



# PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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



**GOAL 1**  
ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

**GOAL 2**  
BE A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, & ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION.

**GOAL 3**  
BE A LEADER & PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES.

**GOAL 4**  
ENSURE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY.

## HALL OF FAME ALUMNUS RETURNS TO SBVC TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SBVC ATHLETES



One number changed Tyree Washington's life: 44.52. It catapulted the Riverside native to stardom, taking him from the track at San Bernardino Valley College to the worldwide stage. 44.52 was the time he ran in 1997, when he broke the national record for 400 meters.

"It was the number two time in the world," Washington said. "I became this unknown to known athlete." It was all up from there. Washington went on to earn a bronze medal at the 1997 Outdoor World Championships and silver medals in the 200 and 400 meters at the 1998 Goodwill Games. In 2003, he was the Indoor World Champion for 400 meters, Outdoor World Champion for 400 meters, USA Indoor 400 meters champion, and World Outdoor silver medalist. Twice, Washington was the fastest man in the world.

Washington also excelled at football, and in the early 2000s was signed by the San Diego Chargers and picked up by the Oakland Raiders, but injuries derailed his time in the NFL. Now, he's bringing everything he learned from traveling the world and competing as a professional athlete to SBVC, where he is the new assistant coach for Track and Field.

Returning to SBVC "feels amazing," Washington said. "For me, Valley has always been home." To have this full circle moment and "come back and pass the baton to other students athletes, it's part of my mission in life, and I'm excited about it." As a coach, "you wear different hats," Washington said. Sometimes, he listens to them as if he's their father; other times, he's a therapist. "You're giving advice and leading them to the right direction, and equipping them with the right tools to be successful," he said. "I'm passing on what was given to me, and paying it forward."

**GOAL 3: BE A LEADER & PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES.**

# "CONCERT UNDER THE STARS" BRINGS MUSIC, ART, & COMMUNITY TO SBVC

GOAL 2: BE A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, & ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION.



"Concert Under the Stars" is a family-friendly event that features live art, performances, poetry readings and DJs. The event is open to all ages and showcases the diversity of the vibrant arts and culture scene of the Inland Empire and occurs every 3rd Saturday of the month.

"We are thrilled to be hosting 'Concert Under the Stars' and to bring music and art to our community," said Music Changing Lives CEO and Founder Josiah Bruny, the organizer of the event. "Good Vibes Only" is the motto for "Concert Under the Stars." The organizers hope attendees will join them in building a better, more inclusive future for the San Bernardino community.

In addition to live performances, "Concert Under the Stars" will feature a night market with vendor opportunities for informational, merchant and food booths. For more information about "Concert Under the Stars" or Music Changing Lives, visit [www.musicchanginglives.org](http://www.musicchanginglives.org).

## THE VRC PROVIDES A SAFE & INCLUSIVE SPACE DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

San Bernardino Valley College's Veterans Resource Center (VRC) recently held an empowering event for female students on March 28, spearheaded by student O'Nesha Valentine. The event provided a platform for female students to share their personal stories and experiences, and to encourage one another. Interim President Linda Fontanilla, herself a veteran of the US Air Force in the Vietnam Era, was in attendance and spoke of the importance of veteran women serving in the military.

Valentine, a psychology major who is set to graduate this year, shared her own story of perseverance, stating that despite facing obstacles and ups and downs in life, she never let those challenges deter her from achieving her goals. She expressed a desire to inspire and encourage other female students to do the same, emphasizing that with faith and hard work, anything is possible.

By providing a safe and inclusive space for female students to connect and share their stories, the event helped to foster a sense of empowerment and solidarity among attendees. Veterans Resource Coordinator Jason Alvarez recognized that statistically the military is male dominated, but expressed, "our campus is diverse! We do have female veterans and it's important that the VRC is a place that is welcome to all."



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## WOMEN'S LUNCHEON BRINGS DIVERSE PROFESSIONAL GROUP TO CAMPUS



The San Bernardino County Association of African American Employees (SBCAAAE), in partnership with the San Bernardino Community College District Black Faculty & Staff Association, recently hosted the First Annual Women's History Month Luncheon at San Bernardino Valley College. The luncheon, held on March 30, was a great success and was attended by a diverse group of women from various backgrounds, professions, and age groups.

The purpose of the event was to celebrate all women. Melissa Watson Ward, deputy affiliate director at Emerge California, spoke about the importance of supporting and empowering one another. The event also provided an opportunity for attendees to network with other women and connect with organizations that support women's empowerment and advancement.

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# SENIOR DAY 2023 WELCOMES OVER 600 LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLERS TO CAMPUS

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San Bernardino Valley College's Senior Day was held on April 6 this year. It is an annual event where high school seniors from all over the Inland Empire region visit the campus. The event is designed to provide the students with valuable information about the college's programs, resources, and services. The 2023 Senior Day event was the largest turnout to date, with 538 students attending.

The event was organized by the college's Outreach team, led by Amanda Moody and Justine Plemons. The event kicked off at the SBVC Auditorium, where Interim President Dr. Linda Fontanilla and the executive team welcomed the seniors. Outreach Coordinator Justine Plemons shared that among the seniors surveyed, 77% enjoyed the event and 67% learned something valuable. "This is a testament to the relationships the SBVC Outreach Team have cultivated with our K-12 partners. The feedback among students and chaperones was overwhelmingly positive," shared Plemons.

## LOCAL KINDERGARTNERS EXPERIENCE SBVC

KinderCaminata, a collaboration between SBVC and the San Bernardino City Unified School District, brought more than 1,200 students from 26 elementary schools to the SBVC campus. The event took place over six days in March and April, and organizers hope to make this an annual event. SBVC's Outreach team organized KinderCaminata, and Outreach Coordinator Amanda Moody said both teachers and administrators were "very happy" with how it turned out. "It was an amazing event," she added. "We hosted over 1,200 kindergarten students, who we hope will be future Wolverines."

During KinderCaminata, students viewed a STEM-MESA presentation and theater arts performance, and participated in events with SBVC mascot Blue. The college is all about making connections with the community, and being able to show kids everything higher education has to offer is part of that mission.

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## SBVC'S WOLVERINE CON SHINES IN ITS 12TH YEAR

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San Bernardino Valley College's Wolverine Con and International Student Film Festival has once again exceeded expectations with its 12th annual event. The festival provided a platform for aspiring filmmakers to showcase their talent and for industry professionals to share their knowledge and expertise. The festival's premiere of the SBVC FTVM Department's first-ever hour drama project, "Lynwood High," was a significant moment. Mariana Lapizco, a former business major turned filmmaker, won the awards for Best Directing and Grand Jury for her film, "Blood Ties." Lapizco and her production team, Phase 3 Films, blended a mix of ethnicities and languages, and even secured a hangar with airplanes from Riverside Municipal Airport, which added to the visual element of the thrilling and action-packed short-film. Lapizco shared her gratitude for her team and the decision to pursue film, saying, "I'm really grateful that I took a leap of faith and changed my major to Film, TV, and Media here at San Bernardino Valley College."

Submissions for the 2024 Wolverine Con and SBVC International Student Film Festival are open and three films have already been submitted at [filmfreeway.com/SBVC\\_FilmFest](http://filmfreeway.com/SBVC_FilmFest). SBVC FTVM Department Chair Lucas Cuny praised the festival, saying, "We're always amazed at the talent and dedication of the filmmakers who submit their work to the festival. It's truly an honor to be able to provide a platform for them to showcase their skills and creativity." For more information about SBVC's Film, TV, and Media Department, visit [valleycollege.edu/ftvm](http://valleycollege.edu/ftvm).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 11** | **Transfer Celebration**  
5:00 PM | SBVC Auditorium

**May 20** | **Concert Under the Stars**  
5:00 PM | Greek Theatre

**May 12** | **Pharmacy Technology  
Pinning Ceremony**  
10:00 AM | B-100

**May 21** | **Nuestra Graduación**  
5:00 PM | Greek Theatre

**May 13** | **Black Grad**  
4:00 PM | SBVC Auditorium

**May 24** | **Commencement 2023**  
9:00 AM | San Manuel Stadium  
[valleycollege.edu/commencement](http://valleycollege.edu/commencement)

**May 13** | **Pacific Islander  
Graduation**  
4:00 PM | Greek Theatre

**May 25** | **Middle College High School  
Graduation**  
6:00 PM | Greek Theatre

**May 15** | **Lavender Grad**  
12:00 PM | B-100

**June 17** | **Juneteenth Celebration**  
10:00 AM | SBVC Campus

**May 19** | **Nursing  
Pinning Ceremony**  
4:00 PM | Auditorium

**July 1** | **SummerFest 2023**  
5:00 PM | SBVC Stadium  
[valleycollege.edu/SummerFest](http://valleycollege.edu/SummerFest)



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