

PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

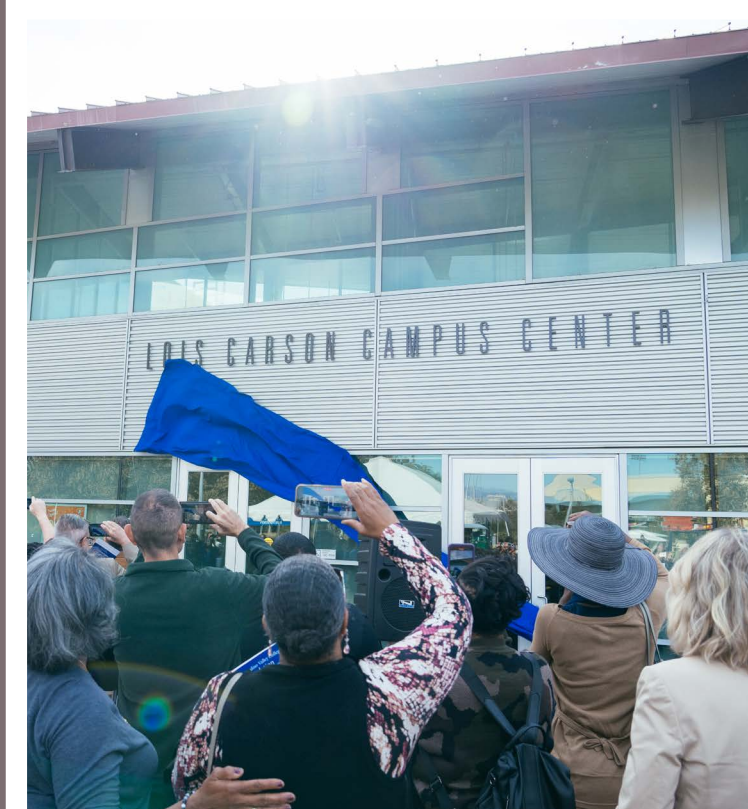
The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community



San Bernardino
Valley College

December 2022

SBVC CELEBRATES THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LOIS CARSON AT BUILDING DEDICATION



It was a full house on Nov. 4, when San Bernardino Valley College dedicated the Lois Carson Campus Center.

The building was renamed in honor of Lois Carson, the first person of color elected to the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees and its longest-serving member to date. An SBVC alumna from the Class of 1965, she spent decades mentoring Inland Empire students, and was passionate about ensuring everyone had access to a quality education.

The building dedication ceremony was attended by family, friends, mentees, local dignitaries, and others looking to celebrate Carson. SBVC Interim President Dr. Scott W. Thayer welcomed the crowd and introduced several speakers, including San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Diana Z. Rodriguez, who called Carson "truly a community giant, a giant in our community, and more than that, she was truly an angel among us, with all of the good she did for people and all the good she held in her heart."

Carson died on July 14, 2021, just shy of her 90th birthday. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to rename SBVC's Campus Center in her honor, after recognizing "the debt owed to her for the lifetime of selfless service to our students and to our community," Rodriguez said.

Several people who were close to Carson, including relatives and mentees, were interviewed for a video that played during the ceremony, and they spoke about her life and legacy. This was followed by remarks from her granddaughter Taylor Williams, who thanked the crowd for showing up and said it showed how much her grandmother's "influence spread in our community and how much she meant to the whole community."

Carson's work "is not done," Williams continued, and her "influence in our lives is still alive and thriving."

In addition to being a teacher, Carson was also deputy director of San Bernardino County Community Action Partnership and later executive director of Community Action Partnership of Riverside County. She served on the SBVC Foundation Board and created SBVC's Lois J. Carson Scholarship, and was honored in 2008 as the Woman of the Year in California's 62nd Assembly District.

HIGHLIGHTS

SBVC STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERS VISIT D.C. FOR NATIONAL SUMMIT



Leaders from San Bernardino Valley College's Associated Student Government (ASG) had a trip to Washington, D.C., they'll never forget, filled with workshops, seminars, and a surprise connection between the National Museum of African American History and Culture and SBVC. They traveled to D.C. for the American Student Government Association National Student Government Summit, held Oct. 5-9. At the conference, they met other students from across the United States, as well as some from Egypt, and attended workshops, presentations, and roundtables.

"I learned that student voices need to be heard and the only way that's going to happen is if we actually question, survey, and talk with our students," Student Senator Allison Molina said. Vice President of Student Senate Byron Stafford was impressed by the "astounding speakers" who gave presentations, and said he requested copies of their PowerPoints "because there was some hard-hitting information that I would like to convey to the students."

They also had time for sightseeing, and while touring the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Marie Maghuyop, student activities specialist, noticed in the Visual Art exhibit a poster from the 1987 premiere of Beauty Shop held at SBVC. The comedy was written, directed, and produced by Shelly Garrett, "who was disappointed with the lack of roles for African American actors in Hollywood, so he decided to write his own plays," Student Senator Alexis Alcantar said. Beauty Shop became "a national phenomenon," she added. "It is very humbling to be part of this college and makes me proud to be a student at SBVC."

SBVC REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND EDUCATION SUMMIT IN GHANA



San Bernardino Valley College Interim President Dr. Scott W. Thayer recently led a delegation to Ghana for a professional experience of a lifetime.

The team attended the All African Diaspora Education Summit at the University of Cape Coast, where they spent several days learning about ways educators can better support Black students and exploring important historical sites. The conference, held Sept. 19 through 24, attracted hundreds of attendees from around the world.

This was a first-time opportunity for SBVC, and during lectures and breakout sessions, participants were able to learn more about the governance of community colleges; supporting Black students, faculty, and staff; creating clear policies on diversity and hiring; being visible to student clubs and cultivating opportunities for learning; and how to address anti-Blackness.

SBVC counselor Tahirah Simpson, who is also co-chair of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Black Caucus, proposed that members of the SBVC community attend the conference, knowing it would be a "profound professional development opportunity."

While still in Ghana, the SBVC delegation discussed how to implement what they learned when back on campus, and "how can we change how we do business to best serve students," Simpson said. There was commonality as well, with the team wanting to create programs focused on highlighting the work of students, especially those who are Black, and doing the work to fully execute new ideas.

"You have to maintain an open mind and be willing to change things," Simpson said. "That was my biggest takeaway."

SBVC RELAUNCHES B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. PROGRAM



B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. is back at San Bernardino Valley College. Founded in 2015 as an all-male FYE cohort, B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. (which stands for Brothers Reaching Out To Help EVERYONE Reach Success) is a student action group that strives

to improve the college experience and academic success of Black male students at SBVC. Resources include entrepreneurial workshops and learning more about financial literacy and mental health awareness.

After going through some restructuring, B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. is relaunching, and "the goal is for it to exist as more than a club, but as a community within the college community, where our members can interact and fellowship amongst themselves, while developing the skills to experience success in the college setting, excel in areas of social and professional health/well-being, and make meaningful connections as it relates to working towards attainment of their objectives while at SBVC," Keenan Giles, EOPS/CARE counselor, said.

It was important to Giles that B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. relaunch "for the simple fact that the narrative of the Black male student has not changed," he said. "We remain the lowest-performing demographic across the board statistically, which has effectively gotten worse throughout the past pandemic period. With an increased pool of resources, intentional institutional support, and the forced pivot we have all had to go through, the timing is perfect to reinvigorate the momentum and make attempts at effecting change."

While B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. is specifically intended for Black male students, "that does not mean exclusively," Giles said. "Statistics show that when efforts are made to address the needs of those most in need, everyone benefits." Any SBVC students interested in joining are asked to contact Giles, Dr. Robert Brown, or EOPS Outreach Specialist Alan Erving.

SNAPSHOTS



SBVC'S STUDENT CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION DONATES THOUSANDS OF SUPPLIES TO LOCAL SCHOOL

For ten years, the members of the SBVC Student California Teachers Association (SCTA) have coordinated a school supply drive on campus. As members of the club and future educators, they are learning of the need to support local teachers who put thousands of their dollars into their classrooms. SCTA Advisor and History Professor, Ed Gomez, said they received thousands of donations this year. As they do every year, SCTA drops off the donations to a local school of their choosing. SCTA has no plans to slow down as they're currently planning their annual "New Clothing Item Drive" that also supports children from local schools. This drive will run from November 26 to December 10.



SBVC PARTNERS WITH AMAZON TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYEES

San Bernardino Valley College has officially partnered with Amazon to expand educational opportunities for the company's employees.

This partnership, called Amazon's Career Choice program, will allow eligible Amazon employees to expand or improve their technical skills or pursue associate's degrees and certificates through San Bernardino Valley College's

on-campus or online programs, while receiving pre-paid tuition benefits to cover the cost of tuition, books and fees. SBVC has joined hundreds of institutions around the world in offering its many degree and certificate programs directly to Amazon employees, many of whom are residents of the San Bernardino Community College District.

"This is a valuable opportunity for Amazon employees to pursue or continue their educational goals," said SBVC interim president Dr. Scott W. Thayer. "SBVC is the best starting point in our community for any student who wants to learn a new skill or earn college credit. We are proud to collaborate with Amazon to make the life-changing career programs we offer more accessible to everyone in our community."

"Amazon is a proud supporter of the SBVC Foundation, especially through this new partnership," said David Ambroz, Amazon's Head of External Affairs & Community Engagement. "Career Choice ensures that our employees can get financial support to advance their skills and careers, lifting up both Amazon's employees and the SBVC community. We know that access to a quality education is key for success in today's world, and we're happy to do our part in ensuring that our employees in San Bernardino can continue to make a difference and receive a college education."

San Bernardino Valley College is committed to providing a high-quality education to learners in the community, preparing students to transfer to four-year universities or enter the workforce. For over 96 years, SBVC has offered degrees and certificates in the liberal arts, science and technology, business, and the humanities. Students can choose from a variety of degrees and certificates that cover many popular, in-demand professions, including pharmacy technology, culinary arts and aeronautics.



GRESHAM ART GALLERY HOSTS FIRST EVER SOUND BATH ON CAMPUS

Art Department Chair Mandi Batalo has studied how environments affect creative thinking for years. Her personal journey involved yoga and she observed that after meditating or after a yoga class, she experienced her best creative thinking. "With interest in mindfulness on campus, it seemed like the right time to bring a sound bath to campus," said Batalo. A meditative experience where people are bathed in sound, sound bathing has increased in popularity in the last year. The gong sound bath at the Gresham Art Gallery brought people from campus and the district together.

The gong sound bath was facilitated by Patty Wildasinn, author of *Yogable: A Gentle Approach to Yoga for Special Population*. The session included gentle movements and sound vibration. Such sound vibration can work on the nervous and glandular systems to help release blocks in the body such as worry and stress.

With requests for more sound baths, Batalo hopes the Gresham Art Gallery can become a center for art, mindfulness and community. Batalo plans for more events at the gallery that center on mindfulness and art, including a Mindfulness and Photography workshop. "We want to use the gallery as a community setting," said Batalo, "so others can view the art, learn from the art, heal with the art, engage in dialogue with the art and each other and come together as a community."

From the lens of (In)Visibility puts the focus on SBVC's FilAm students



Historically seen as an "invisible minority," Filipino/a/x (FilAm) students at San Bernardino Valley College made their voices heard during a recent exhibition on campus, sharing pictures and written narratives about their lives.

"From The Lens of In(Visibility): A Photovoice Inquiry Into How Community Colleges Can

Advance Filipino/a/x American Student Resilience" was on display at SBVC October 27-31. The exhibit was hosted by the San Bernardino Community College Asian Pacific Islander Association (APIA), San Bernardino Community College District Office, and SBVC's Arts and Humanities Department and curated by English Prof. Rangel Zarate. Nine students, many of them from SBVC, participated in the project.



A photovoice exhibition is "a gallery-style display showcasing the lived experiences of minoritized communities through photos and narratives, all while working towards some sort of policy or systemic change for that community," Zarate said. The photos and narratives were collected digitally, and Zarate then printed them on foam boards so they could be displayed on easels.

Participants shared a range of snapshots, showing their daily activities as well as major life moments. "I could describe all of the photos as representative of the students' needs on campus, illustrations of their successes and struggles as FilAms in college during a pandemic and how family, friends, racial trauma, racial identity, and navigating this space all contribute to their resilience," Zarate said. "Part of photovoice is using it as a participatory action research method so the students as co-curators have agency to choose which photos and narratives they wanted displayed at the exhibition as well as who they wanted to invite to the exhibition."

Local dignitaries attended the opening night event, and shared their gratitude for the project, "praising it for its intentionality and its honest reflection on what it means to be a FilAm community college student during a pandemic," Zarate said.

For the students who participated, especially those who live in the Inland Empire, it was "a labor of love," Zarate said. "The exhibition is part of an initiative to visualize and bring to the public consciousness how FilAm students are navigating educational and personal spaces in the midst of the pandemic. The work we have done together for the past three months could not have been possible without their narrative and guidance and we are also proud that we were able to share this work in October during Filipino American History Month."

To view the project's photos, please visit <https://zarar300.wixsite.com/from-the-lens-of--in>

EVENTS



NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16, 2022 | 4:00PM

LOCATION: Auditorium

WINTER BREAK

DECEMBER 24, 2022 - JANUARY 2, 2023

WINTER WONDERLAND / DAY OF SERVICE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17, 2022 | 11:00AM-4:00PM

LOCATION: SBVC

valleycollege.edu/dayofservice



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Growing up in Anaheim, "just a hop, skip, and jump away from Angel Stadium," Bill Norris could usually be found on the baseball or soccer field, or watching a game on television with his dad.

"I was a sports kid," Norris said, and that continued through high school. During his senior year, Norris for the first time didn't make the baseball team, but he found a new role, playing music between innings and reporting game statistics. He made a name for himself, and Anaheim's daily afternoon newspaper came out and wrote a story about him.

From there, Norris' focus shifted toward sports journalism, and he became a newspaper stringer in 1990 while attending Fullerton College. His responsibilities grew after he took a part-time job and began gathering scores, which led to him writing captions and headlines, and it wasn't long before he was laying out the sports section of the newspaper.

This launched Norris' career in journalism, which saw him writing about sports in The Orange County

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Register, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, and The Press-Enterprise. He was one of the many reporters who lost their jobs during the Great Recession, and he had to pivot, writing freelance articles about the Ontario Reign and becoming communications and media relations director for the Ontario Fury. His wife Gina, also a journalist, enrolled at San Bernardino Valley College not long after, and Norris started thinking about following her.

"I wasn't sure I wanted to go back," he said, adding that he was afraid he'd be "older than the teachers." Norris took the plunge and enrolled, and through CalWORKs, received assistance, including gas cards, book vouchers, and educational counseling. His counselor found that some of his credits from Fullerton College could transfer, and in 2017, one year after his wife graduated from SBVC, Norris earned his associate's degree in English.

That wasn't the end of Norris' SBVC story. In February 2017, he applied for the sports information specialist position, and received a job offer three weeks before graduation. He's been in the role ever since, and is a "jack of everything". Norris takes photos, records statistics, creates graphics, writes press releases, updates the SBVC Athletics website with rosters and team pictures, posts to social media, and more. "I'm having fun and I love my job," he said.

Norris earned his bachelor's degree in English from Cal State San Bernardino in 2020, and when he meets student-athletes, he encourages them to finish school and "not take this time for granted." He knows firsthand how fulfilling it is to stick with something and reap the rewards. "I'm doing what I love," Norris said. "If you'd have told me when I was at Fullerton that I'd become a sports information specialist, I would have been ecstatic."