry needs. Congratulations, SBVC!



SBVC HIGHLIGHTS

SBVC Hosts Toy Giveaway for Hundreds of Children via “Let It Snow Festival”

San Bernardino Valley College recently partnered with the “Let It Snow” Festival to host a toy giveaway this holiday season. The local nonprofit group raised close to \$15,000 for toy purchases, which were then distributed in a drive-through event on the SBVC campus this December. The event was free and open to the community, and helped to spread holiday cheer to hundreds of children. “Let It Snow” Festival founder and organizer Abigail Alberts said a flood of donations were received from local businesses. Over the past few weeks, bouncy balls, backpacks, children’s books and other fun items were collected and distributed for this festive occasion. Despite having to cancel its annual Ho Ho Parade and photos with Santa Claus, event organizers were still able to distribute gifts to as many as 800 children in the community.



Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG

Communications Faculty Reinvent Speech Tournament in Virtual Format



This fall, 13 San Bernardino Valley College students competed in a virtual speech tournament, showing off their skills online instead of on stage. SBVC was one of a few colleges in the state to not cancel its tournament, and instead adapted it to a virtual format. The students represented six different SBVC professors, and after competing in two preliminary rounds, the top six speakers made it to the finals. More than 75 people virtually attended this evening session, which was won by Kristen McGregor. Eduardo Vega came in second place, April Regalado finished in third place, and Josiel Perez, Isais Rivera, and Zane McCollum were finalists. “Moving the tournament online was a collaborative effort that was successful,” Speech Prof. Susan Mattson said. “The Communication Studies Department worked closely with the Arts, Lectures, and Diversity Committee and the Office of Student Life to reinvent the event online. We had to think outside of the box in reorganizing the event, but it worked!”

MESA Program Workshops Thrive in New Online Setting

The virtual landscape of campus events has allowed more flexibility than ever for students to attend various workshops and seminars. The Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program at SBVC has offered numerous events on various topics for students, and in return has seen a big impact on attendance. “We had our biggest workshop ever this semester with over 100 students attending a workshop on car loan math with Professor Anthony Castro,” said Jennifer Bjerke, Director of MESA on campus. Early in the year, she and Castro surveyed students about hot topics in education. Many said they wanted to learn how to thrive economically, not just survive the pandemic. Overall, she said they served over 200 students before their final workshops. MESA targets STEM students, but workshops are open to all students. Bjerke said they continue to draw great guest speakers, and was surprised to see professors drive for hours to come out to share their motivational expertise on topics that included personal finance, writing, study and soft skills development, resumes and cover letters, and creating LinkedIn profiles.





SBVC SNAPSHOTS

SBCCD Trustee Appointed to Statewide Caucus

Dr. Anne Viricel, Chair of the SBCCD Board of Trustees, has been appointed to the CA Community College Women's Caucus Advisory Committee, a consortium of women serving on community college boards who work to empower women in higher ed. "The chance to help open more doors of opportunity for women in higher education is a great honor," she said.



CDC Angel Tree Gifting Tradition Goes Virtual

SBVC's Child Development Center (CDC) ensured that its children had a joyful holiday season by continuing its annual Angel Tree tradition. More than a decade ago, the CDC and Nursing program teamed up to create the Angel Tree, where donors could drop off unwrapped gifts to be given to children at the center. CDC director Mark Merjil said that because of the pandemic, the majority of gifts this year were donated by Design West Engineering, a local business. The Angel Tree is a tradition that has "been years in the making," Merjil said, and it was important to ensure it continued safely in 2020.

Golf Tournament Raises Over \$22,000 for Students

This October, the SBVC Foundation raised \$22,540 for student scholarships and athletics programs at the 10th Annual Socially Distanced Golf Tournament. Golfers were able to partake in several bonus contests, including a "longest drive" competition, a putting contest, and a "closest to the pin" contest.



Psychiatric Tech Program Celebrates 24 New Grads

This December, 24 students graduated from SBVC's psychiatric technology program. Due to the campus closure, they were unable to walk across a graduation stage, but instead celebrated with a drive-through certificate pick-up event to commemorate completion of one of the most rigorous and recognized psychiatric tech programs in the state. Congratulations, Wolverines!





SBVC HIGHLIGHTS

DREAMer Student Credits SBVC as Crucial Step in Journey to UC Berkeley

Vanessa Mendoza applied to San Bernardino Valley College in 2012 to stay close to home and save money, and through the Dream Act, was able to receive financial aid. It was at SBVC that she was first introduced to anthropology by professor Melissa King. "Through her classes and mentorship, I came across something called medical anthropology, which further confirmed that this was the major I wished to pursue," Mendoza said. She was "a crucial part of my academic journey," Mendoza said, providing everything from book recommendations to career advice. Mendoza graduated from SBVC in 2018 and transferred to UC Berkeley, and has found that all of the anthropology classes she took at SBVC "served as a really strong foundation for the upper-division courses that I am now taking." Mendoza plans on attending graduate school, with the hope of one day becoming a professor, just like King. "The staff and students in the anthropology department have always been extremely helpful and friendly," she said. "They will provide the guidance you need as you embark on your journey as an anthropology major."



Annual Holiday Gathering Raises Record Amount for Student Scholarships



Over 200 staff and faculty members of SBVC donned their ugly holiday sweaters and festive apparel for the Annual President's Holiday Gathering, only this time in a virtual format for the first time ever. The online event turned into one of the most successful Holiday Gatherings since 2015, with 26 gift baskets donated by various campus programs and departments, resulting in a total of 9,078 raffle tickets purchased and \$7,108 raised for student scholarships. The event had to be reinvented as a virtual one in 2020 to accommodate the campus closure, with a special web portal allowing President Rodriguez to virtually draw a randomly-generated name from each basket. Gift basket themes ranged from "Working Out From Home" and "Quarantined with School Spirit", to gift card bouquets and items supporting local small businesses. The most popular gift basket was saved for last, with FYE counselor Dominique Johnson winning an Oculus Quest 2, donated by the Department of Marketing and Public Relations. Congratulations, SBVC!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 13-15
Spring Convocation Week

January 18
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 19
Spring Classes Begin

