

PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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



San Bernardino
Valley College

April 2022



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER ASSOCIATION AIMS TO LIFT THE VOICES OF API STAFF

The Asian Pacific Islander Association is supporting the San Bernardino Community College District's API employees, shining a spotlight on their accomplishments, endeavors, and dreams.

"We are a new association, so we are full of hope for what the future holds," API Association President Bethany Tasaka, a mathematics instructor at San Bernardino Valley College, said. "We want to engage and connect API employees across the district so they know they are seen and supported."

The API Association also intends to develop safe spaces "to share both positive and negative experiences," Tasaka said. "We want to celebrate API excellence in the district by lifting the voices of our colleagues and bringing visibility to their accomplishments. Last, but certainly not least, we want to realize our hopes for our students." API employees and allies began meeting last

August, and the API Association was officially recognized in December. The executive team consists of Tasaka, Chloe de los Reyes, Jimmy Grabow, and Soutsakhone Xayaphanthong, with the group currently meeting virtually the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

"Our goals right now focus on lifting the voices and stories of API employees across the district," Tasaka said. "We also want to develop support systems for our API students. Asians and Pacific Islanders are a very diverse group, but we're often addressed as a monolith. Our association wants to bring visibility to the diversity and excellence of API employees in the district. We also want to educate others about the richness and uniqueness of API cultures and experiences."

That's exactly what the organization plans to do during Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. From April 17 to May 17, the group is hosting several

events, based around the theme "Dispelling the Model Minority Myth." On April 19, there will be a panel discussion featuring API employees and students from across the district. Other events include a screening of Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, followed by a discussion on the importance of representation in pop culture, and conversations about the "bamboo ceiling" and Executive Order 9066 and Japanese internment.

Tasaka said the API Association is looking forward to working closely with organizations like the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) and Latino Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Association (LFSAA).

"We would not be here without the support of their presidents, Shalita Tillman and Ernest Guillen," she added. "Allyship is vital for underrepresented groups." The API Association may be new, but the group has already made a name for itself.

"We are very proud of what our association accomplished in its short lifetime," Tasaka said. "Everyone has worked so hard and has invested so much of their time and talents, and we are overwhelmed with the support we received."

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, there has been an uptick in hate crimes against API individuals across the United States. The API Association is asking members of the community to check in on their API colleagues and students.

"As time passes, we tend to forget movements like #StopAsianHate, but these acts of violence are still happening regularly," Tasaka said. "Please remember that this is still very real for API communities."

To receive a membership form, please email Bethany Tasaka at btasaka@sbccd.cc.ca.us.

HIGHLIGHTS

SBVC EXPANDS TRAINING FOR WATER WORKERS IN BLACK COMMUNITY

San Bernardino Valley College is strengthening the local water and wastewater workforce by partnering with the Inland Empire Black Workers Center to provide a pathway for individuals seeking a career in water and wastewater. This free program offers assistance to workers from the Black community and areas facing income and environmental inequality, as well as to people re-entering the workforce after incarceration.

The first cohort started on March 21 and a second cohort will launch next January. The program is open to individuals 18 and older with a high school diploma or GED and a driver's license. Assistance is available for those who need help obtaining their license.

"We are building leadership all the time," Inland Empire Black Workers Center Associate Director Nosakhare Thomas said in a statement. "Everyone should have a voice and with us they have a space where they won't be judged and will be heard."

The first step is taking part in a pre-apprenticeship program. Over the course of three months, participants learn everything from how to write a resume to first-aid training. They also earn Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification and enroll in a water supply technology course at SBVC. Once this portion is completed, participants will be ready to start an apprenticeship.

The program doesn't just focus on learning: there is also assistance for people who need transportation, childcare, tutoring, laptops, and WiFi.

"We realize and understand that these small barriers have kept people out of the workforce and out of the pipeline to be equipped and prepared for work," Thomas said. "We have services built in so that we can remove some of the barriers."



Pictured above from left to right are Inland Empire Black Workers Center Associate Director Nosakhare Thomas, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary Natalie Palugyai and center community organizer Dominique Dean. The program is a collaboration between the Inland Empire Black Workers Center, SBVC, BLU Educational Foundation, Starting Over Inc., JVS, and Operation New Hope, with funding from the Department of Education and California's High Road Training Partnerships.



SBCCD CHANCELLOR DISCUSSES COLLEGE CORPS PROGRAM ON CAMPUS PODCAST

SBVC Interim President Dr. Scott Thayer welcomed SBCCD Chancellor Diana Z. Rodriguez to the SBVC Campus Podcast for its March episode. They discussed the recent \$1.7 million grant received by the district for the College Corps program, through which \$10,000 grants will be awarded to 100 students who commit to serve and volunteer in the local community for one year. The goal is to tackle some of the most pressing challenges in the surrounding community, including COVID relief, climate change, food insecurity, and closing educational achievement gaps. "This is a unique opportunity for students to sharpen career skills, expand professional networks, and make a real difference in our community," said Rodriguez. Dr. Thayer also welcomed Davena Burns-

Peters and Margaret Worsely, faculty co-chairs for distance education, to discuss the changes COVID has brought to higher education by forcing it to pivot to address student and faculty needs during virtual learning. This included providing additional access to technology, offering more flexibility in hybrid courses, and modernizing curriculum for traditionally hands-on programs. The professors praised SBVC students for remaining resilient and committed to their academic goals during the unpredictable challenges that arose from transitioning to online learning. "It's no wonder SBVC was named the #7 Best Online Community College in California in 2021," said Dr. Thayer. "This could only have been possible through the incredible efforts of our faculty and students."

SBVC ALUMNUS AND EMPLOYEE NAMED IN ASSEMBLYMEMBER'S "30 UNDER 30"

SBVC alumnus and current employee Thomas Robles was named one of Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes's "30 Under 30" awardees for 2021. Robles, 29, attended SBVC from 2010 to 2016 and during his time started an improv club, served as student government president and student trustee, worked two jobs, and met several faculty members who made an impact on him, including Prof. Daihim Fozouni, Dr. Ed Gomez, and Dr. David Smith. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in liberal studies from CSUSB in 2018 and a master's degree in higher education administration and policy from UCR in 2020. Robles is now a member of the SBVC



Foundation board and works at SBVC as a social media specialist, as well as for the city of Colton as a library site supervisor. In the span of 10 years, Robles went from never thinking about college to now pursuing a potential doctorate and aspiring to one day become a college president. "I want to inspire and have an effect on incoming students," the Grand Terrace resident said. The awards ceremony for his 30 Under 30 achievement award was held on December 11 on the SBVC campus. This fifth annual event recognizes regional honorees for their achievements in community activism, business, health, education, art and social entrepreneurship.

SBVC INNOVATES CURRICULUM WITH NEW SIMULATION SOFTWARE

SBVC had to adapt most of its hands-on courses during the recent pandemic and campus transition to remote learning. However, its Electricity/Electronics Technology department was able to innovate its teaching of critical industrial automation skills to keep conveyor belts moving. Last year, SBVC shifted to industrial automation simulators in mechatronics courses to overcome training disruptions arising from the pivot to online learning. This bold move meant students could keep up with their studies and continue landing above-entry-level careers in the industry.

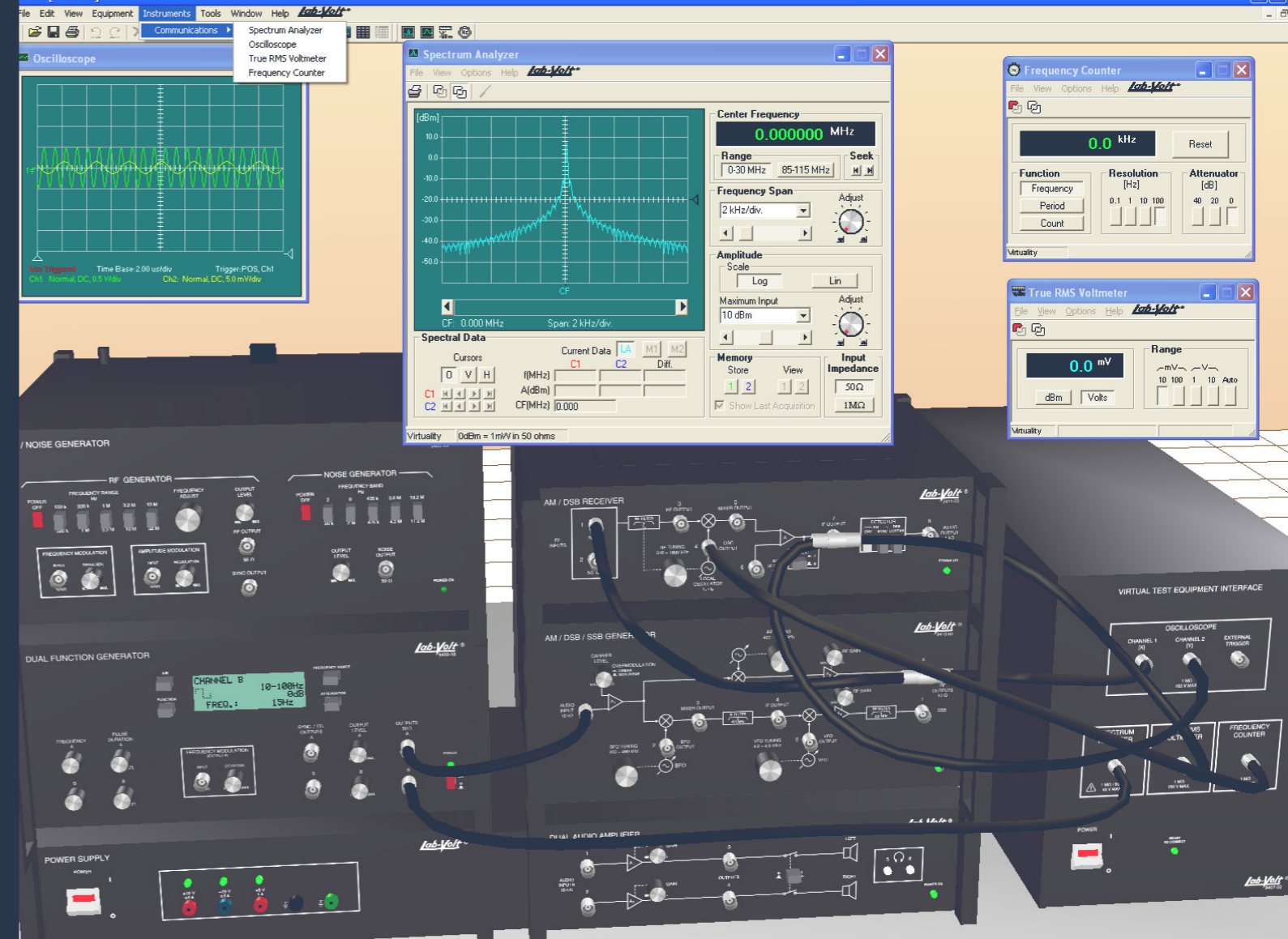
During the forced shift to virtual instruction, SBVC began using cutting-edge simulation software by LabVolt. "LabVolt is a huge trainer manufacturing company for educational systems, which basically simulate everything that's out in industry," explained department chair Tarif Halabi. "They basically simulated [the equipment] so well that you could do 85 percent of the class without having the system there."

The simulation trainers present students with the same small-scale systems that Amazon and other industry giants use in their warehousing and distribution centers. Automated systems save companies a tremendous amount of time and manpower costs as products can be imaged, sorted, measured, and recorded at lightning speed. SBVC students learn the core skills to help manufacturers mass-produce and distribute their products, allowing them to save on labor costs and operate more efficiently. From barcode readers to temperature modulators, the college's new software emulated industrial controls for pneumatics, fluid hydraulics and sensors.

As a result, at least four students recently graduated in a virtual environment and became Electronic Systems Technician Level 2 with Amazon, joining three other alumni already working on such systems. According to department chair Tarif Halabi, Tech 2 employees earn \$25 per hour with full benefits, with compensation increasing to \$33 per hour when they progress to Tech 3. In fact, the simulation trainers were so successful that the college continues to include the virtual tech in its curriculum even after classes officially returned to campus this spring.

Students in the program hired far and wide throughout the region, including within the mega Walmart distribution center in Colton that opened in 2019. "I had two students who placed with them because they all use the same type of automation shelving and distribution system for logistics," said Halabi. The Inland Empire has increasingly become the epicenter for logistics and transportation warehouses over the last decade. In 2019, the IE region housed 21 of the nation's 100 biggest logistics leases, comprising 17.5 million square feet, according to the California attorney general's office.

Meanwhile, the need for warehouses and workers has only increased since the pandemic, as demand for online shopping, and the warehouses to store those goods, continues to grow. Currently, there are more than 700 big-box warehouses in Inland Empire, with more on the way.



“ We have a huge demand for our Mechatronics students, who come out of these automation programs ready to work for any of these distribution centers. ”

- Tarif Halabi,
Department Chair, Electricity/Electronics

SNAPSHOTS



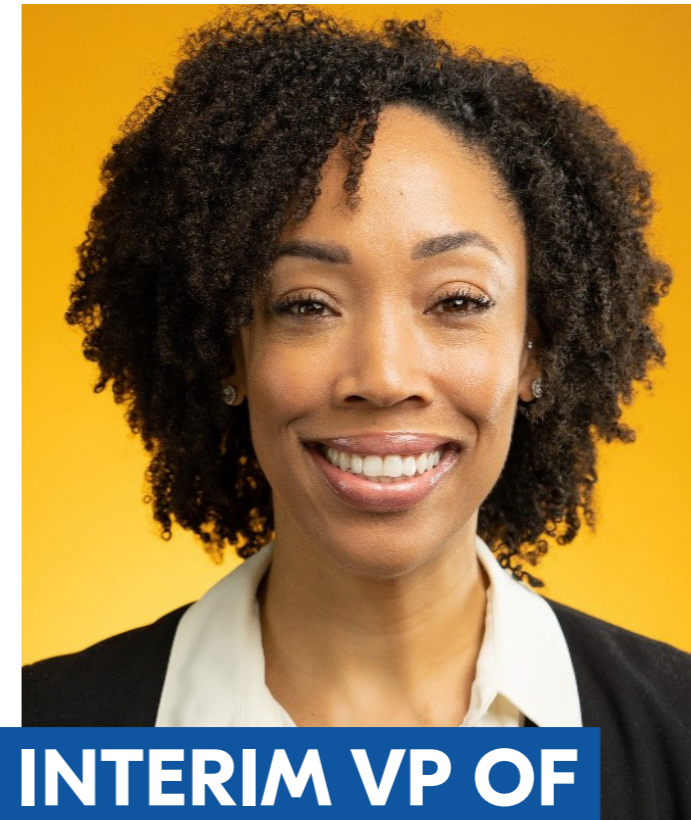
MENS BASKETBALL PLAYERS AWARDED AFTER COMPETING IN THE ELITE EIGHT

The SBVC men's basketball team advanced all the way to the Elite Eight round in pursuit of a state national championship. Despite falling to College of the Sequoias in their quarterfinal game, the team has earned numerous postseason honors for their individual play in the 2021-22 season. Freshman guard **Dominique Daniels** was named the **Southern California Player of the Year** by the California Community College Men's Basketball Coaches Association for his play this season. Guards Brandon Thompson and Armon Muldrew were named to the conference's first team, while Anthony Bell was named to the IEAC second team. Head coach **Quincy Brewer** was named the **Conference Coach of the Year**, helping the Wolverines finish the season 25-6, and going undefeated with 15-0 inside the Wolverines' Den.



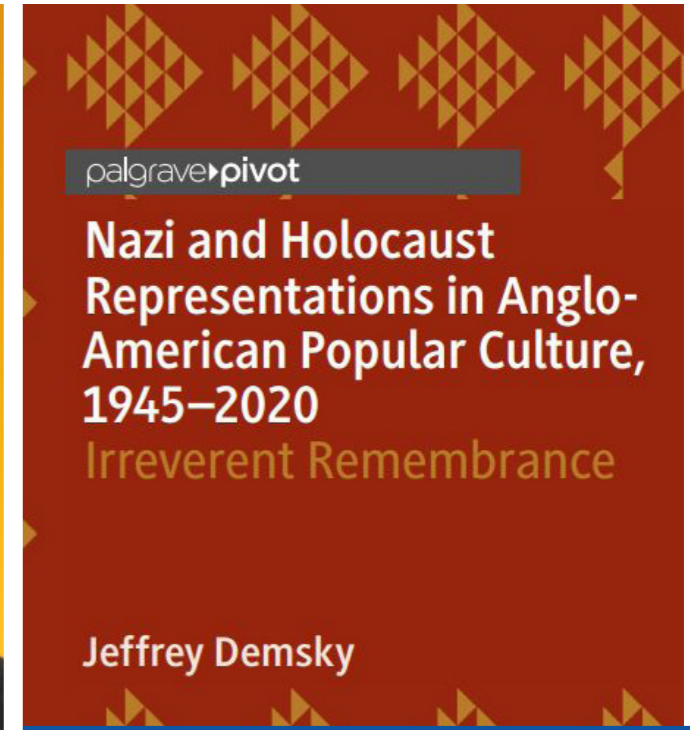
SBVC HOSTS HUNDREDS OF HIGH SCHOOLERS FOR STEAM DAY

This March, SBVC's STEM Program hosted "The Wonderful World of STEAM", a free event for hundreds of high school students that provided hands-on training and workshops for careers in science, technology, arts, engineering, and mathematics. Various classrooms in the Physical Sciences Building held in-person workshops for 10-15 students at a time, while virtual sessions offered several lectures and remote demonstrations. Sessions included testing Ph scales, embalming and restoration, leadership in STEM, Gen Z and Clean Fuel, exploring ulcers, and financial literacy. Other career fields that were explained and explored included the path to becoming an EMT, nutritionist, crime scene investigator, and geologist. Congratulations, SBVC!



INTERIM VP OF ADMIN SERVICES ANNOUNCED BY SBVC

San Bernardino Valley College announced Tenille Norris as its Interim Vice President of Administrative Services, pending board approval. Tenille has worked in finance and accounting for over 10 years. Prior to being named Interim Vice President of Administrative Services, she served for over 6 years as Accounting Manager, then Associate Director of Fiscal Services for the San Bernardino Community College District. Tenille has played an integral role in the District's annual budget process, improving fiscal accountability, and has served on both the CTA and CSEA negotiations teams. Tenille received her Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Accountancy from the University of La Verne and her Bachelor of Science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



SBVC PROFESSOR SELECTED TO SPEAK AT FRENCH CONFERENCE

SBVC political science professor Dr. Jeffrey Demsky was selected to present a paper to a virtual human rights conference hosted by France's University of Le Mans last June. Entitled "Prostitutes, Rape Bait, and Assassins," he analyzed dehumanizing portrayals of Vietnamese women in Hollywood war films. "Such depictions have memorializing value," he said in his presentation. "The onscreen fantasies, produced by men, and primarily for male consumption, cinematically re-assert American troops' patriarchy, and, potency, over the Vietnamese people." Dr. Demsky also recently published a book about Holocaust memorialization, and has a forthcoming article, "Achoo! Achoo! Let's Blame the Jews: Antisemitism in COVID-19 Cartoons and Memes."

EVENTS

For more campus events, visit calendar.valleycollege.edu

Faculty In-Service Day

April 12

No Classes

Virtual HIIT Fitness Class

April 15

Virtual • 9:00am

Together We Thrive

April 20

Virtual • 10:00am

As SBVC celebrates its 95th anniversary, we look back on some of the college's rich history. In this photo from the 1970s, students study in the campus library.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Rocio Avila had previously attended college, but never finished her degree. When she decided to go back to college, she chose to continue her education at San Bernardino Valley College. It was not only the closest college to her, but also the most affordable, where 97% of students graduate debt-free. She was also eager to get more involved in campus activities to get the most out of her college experience. "For me, it goes to show how the environment and setting you are in can impact you," said Avila. "My experience at SBVC has been amazing."

Avila is currently studying child development, and majoring in early childhood education. She credits the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) program for the financial and career opportunities she's received at SBVC. EOPS is a state-funded program that provides uniquely designed services to full-time SBVC students, who also demonstrate both economic and educational disadvantages. "I can honestly say that I wouldn't be where I am today without the EOPS program," she said.

She also works with the department, often seen during campus resource fairs offering additional information and firsthand experience of the EOPS program to interested students. As both a student and student worker on campus, Avila appreciates planning her work schedule around her class schedule. "I am so grateful to be a part of this school and community," said Avila. "I feel very much at home here." Rocio Avila plans to transfer to a California State University after finishing her studies at SBVC. She has already applied to California State University, San Bernardino and hopes to begin her studies in the fall. "I plan on working in the field of early childhood education," said Avila. "I love working with kids and want to teach pre-k or kindergarten."



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