

PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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



San Bernardino
Valley College

January 2023

WINTERFEST WEEK BRINGS SNOW & HOLIDAY CHEER TO CAMPUS

It was a winter wonderland at San Bernardino Valley College, with snow on the ground and holiday spirit in the air.

The sixth annual WinterFest was held December 5-9, a collaborative effort between the Department of Marketing and Public Relations, First Year Experience, and Associated Student Government. A celebration to mark the end of the fall semester and start of Winter Break, WinterFest was a little different this year. For the first time, events were spread out across an entire week.

"It's important to hold these fun and relaxing events for our students so they can take a break in between classes and studying," Public Affairs Coordinator Alejandra Aguilera said. "This season can be stressful and we understand that a lot of our students not only have school to worry about, but work, family, and more. They deserve a break. We also want them to know that their efforts are recognized. We hope that these events really make their experience at SBVC even better than they expected."

The fun kicked off on December 5 with therapy dogs and cats in the Liberal Arts Courtyard, with about 80 students stopping by to pet and hang out with the animals. "I remember finding therapy dogs so comforting when I was going to college out of state and thought it was a good idea to bring that to our campus," Aguilera said.

On December 6, a 24-ton pile of snow appeared on the Library Quad and the campus community was invited to play in it before it melted. Close to 700 students came out for Snow Day, and "it was so magical," Aguilera said. "We brought triple the amount of snow compared to last year. There was lots of student interest in snowplay. It's not every day that you get to play in snow at a college in Southern California."

Two Paint and Sip sessions were held on December 7, with students gathering in the Gresham Art Gallery to paint on canvases while enjoying hot chocolate. On December 8, an outdoor screening of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* took place under the stars in the Greek Theatre. WinterFest came to a dazzling end on December 9, with a special holiday show in the Planetarium.

The feedback from students was "amazing," Aguilera said. "I received many comments about bringing back most of the events, especially the snow, therapy pets, and Paint and Sip." Participants liked that there was one event every day, which "gave all students an opportunity to have some sort of fun," Aguilera said. "We hope to do the same next year, but better!"

Aguilera is incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make WinterFest Week a reality. "That includes our creative, social media, and web team, Associated Student Government, the Office of Student Life, and First Year Experience," she said. "It was very evident at every event that our students had fun. It is such a privilege to be able to help create such awesome memories for our students."



WinterFest 2022 featured therapy dogs and cats, paint & sip sessions hosted by the Gresham Art Gallery, and 24 tons of snow!



HIGHLIGHTS



WORLD-RENOWNED GLASSBLOWERS PERFORM EXHIBITION AT SBVC

The SBVC Art Department coordinated an art exhibition on November 30 that featured renowned glassblowing artists Einar and Jamex De La Torre. In front of a few dozen students and in the warmth of the glassblowing studio at SBVC, they created a three foot heart glass sculpture. Collaborating since the 1990s, the brothers work with mixed media, blown glass sculpture and installation art.

The Guadalajara natives said, "Today we live and work on both sides of the border, The Guadalupe Valley in Baja California, México, and in San Diego. The complexities of our immigrant experience and contradicting bicultural identities, as well as our current life and practice on both sides of the border, inform our art's narrative and aesthetics."

The exhibition lasted two and half hours and was then followed by a Q&A outside of the studio. SBVC student Jacob Anderson asked, "What is a piece of advice you'd give to aspiring students like us?" "The only way you can make a masterpiece is by not thinking about making a masterpiece. Create for yourself and not by the standards of society. Make it your own," concluded the De La Torre Brothers.

CSUSB GRANT TO BENEFIT SBVC STUDENTS

Cal State San Bernardino's College of Arts & Letters recently received a U.S. Department of Education Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Division grant, and part of it will be used to assist San Bernardino Valley College and Norco College students.

This five-year, \$3 million federal grant will give upper-division CSUSB students the chance to mentor arts and humanities students at SBVC and Norco College, helping them prepare for life at a four-year university.

Brian Heisterkamp, a CSUSB professor of communication studies, said STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programs regularly receive funding, and "we wanted to make the argument that arts and humanities needs support as well and so what we're doing is focusing on career readiness and academic success of students in those disciplines."

Through the grant, the community college students will also receive counseling services from CSUSB, while their families can take advantage of a special outreach program that teaches them about the ins and outs of higher education, from financial aid to where to get books for classes. Heisterkamp said he recently spoke with a student whose family told her it isn't necessary to do homework, and this was "shocking. But I think that she's not alone in that some families aren't aware of what it takes outside of the classroom to be successful." By working with the families, they'll learn "things that you can do to help your student be successful, to reach the goal of degree attainment," Heisterkamp said.



SNAPSHOTS

SBVC GOES LIVE ON INSTAGRAM & TIKTOK



In an effort to reach more current and prospective students, the social media team at San Bernardino Valley College hosted two livestreams on Instagram and TikTok for the first time ever. “We need to go where the youth goes and in today’s world, that’s online,” said Alexander Cabrera, a social media specialist at SBVC.

The livestreams were part of a series called “Get the Facts with Blue” and featured representatives from the SBVC Counseling and Outreach Departments, who answered audience questions throughout the live. The livestreams reached over 1,200 viewers. Cabrera is looking forward to hosting a livestream at least once a month moving forward.

SBVC RANKED AMONG TOP CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



San Bernardino Valley College made Intelligent.com's 2023 Best Community Colleges in California list.

There are 213 community colleges in the state offering two-year associate degree programs, and SBVC was ranked 20th. Each school was evaluated on the strength of its academics, faculty, graduation rate, cost, student resources, and reputation, and given an Intelligent Score on a scale of 0 to 100. SBVC earned a score of 90.81.

As Intelligent.com notes, an associate's degree from SBVC boosts not just a person's education, but also their earning potential: they can bring home a median weekly salary of \$963, while those with a high school diploma earn a lower weekly median wage of \$809.

THEATER ARTS DEPT PRODUCES FIRST POST-PANDEMIC MUSICAL



“Don’t feed the plants” was on everyone’s mind after seeing the fall musical production of “Little Shop of Horrors.” The San Bernardino Valley College Theatre Arts Department presented the show on the weekend of December 1st, 2022, making it the first musical the department has produced post-pandemic.



BMW OF NORTH AMERICA PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SBVC STUDENTS



On November 16, the Applied Technology, Transportation & Culinary Arts Department welcomed BMW of North America to campus. Antonio Maldonado, a Step Recruiter for BMW North America, gave a presentation on their Automotive Technician and Paint & Body Technician Apprenticeship programs to SBVC students taking Automotive Technology, Collision & Repair and Heavy/Medium Duty Truck (HMDT) Courses.

Job Developer Peggy Weber shared that these presentations offer opportunities for students to get their questions answered. “These on-site visits also generate excitement about how close they are to the future like a light at the end of the tunnel,” said Weber. The department always encourages employers to make on-campus visits. “Some students don’t have the chance to travel around us and job search can be intimidating,” Weber said. “If we can expose students to real people and have a conversation, we just opened a door of interest and opportunity.”



SBVC HOSTS 2022 #REALCOLLEGE CALIFORNIA BASIC NEEDS SUMMIT

On December 9, SBVC proudly hosted higher education leaders, students and advocacy groups from across the state for the #RealCollegeCalifornia 2022 Basic Needs Summit. The event, led by the Community College League of California's Affordability, Food, and Housing Access Taskforce and presented by Ellucian, sought to identify and elevate equitable practices that increase access to higher education for all students, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Over the course of the day, educators, activists and students convened in SBVC's gymnasium and classrooms to highlight how food and housing insecurity, as well as unfunded and underfunded health and mental health

services, are creating inequity in many California communities, particularly in access to higher education. These issues cause students to stop-out before reaching their academic goals or to forgo a college education altogether. The strong correlation between higher education and students' access to basic needs was never more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The turbulent events of the past few years in our country have upended higher education and placed community colleges squarely at the forefront of redefining what it means to serve our communities," said SBVC Interim President Dr. Scott W. Thayer in a message to event attendees. "As a college that serves some of the most under-resourced communities in our state, we are intimately familiar with the ways in which a lack of resources can make the achievement of academic goals significantly more difficult for today's college students."

The event was kicked off by Dr. Scott W. Thayer and Dr. Nohemy Ornelas, Vice Chancellor of Educational and Student Support Services at SBCCD. Attendees were welcomed and introduced to keynote speaker Reggie Dabbs. Dabbs, widely considered one of the best public school speakers in the U.S., shared his story of growing up in poverty and within the foster

care system. Despite his upbringing, Dabbs found a healthy path forward and has since dedicated his life to sharing a message of hope. His story has resonated with kids struggling with adversity, identity, and belonging in his 22 years of public speaking.

The rest of the summit was filled with coaching sessions from various community college leaders and advocates from across the state. Topics included "Compton College Guaranteed Income Program," "Creating A Student Housing Mission from A Basic Needs Perspective," and "From Needs to Rights: Preserving Student Dignity and Autonomy," to name just a few of the nearly 20 coaching sessions offered during the event.

Attendees reconvened twice during the day. During lunch, Dr. Scott W. Thayer, SBVC's Dean of Student Engagement and Wellness Raymond Carlos, SBVC's Interim Basic Needs Coordinator Maritza Portillo and Full Measure's Enterprise Customer Success Manager Jacob Hoggard presented "Basic Needs Resources in the Palm of Students' Hands". The day wrapped with General Session "Integrating Basic Needs and Mental Health for Student Success," led by Bakersfield College's Dean of Students Nicky Damania, Basic Needs Program Manager Caitlin Davidson and Students of Concern Manager Kimy Salazar.

EVENTS

OPENING DAY

FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2023

MLK DAY

MONDAY JANUARY 16, 2023

SPRING TERM BEGINS

TUESDAY JANUARY 17, 2023

*Happy 2023
from SBVC!*



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