



PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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



TAKING FLIGHT:
SOARING WITH PARTNERS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

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.

FORMER NASA ASTRONAUT INSPIRES FUTURE GENERATIONS AT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY COLLEGE

As part of its celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, San Bernardino Valley College hosted *Hasta La Raiz: Rooted in Excellence*, featuring Mexican-American astronaut and engineer José Hernández, on October 12 at the SBVC Auditorium.

The auditorium was packed for the event, with some attendees standing to hear Hernández speak. SBVC students from the physics, chemistry, aeronautics, and STEM/MESA programs were in attendance along with SBVC faculty and staff members. Over 400 local students and school district parents attended from Clement Middle School, Vista Del Lago High School, Grand Terrace High School, Bloomington High School, and Colton High School.

The event was an opportunity to motivate students to reach for the stars, both figuratively and literally, by highlighting Hernández's improbable career journey. Growing up in a family of migrant farmworkers, it was difficult for Hernández to imagine that he could end up someday working on a NASA space mission. But career opportunities materialized after his college education. His introduction to space exploration began in 2001 as a materials research engineer at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Hernández was then selected by NASA in 2004 to become an astronaut, setting him up for the significant milestone of serving as a mission specialist on the Space Shuttle's STS-128 mission in 2009.

Hernández's accomplishments continue beyond his time with NASA. After leaving the agency, he served as the Executive Director of Strategic Operations at MEI Technologies in Texas and ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012. Currently, as the CEO of Tierra Luna Engineering, LLC, he continues to contribute to the fields of engineering and space exploration.



Left to right: Maria del Carmen Rodriguez, Dean Marco Cota, Aida Gil, José Hernández, Dr. Linda Fontanilla



Former NASA astronaut José Hernández onstage in the SBVC Auditorium



\$1 MILLION+ IN 2 YEARS AWARDED TO STUDENTS BY FOUNDATION

Over the last two academic years, the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation has awarded \$1,084,358 in scholarships to 768 students - the largest amount it has ever granted in a 2-year period. This funding was distributed in the form of 1,350 scholarships with an average amount of \$806 per award, helping students to cover their education-related costs.

The largest individual scholarship is the \$3,000 Valley-Bound Commitment award, funded by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. The Valley-Bound Commitment program was launched in 2008 and helps remove some of the barriers that keep many low-income students from enrolling in college. In their first year, Valley-Bound Commitment students have all of their tuition, fees and supplies covered, as well as access to priority registration and a dedicated counseling staff.

The Finish Line Scholars Program has also made a difference, with more than \$284,000 in scholarships distributed to SBVC students over the last two academic years, with each award worth \$2,065.21. This program is made possible by The Jay Pritzker Foundation, with the funds awarded through the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

SBVC FOUNDATION AWARDED \$25,000

SOCAL CLIMATE CHAMPIONS GRANT



Foreground, left to right: SoCalGas representatives Allison Dourigan & Sarita Figueroa, Vanessa Thomas, Berchman "Kenny" Melancon, Mike Layne, Justin Martinez, Dr. Linda Fontanilla

San Bernardino Valley College's Clean Energy/EV Tech Program is getting a major boost thanks to a \$25,000 grant from SoCalGas. In September, the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation was awarded the SoCal Climate Champions Grant to use for the CNG/Clean Energy Training Expansion project.

There is growing workforce demand for specialists in clean energy and zero emission vehicle engine repair and the funds will be used to purchase training modules and classroom tools for a second lab section. Over the past decade, SBVC has been at the forefront of efforts to prepare the future workforce for careers in operating and maintaining clean energy and zero emission vehicles through the heavy/medium duty truck program.

The grant recipients are "trailblazers," SoCalGas Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer Jawaad Malik said, and the utility company is "proud to support projects that bring our communities closer to meeting California's net-zero emissions goals." The grants are very competitive, with only 13 nonprofit organizations receiving awards this year. Each institution is involved with programs, projects, and research that address climate solutions in Southern California communities for working toward a clean energy future. "The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation is proud to partner with SoCalGas to provide meaningful community climate solutions," SBVC Foundation Director Mike Layne said. "The innovations catalyzed by the SoCal Climate Champions Grant awards will make all our communities in Southern California more sustainable and resilient." Layne stated that with this award, "SoCalGas is leveraging the power of our community college and its people to deliver an innovative climate and workforce solution for the region, while creating pathways to thriving wage jobs for our most marginalized students."

GOAL 4: ENSURE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY.



SBVC'S HEAVY/MEDIUM DUTY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM SHINES AT STEP CON

SBVC was well represented at this year's STEPCon (Science and Technology Education Partnership Conference) held at the Bourns Technology Center in Riverside. The event attracted approximately 2,200 K-12 students from San Bernardino and Riverside County schools.

The Heavy/Medium Duty Technology Program was present thanks to department head Berchman "Kenny" Melancon, who brought the department's new electric Audi and heavy duty truck for students to view.

The STEPCon event provided an excellent opportunity for students to gain practical knowledge in science and technology. The interactive displays and roundtable discussions allowed attendees to engage with experts in the field and get a deeper understanding of the latest advancements in transportation. A highlight of the event was the science show, where students were entertained while learning about complex scientific concepts.

The presence of the Heavy/Medium Duty Technology Program was a great addition to the event, as students were able to view the electric Audi and heavy duty truck up close and learn about the technology behind them.

Left to right: Heavy/Medium Duty Truck Technology Department Head Berchman "Kenny" Melancon, Associate Professor of Automotive Technology Manuel M. Loera.

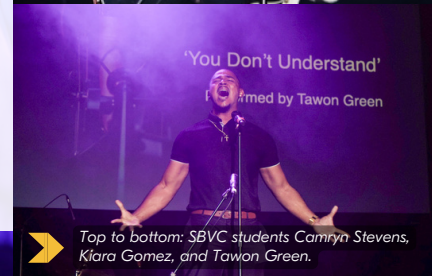
GOAL 3: BE A LEADER & PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES.

SOUND OF RECOVERY CONCERT CELEBRATES NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

On September 28, San Bernardino Valley College and the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health partnered to present the "The Sound of Recovery" in celebration of National Recovery Month, following up on the success of last year's event.

This partnership innovatively highlights the vital connection between the arts and mental health, offering a platform for individuals to express their journeys of recovery through music and other artistic forms. The event not only promotes healing and resilience but also underscores the importance of community support in the journey towards mental wellness. Over the course of the event, the SBVC Auditorium filled with the melodies of original songs inspired by local individuals and their recovery stories. SBVC students had the opportunity to showcase their talents onstage, with students Camryn Stevens, Kiara Gomez, Derek Edouse, Cherish Jackson, and Tawon Green participating as part of the line-up of musicians and artists.

Observing National Recovery Month makes it clear that SBVC cares "deeply for our community," SBVC music professor Margaret Worsley said. "Recovery affects everyone. However, given the nature of our systems and cultural norms, we are not always open about the profound repercussions of drug and alcohol addiction. By participating in recovery awareness, SBVC is showing our students and the community that we see them and we support them in their journey to wellness."



Top to bottom: SBVC students Camryn Stevens, Kiara Gomez, and Tawon Green.

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



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

MELITA CALDWELL-BETTIES

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Melita Caldwell-Betties' career history spans a diverse spectrum: police services, postal operations, and water resource management. In 1989, Ms. Caldwell-Betties accepted a part-time position with the Eastern Municipal Water District as a Relief Operations Dispatcher. When the District was recruiting women in its field operations, she then embarked on a dramatic career change as a Water Reclamation Department operator-in-training. Acquiring a background in science through pre-med courses undertaken while in college, Ms. Caldwell-Betties was a prime candidate. After a series of promotions to Plant Operator I, II, III, and Lead Operator, Melita Caldwell-Betties retired after twenty-three years of dedicated service with the job title of Water Reclamation Plant Manager for the Temecula Valley Water Reclamation Facility.

As a Water Reclamation Plant Manager, Ms. Caldwell-Betties was responsible for the management and direction of wastewater treatment plant operations along with service delivery of reclaimed water to off-site users, as well as providing reliable un-interrupted sewer service to the community. The position required initiative and dependability with a willingness to be original in approach, adaptable and to provide decisive leadership. With minimal oversight, her career with Eastern Municipal Water District was marked by a history of demonstrated success in the delivery of superior public services and dissemination of public policy pertinent to water resources through vocational training.

Taking an active role in the development of top caliber individuals within the water industry, Ms. Caldwell-Betties has been putting her expertise to work teaching water supply operations as an Associate Professor for the Water Supply Technology Program at San Bernardino Valley College. Ms. Caldwell-Betties holds both a bachelor's degree in business management from University of Redlands and a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in Water Resources Management from California State University, San Bernardino. One of her most professionally-satisfying accomplishments can be best described as the recognition given in a news article that appeared in the North County Times entitled "Woman Thrives in an Unusual Job," which exemplified her abilities to work with a diverse staff, community and student body.

EVENTS

Nov 15 | Native American Day Celebration

9:00 AM | B-100

Dec 4-7

WinterFest Week
valleycollege.edu/winterfest

Dec 7

President's Holiday Gathering
11:00 AM | LCCC



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