



# President's Board of Trustees Report

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

## SBVC Class of 2021 Graduates in Virtual Commencement Ceremony

On May 24, San Bernardino Valley College celebrated its graduating class of 2021 with its second-ever virtual Commencement ceremony. The ceremony was a live video that progressed exactly like SBVC's traditional in-person ceremony, except that it was viewable remotely on the campus website, YouTube and Facebook. The event featured greetings from President Diana Z. Rodriguez, who welcomed the students and family members that tuned into the livestream, and acknowledged each graduate's years of dedication and hard work. "In the face of one of the most difficult global crises in recent memory, you demonstrated outstanding resilience and perseverance that will be recorded in our college's history books for future generations to look up to and admire," she said. After these congratulatory messages, graduates had their names read in alphabetical order alongside their virtual cards that included graduate selfies using a custom SBVC Grad filter. During the ceremony, students had another way to interact and show their school spirit: the SBVC homepage at valleycollege.edu featured a Virtual Social Wall, displaying the numerous public Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter posts tagged with #sbvcgrad21. Among the degree recipients in the class of 2020, 69 graduated with Highest Honors, or a 3.9-4.0 GPA, and 123 students graduated with Honors, or a 3.7-3.89 GPA. In total, 1,590 students received 2,178 degrees and certificates.



## SBVC Foundation Awards Over \$360,000 in Student Scholarships



On May 5, 445 hard-working students received scholarships during the San Bernardino Valley College Virtual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. There were 636 scholarships distributed, totaling more than \$360,000, with 125 students receiving multiple awards. San Bernardino Valley College Foundation scholarships are funded by dozens of donors and organizations, with many in honor of former SBVC students, staff, and faculty members. This year, the largest scholarship award was \$1,200. Phylcia Sanchez of the SBVC Foundation said because of the pandemic, some donors increased their award amounts in order to further assist students during this difficult time. SBVC students applied for the scholarships and were chosen based on a variety of factors, including financial need, academic performance, personal essays, community service, and faculty recommendations.



# SBVC HIGHLIGHTS

## SBVC Marks Several Firsts in 2020-21 Virtual 'Spotlighting Our Success' Awards

On May 14, SBVC hosted the 2020-21 Virtual 'Spotlighting Our Success' Awards, an awards ceremony that celebrated SBVC's hardworking and dedicated staff and faculty. The remote ceremony was the first-ever virtual setting for the annual celebratory event and garnered the most ever nominations in the event's history, with 92 submissions recognizing numerous campus personnel. Over 125 staff and faculty members gathered into a Zoom meeting with customized event backgrounds, eager to hear the results of their nominations and votes. The event recognized honored retirees, faculty advancements in rank, and various achievement awards that were voted on by campus. President Diana Z. Rodriguez ended the event by presenting her first-ever Presidential Award, which she presented to the Accreditation Committee and its 21 members. Rodriguez commended the committee for their diligent work and years of preparation to achieve the highest level of accreditation for SBVC in the spring of 2021.



## Transfer Center Recognizes SBVC Students Headed to Four-Year Universities



On May 21, the Transfer Center gave dozens of students who are on their way to 4-year colleges a special sendoff. During a drive-thru ceremony, graduates were able to safely say goodbye to members of the Transfer Center staff, while also receiving swag bags and medallions. A video was also put together to honor the graduating transfer class, featuring their photos, names, and where they are headed next. SBVC graduates are transferring to colleges across California and nearby states, including Cal State San Bernardino, Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Fullerton, San Diego State, UC Riverside, and the University of Arizona, to study everything from sociology, to biology, to criminal justice.

## Black Student Success Week Aims to Empower and Celebrate Black Students

During Black Student Success Week, SBVC faculty and staff participated in daily webinars about how to best support Black students amid their community college journeys. Hundreds of local high school students were invited to the SBVC campus for the Black Excellence Education Summit, which was held as a drive-through event and gift bag distribution. On April 29, SBVC also hosted its own special virtual event to discuss higher education's racial reckoning in the wake of the Derek Chauvin trial. Moderated by LeJohnnae Bertrand, president of SBVC's Umoja-Tumaini Club, the event allowed for unfiltered thoughts and reactions from students regarding recent racially-motivated crimes and their impact on the psyche of people of color. The event concluded with the awarding of three student scholarships to Kristen Jackson, Marie Woods, and Reginay Tate. Each student was originally awarded a \$25 gift card before Dr. Stephanie Lewis, Sharaf Williams, and Andrea Hecht donated additional amounts so each student would be awarded \$100.

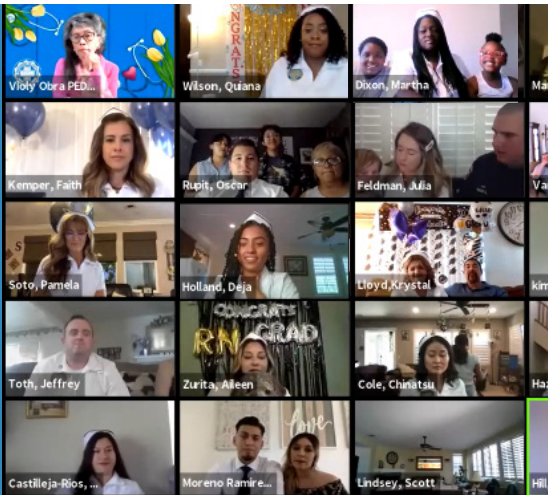




# SBVC SNAPSHOTS

## SBVC Celebrates 55 Nurse Grads in Pinning Ceremony

SBVC honored 55 nursing program graduates at its 2021 Nurse Pinning Ceremony. The event, held virtually over Zoom, recognized the graduating class, which then recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge. The graduates will soon take their National Council Licensure Examination before entering the front lines of this in-demand career field. Congratulations!



## Theatre Arts Hosts Virtual Spring Production

The SBVC theater arts department held a virtual production for its spring play. "She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms" follows an Ohio cheerleader as she grapples with the death of her younger sister. After she finds her sister's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she stumbles into the fantasy role-playing world. The play, adapted for a livestreamed online performance, allowed theatre arts students to think outside the box and learn new ways to produce a show. Proceeds from the virtual event went towards sending theatre arts students to the prestigious Kennedy Center College Theatre Festival.

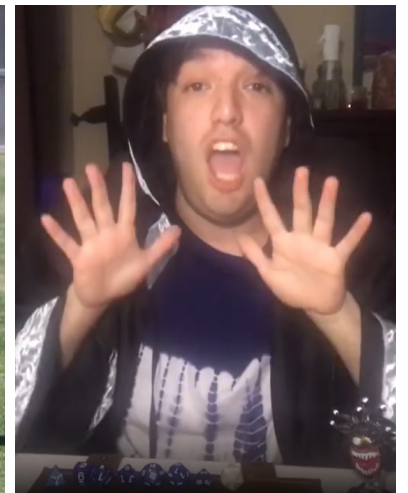


## SBVC Auditorium Hosts San Bernardino Symphony

The historic SBVC Auditorium was recently the venue for the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra's "Mozart and Beethoven" concert. Maestro Anthony Parnter conducted the regional orchestra, featuring noted pianist David Kaplan. The symphony generously provided access to the concert free of charge to SBVC students, employees and their families.

## Women's Soccer Captain Commits to 4-Year University

SBVC Women's Soccer forward Maria Cariño has signed a letter of intent with Kansas Wesleyan University. Cariño earned the title of captain in her sophomore season and scored two goals and three assists in 23 total games. She battled a severe knee injury to return to the pitch and realize her dream of receiving a scholarship and continuing to play soccer at the 4-year level.





# SBVC HIGHLIGHTS

## SBVC Recognizes Latinx and Black Grads in Drive-Through Celebrations

San Bernardino Valley College celebrated the many accomplishments of its Hispanic, Chicano, and Latinx graduates during its annual Nuestra Graduación. This celebration, presented by the Latino Faculty, Staff & Administrators Association, consisted of a celebratory livestream featuring a graduate slideshow and congratulatory words from SBVC President Diana Z. Rodriguez and LFSAA President Ed Gomez. Graduates were then able to come to campus to pick up a colorful serape stole in a drive-through celebration. The event was also attended by Eloise Gómez Reyes, SBVC alumna and California Assembly Majority Leader. A day prior, the Black Faculty and Staff Association hosted the Back Grad 'Pull Up and Pick Up' Event. This annual Black Graduate Recognition Celebration commemorated the many achievements of SBVC's African American students graduating this spring. As each car pulled through the campus parking lot, students were given a colorful Kente stole and treated to several live dance performances. The Kente Ceremony allowed graduates to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of their ancestors, as well as to acknowledge the friends, family members, faculty, and classified professionals who have helped them achieve their goals.



## Middle College High School Named a California Distinguished School



This spring, Middle College High School (MCHS) has been named a California Distinguished School. "What an honor to be selected as a California Distinguished School for 2021," MCHS Principal James Espinoza said. "We are also so appreciative of the commitment of our scholars, their families, and our selfless and talented teachers and staff, not to mention our amazing partners from San Bernardino Valley College." The 18th group of graduates from MCHS were recently celebrated at SBVC's 2021 Virtual Commencement. Out of the Middle College High School graduating class this year, 36 students will not only graduate from high school, but have pursued and met requirements for an associate degree.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 1 - July 1**  
Summer Session 1

**June 21 - August 5**  
Summer Session 2

**July 5 - August 6**  
Summer Session 3

