

# PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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



San Bernardino  
Valley College

June 2022

# INDUSTRY SUMMIT AT SBVC BRINGS STUDENTS AND WORKFORCE LEADERS TOGETHER



Historically, solving the formula of closing the gap between workforce development and workforce needs has never been simple. But it's always been extremely important. That importance was exactly why a company called Tomorrow's Talent teamed up with San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) on April 22 for the first-ever "Our Students / Your Talent" Industry Summit.

The Our Students / Your Talent Industry Summit was a seminar held at SBVC for local trade groups to learn how to improve their methods of connecting with college-age students. It brought together business leaders and educators from all over the region for the sole purpose of expanding opportunities for SBVC students.

Dr. Dina Humble, SBVC's Vice President of Instruction, was one of the featured speakers at the event. Humble felt the event was the perfect combination of positive energy by area workforce leaders and ambition of SBVC students and leaders to create sustainable, solid ways to fill those gaps.

"Industry relationships and partnerships with San Bernardino Valley College are critical in the education, training, and upskilling of our community workforce," said Humble. "The one-of-a-kind event brought together educators, businesses in the region, and community members whose focus is on uplifting the community and providing pathways for students and employees to earn a living wage. "It's crucial that businesses know who our students are, what's important to them, and how to attract and retain them as employees."

During the event, seating was mixed to encourage networking and time was set aside to let participants talk about their programs and pitch ideas to one another. Toward the end of the event, various employers met with college representatives for an impromptu tour of SBVC's training labs.

According to Jennifer McDaniel, Director of Operations and Workforce Development for Tomorrow's Talent, multiple employers reached out to her demonstrating interest in developing

on-site work-based learning opportunities in paid internships and registered apprenticeships.

"San Bernardino Valley College has shown incredible foresight and leadership in their efforts to close this gap and bridge their students to the world of work ready to impress and go beyond what is asked of them," McDaniel said. "This first Industry Summit brought industry professionals and business leaders from across the region to work collaboratively with SBVC and form a shared vision of workforce development."

According to SBVC leadership, event outcomes included nurturing of relationships, forming partnerships, internships and apprenticeships, and finally, collaborating on curriculum content to ensure that students are learning what the industries in the region require.

In light of that, McDaniel mentioned a sobering detail about the oftentimes conflicting perceptions between higher ed's take on the quality of their workforce preparation programs versus industry perceptions.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic swept the world and upended the entire workforce, McDaniel cited a Gallup poll of Educational Leaders, (such as principals, superintendents, deans and college presidents) that asked how well they thought the education system did at preparing students for the world of work. According to the poll, 96 percent of those educational leaders said they thought their systems did a great job.

However, when Gallup asked business leaders how well they felt the education system did at preparing entry level employees, only 11 percent answered favorably.

"This is the gap that must be bridged for students to find success after graduation and it has only gotten worse during the last few years of tumult and change," added McDaniel. "And that's why this event was so important. And why it had to be successful. And we feel it absolutely was. On both sides."

# HIGHLIGHTS

## SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION HITS

### \$500,000 SCHOLARSHIP

### GOAL EARLY



The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation has hit an extraordinary goal — three years ahead of schedule.

As part of its 5-year strategic plan, the SBVC Foundation set a target of being able to award at least \$500,000 in student scholarships annually. This spring, the nonprofit organization reached that goal early, thanks to interest accrued from its endowment, grants, donations, and events.

“Investment account earnings over the past two years were substantial,” SBVC Foundation Director Mike Layne said. “Our endowment, through Bank of America: US Trust, grew from \$3.9 million a little over two years ago to nearly \$5.5 million at the end of December 2021. The interest accrued is what drives most of our scholarship awards. Individual donors and planned giving also help grow the size of our endowment.”

Recent generous gifts from the community include \$373,000 from the estate of Chuck Obershaw and \$24,000 from the estate of Scott Fruchter.

“All of these planned giving contributions help grow the size of our endowment, which we hope to grow to \$10-\$20 million over the next 10 years,” Layne said. “In order to grow our endowment to a level where it needs to be to help us continue to meet the scholarship and program needs of our students, we need more people in the community to consider us as a part of their estate planning. In doing so, these donors will demonstrate their commitment to excellence in higher education by establishing a lasting legacy.”

SBVC Foundation scholarships are exclusively for San Bernardino Valley College students to assist them on their educational journeys. This year, for the first time, the Foundation was able to award the Charles Obershaw Scholarship to 30 students, with each individual receiving \$1,000; previously, just two \$500 scholarships were awarded. Through funds from the Inland Empire Community Foundation, 54 students received the Molly Adams Scholarship and 20 students were given the Community Foundation Scholarship.

In recent years, the SBVC Foundation received major grants from the Finish Line Scholars Program via the Pritzker Foundation (\$150,000), Southern California Edison (\$30,000), and SoCal Gas (\$20,000), and the organization is continually looking to establish new public and private sector partnerships.

“The students at San Bernardino Valley College today and tomorrow represent our future workforce and our future community leaders,” Layne said. “As such, new corporate sponsorships and public/private sector grants are always in high demand.”

It’s four years away, but already the SBVC Foundation is in the early planning stages of San Bernardino Valley College’s 100th Anniversary Gala. Individual and corporate donors are invited to be part of the celebration, with their gifts ensuring “the event is a success,” Layne said. This spring, SBVC’s 95th anniversary gala raised more than \$175,000, with the net profit going to scholarships for next year.

## UNIQUE SBVC PROGRAM IS CITED AS AN EXAMPLE IN CONGRESS



Workforce shortages in the aviation and aerospace industry can have a significant impact on areas such as safety, availability of commercial flights, national security, innovation and local economies. Last month a House Small Business subcommittee heard from industry representatives on how providing more training opportunities, such as apprenticeships developed in partnership with community colleges, could help to replenish the workforce pipeline.

Eric Fanning, president and CEO of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), which represents more than 300 aerospace and defense companies ranging from family-run businesses to multinational corporations, said during an Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development Subcommittee hearing on May 12 that there are several ways Congress could address these needs. They include: investing more in STEM education, reskilling current industry employees for new technologies, enhancing training efforts to expand talent pools, and increasing diversity and expanding equity and inclusion efforts within the aerospace and defense (A&D) workforce.

Fanning said Congress should increase federal support for apprenticeships and career technical education. He cited as an example a unique apprenticeship that AIA-member Certified Aviation Services (CAS) launched with San Bernardino Valley College in California. Through the program, students work on various commercial aircraft projects, from sheet metal to building avionics technology, and other necessary technical training skills needed to attain an airframe and powerplant mechanics license.

“This apprenticeship program allows community college students to develop and grow into high-salary careers in the world of large aircraft projects while CAS develops a continuous pipeline of prospective future employees,” Fanning said. “The success of CAS’s innovative program so far allowed them to start expanding the program to community colleges in Alabama and Nevada. With the help of additional federal and state support, successful programs like this one could continue to expand nationwide, creating a diverse next-generation talent for the A&D industry.”

## GUARDIAN SCHOLARS LEAD WALK OF SOLIDARITY



In May 2022, the Guardian Scholars Program led the 2nd Annual Walking Our Walk event, a walk of solidarity to spread foster care awareness around campus. May was Foster Care Awareness Month and the program hosted “Virtual Week of Action” the following week. Walking around campus, you might have spotted the various blue pinwheels and lawn signs around campus. The lawn signs that depicted various known celebrities that were once part of the foster care system were designed to encourage current foster youth.

# SBVC PROGRAM PREPARES FOR HIGH DEMAND IN ELECTRIC TRUCK TECHNICIANS

In 2020, San Bernardino Valley College launched a comprehensive electric truck technician training program which graduated its first five students in December 2021. This initiative was funded by the Volvo LIGHTS (Low Impact Green Heavy Transport Solutions) Project, which is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work to reduce greenhouse emissions, strengthen the economy, and improve public health and the environment.

The program launch coincided with the onset of COVID-19, resulting in some canceled courses and an enrollment of only two students. In 2021, fifteen students enrolled in the program and eleven are now continuing their studies of heavy/medium duty electric truck technician training.

In 2021, the first cohort of students graduated from Valley College's Volvo LIGHTS program. All five of the graduates received \$1,000 scholarships from Southern California Edison.

Berchman "Kenny" Melancon is the faculty chair of the Heavy/Medium Duty Trucks Technology program at Valley College. Melancon helped design the curriculum for the program and is the only full-time faculty member. The certificate is a 22-unit program. Students have the option of completing general education courses to receive an associate degree. "The Volvo grant allowed us to purchase the equipment to use in our lab area for the curriculum we're teaching," says Melancon.

The current Heavy/Medium Duty Trucks facility is located across the street from Valley College's main campus. The laboratory is filled with hands-on equipment which has been donated by companies like Volvo, Freightliner, and Allison. The equipment is priced within the \$30,000 to \$60,000 range. Volvo recently donated a Zero Emission Heavy Duty Truck for hands-on training. The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation submitted a community funding request for up to \$1.5 million to Congressman Pete Aguilar's office to purchase two trucks and two trailers.

On April 8, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to celebrate construction on a new Applied Technology Building which will house the Heavy/Medium Duty Trucks program. The construction is estimated to take roughly 3 years and costs \$20 million.

Funding from Volvo LIGHTS ended this year. Funding now comes from Southern California Edison and SoCalGas. Many students involved in this program are given scholarships to put toward their educations and books are often paid for and used in multiple classes.

"They're saying by 2026, all diesel buses are gone. They're almost all gone now. So [the buses] either will be CNG (compressed natural gas) or electric," says Melancon. "One of our students was working for Riverside Transit Authority washing buses, cleaning windows, but he couldn't get into the shop. He came to class, he graduated, he



took extra courses and when he finished SoCalGas gave us scholarship money for him to take a national tank inspector exam. He passed the exam and got his license. He was moved into the shop, and recently became a supervisor."

Currently, manufacturers of electric trucks provide in-house training for the maintenance of these vehicles, but as warranties expire the demand for electric-truck technicians will increase. California is moving away from gas-powered vehicles which will also increase the demand for technicians. SBVC is the only public college in the area that offers a certificate program for heavy/medium duty electric truck maintenance.

Melancon says his hope is that high schools continue to offer automotive education to students so that high school graduates are more inclined to enroll in public college programs like these.



Berchman "Kenny" Melancon, alongside one of the trucks SBVC students are able to work on.

# SNAPSHOTS



## LFSAA CELEBRATES LATINX GRADS AT DRIVE-THRU CEREMONY

In May 2022, SBCCD's Latino Faculty, Staff and Administrators' Association hosted its third hybrid Nuestra Graduación. Over 200 graduates from SBVC and Crafton Hills College participated in a motorcade where they were greeted by SBCCD Chancellor Diana Z. Rodriguez, Interim President Dr. Scott W. Thayer, Professor Ed Gomez and others of the LSFAA. Students received a hand-sewn serape sash, a medallion commemorating Dolores Huerta, a personal message from Chancellor Rodriguez and a goodie bag of Mexican candy. This event allowed the Latinx communities of both campuses to celebrate and "demonstrate their connections to their cultural identity." LSFAA President Ernest Guillen says, "it allows the Latinx community a chance to celebrate the graduates and provides for increased visibility and representation."



## BFSA HOSTS GRAND EVENT FOR BLACK GRADS & THEIR FAMILIES

The Black Staff and Faculty Association set out to make 2022's Black Grad Celebration bigger and better than ever before. The event included an opening prayer, keynote speaker Kyle Erby and the presentation of Kente stoles.

EOPS/Care Counselor Keenan Giles said, "Our theme was 'A Family Reunion,' which not only signifies a return, but also sends the intentional message of the establishment and maintenance of a culture among 'The Black Family' here at SBVC and in the community at large."

One of the BFSA's goals is to inspire and encourage continued success among Black SBVC students, in addition to creating an opportunity for the students to thank their support systems.



## SPOTLIGHTING OUR SUCCESS AWARDS RETURNS TO CAMPUS

The Spotlighting Our Success Awards returned to campus with an in-person celebration on May 13. Dozens of SBVC employees were recognized for advancing in academic rank, receiving an award nomination, or winning an award. This year, the committee awarded the Honored Retiree Award to the late Edward J. Szumski, in honor of the celebrated faculty member who was instrumental to launching the Spotlighting tradition at SBVC in 1995. The 2022 winners included Dr. Todd Heibel, Jamie Herrera, Nhan Zuick, Dora Penn, Kris Shafer, Ernest Guillen, Rick Hrdlicka, Maggie Worsley, Andrea Hecht and Dr. Stephanie Lewis. The event ended with a special recognition of the 2020 Accreditation Committee, which had worked to secure the highest level of reaccreditation possible for SBVC at the start of the pandemic, a very rare distinction statewide. Congrats, SBVC!



## TRANSFER CENTER HOSTS FIRST IN-PERSON EVENT SINCE 2019

The SBVC Transfer & Career Services Center hosted its first in-person Transfer Celebration since 2019 this May to honor the hard work and success of SBVC students transferring to universities across the nation this fall. In 2020 and 2021, the center was only able to host drive-thru celebrations due to the pandemic, which made this year's in-person celebration extra special. Over 90 SBVC graduates attended the special event. The students receive a special medal to honor their achievements.

Student Success & Support Program Coordinator Cindy Huerta said, "Getting through community college, meeting transfer requirements, GPA requirements, filling out transfer applications, and everything else necessary to becoming a competitive applicant is no easy feat, especially during a pandemic."

# EVENTS

For more campus events, visit [calendar.valleycollege.edu](https://calendar.valleycollege.edu)

## Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom

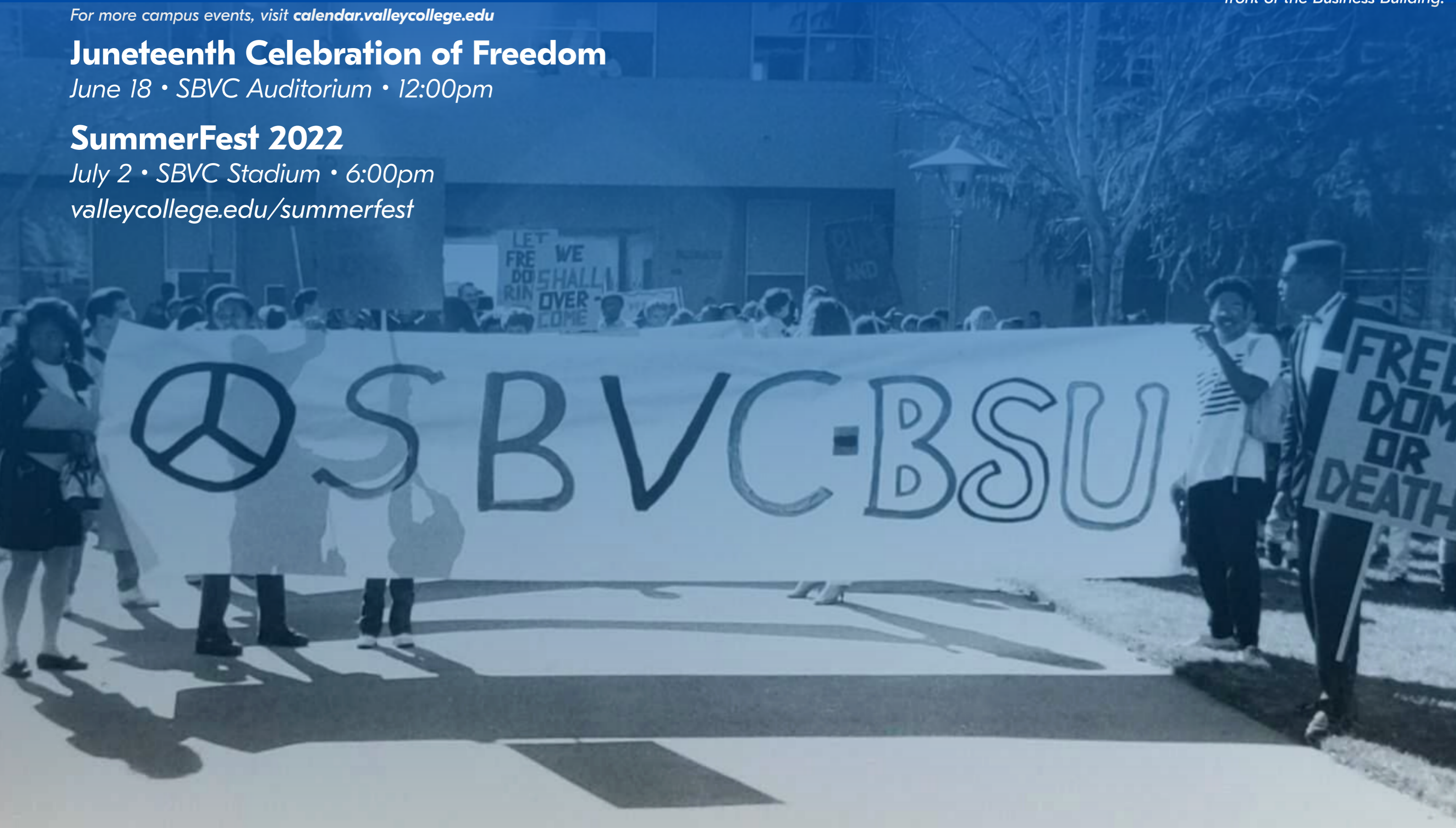
June 18 • SBVC Auditorium • 12:00pm

## SummerFest 2022

July 2 • SBVC Stadium • 6:00pm

[valleycollege.edu/summerfest](https://valleycollege.edu/summerfest)

As SBVC celebrates its 95th anniversary, we look back on some of the college's rich history. In this photo from the 1960s, students from the Black Student Union hold a civil rights demonstration in front of the Business Building.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Gladys Guevara** is the definition of perseverance, pushing through obstacles to earn three college degrees.

This spring, Guevara is graduating from SBVC with her associate's degree in human services and a certificate in addiction studies. This is her second stint at SBVC — nearly a decade ago, this first-generation college student earned her associate's degree in liberal arts and social behavioral science, and in 2017, she received her bachelor's degree from Cal State Fullerton.

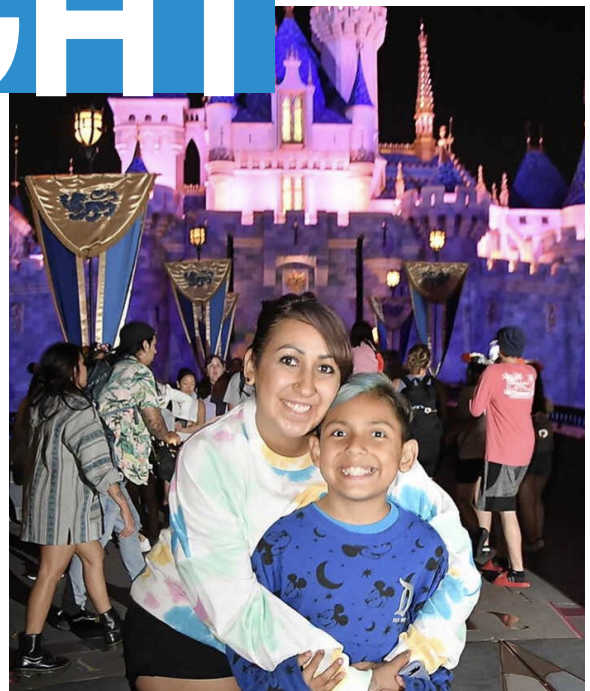
Her original career plan was to become a teacher. Instead, she started working as a behavioral therapist, but her plans were derailed in 2019 when she was in a motorcycle accident. Guevara survived, but the driver did not.

Before getting on the motorcycle, Guevara and the driver were drinking excessively, and the accident was a wakeup call. During her recovery, Guevara used a wheelchair and was limited in where she could go, but one place that was easy to get to was SBVC. She enrolled in classes again and joined the CalWORKs program.

Through CalWORKs, Guevara, a single mom of two, received cash aid and groceries, as well as a job at the San Manuel Stadium. She is now a cook and concessions worker at the stadium, and manages new hires, guiding them through their duties.

"I love it here," Guevara said. "It's like a family."

Guevara is also working a paid internship as a counselor, leading classes over Zoom for individuals who have had DUIs.



"Maybe I'm the one that's going to help them think twice before they drink and drive again," she said. "They might have it in the back of their mind, 'My counselor almost died and someone else did die.' There's a personal connection; you always hear about it on the news, but never think it's going to happen to you."

After graduation, Guevara will finish her addiction counseling hours for licensing, and she has already secured full-time work once this step is completed. She has learned the importance of asking for help, and plans to impart this to the individuals she will be working with.

"A lot of the time, we think that we're independent, but you can be independent while still getting help," Guevara said. "That's what makes you stronger. You can still decide whether you want the help or not, but at least knowing there is help out there makes it so you never feel like you're alone."

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