



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.

SBVC HONORS API HERITAGE WITH INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM & EVENTS

A new way of learning is coming to San Bernardino Valley College in Spring 2024. A cohort of up to 25 students will take two courses together, ENGL 101 and COMMST 100, taught through the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) lens. The courses will be taught with culturally inclusive materials, spanning a wide range of API experiences. Students will read memoirs by Samoan, Hawaiian, Tongan, Filipino American (FilAm), and Fijian authors; explore FilAm storytelling; research culturally significant subjects from the perspective of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, and other API communities; and engage in poetry and oral history projects.

The students taking the courses will tackle "exciting semester-long projects" together, "enhancing their cultural awareness and language proficiency," English Professor Dr. Rangel Zarate said. This learning community is called Taytayan, a Cebuano word that translates to "bridge." The name "beautifully encapsulates the vital role that mentorship, advocacy, community, and the cohort will play in the academic and personal journeys of San Bernardino Valley College students," Zarate said.

Though API Heritage Month is officially celebrated in May, The API community continues to create a cultural impact on campus by hosting API-centered events throughout October and November in honor of Filipino Heritage Month. The final home football game of the 2023 season was turned into a celebration for Island Heritage. Island Heritage Game Day, as it was coined, featured special half-time performances, food trucks and an opportunity to donate to the relief efforts of those impacted by the devastating fires that affected Maui this year.

Local nonprofit The Young S.A.M.O.A., which is helmed by local catering business Fire Knife Kitchen, provided complimentary food for attendees of Island Heritage Game Day. The Young S.A.M.O.A. is a community-based group in San Bernardino that works to serve at-risk & disadvantaged Inland Empire youth while raising better awareness and education of Samoan and Pacific Islander culture.



Island Heritage Game Day featured multicultural performances on the football field during halftime.



Left to right: Kai Matautia and Maya Matautia of local nonprofit The Young S.A.M.O.A. provided complimentary catering for SBVC's Island Heritage Game Day on November 11.

SBVC DEBUTS “THE WIZ” PRODUCTION WITH SOLD-OUT SHOW



Left to right: Camryn Stevens, Jhu Maani Chess, Samuel Rodriguez, Miracle Massi, Alexander Cabrera, Michael A. Daniels perform onstage in *The Wiz*.

The San Bernardino Valley College theatre department has a long-standing reputation for producing quality performances, and this Fall’s production of *The Wiz* is no exception. The production is a result of collaboration across multiple SBVC departments and programs, as well as the local community. “This is the largest and most elaborate SBVC theatrical production in recent memory, with a cast of 40 actors, 10 costume designers, 10 technical crew members and a large team of faculty and staff,” Director Melinda Fogle said. “The cast includes actors of all ages from local elementary school students, middle schoolers and college-age students to a couple of canines!”

SBVC’s Umoja-Tumaini program played a significant part in bringing *The Wiz* to the stage. “The *Wiz* production was presented by Umoja, who initiated the collaboration with our theater department after years of trying. Umoja Counselor, Dr. Daniele Smith-Morton and CalWorks Counselor, Leslie Gregory also had a hand in casting, purchasing materials and approving costumes and songs. The larger hand that our counterparts and I played in the production has been to make sure it was culturally correct with respect to the original production and film,” stated Umoja Coordinator Frederick Jones.

The Wiz opened to a sold-out show on November 16. Outreach Coordinator Justine Plemons summed up the excitement of the evening. “This fall semester the Outreach Department partnered with Arts and Humanities to showcase Opening Night of *The Wiz* on November 16. Refreshments were served to guests, the cast, and crew before the doors opened. The auditorium was transformed for the evening. Over 300 people were in awe as our students took the stage. Students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered to support opening night. It was a privilege to showcase our talented students and faculty.”

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION & CAREER FAIR HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL STUDENT SUCCESS

The Special Education Department (SPED) College and Career Fair was held at San Bernardino Valley College on November 4, 2023 and drew over 75 participants. It was the 3rd Annual SPED College and Career Fair and demonstrated the successful collaboration between the San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) and SBVC’s Student Equity Division.

This year’s event was held at SBVC for the second consecutive year and was “a resounding success,” said division dean Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez. The idea for the event had originally been proposed by a former SBCUSD student who wanted to ensure that students with special abilities were not excluded from support services and opportunities available to them on campus or after graduation. SBCUSD reached out to various vendors to showcase their programs and services, and parents and students were able to attend a range of educational workshops with SBVC’s student support services, including Student Accessibility Services (SAS), the High Tech Center, Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOP&S), and the CSUSB SAIL program, as well as community workshops that highlighted the opportunities available to students after graduation.

The event’s highlight was the student panel, in which successful SBVC alumni spoke about the services they had taken advantage of while attending SBVC that enabled them to transfer and continue their education at universities, such as the California State University of San Bernardino. The speakers emphasized the importance of seeking assistance and taking advantage of the available opportunities for students at SBVC.



Over 75 participants attended the annual SPED College & Career Fair held at SBVC on November 4.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

DR. FONTANILLA FOSTERS OPEN DISCUSSION AT SBVC WITH “MY CAMPUS, MY COMMUNITY, MY CULTURE” SERIES

Throughout the months of October and November, San Bernardino Valley College’s Office of the President hosted a series of events called “My Campus, My Community, My Culture,” led by Interim President Dr. Linda Fontanilla. The series of open forums created a space for open dialogue and discussion about the diverse cultures and communities that contribute to the sociocultural fabric of SBVC’s employee family.

The sessions allowed attendees to engage in free discussion, sharing their concerns, perspectives, and insights with each other and Dr. Fontanilla. Administrators were able to hear the diverse needs of campus constituents, as well as to explore effective strategies to ensure that employee voices are heard and their unique life experiences are respected.

“At SBVC, we have a commitment to cultivating safe environments where diversity isn’t just acknowledged, but embraced,” said Dr. Linda Fontanilla. “Through initiatives like this, we’re fostering a workplace that thrives on the strength of our differences.”



➤ Interim President Dr. Linda Fontanilla engages with campus and community members at a “My Campus, My Community, My Culture” forum in October.

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

SBVC’S VRC CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY WITH SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT

San Bernadino Valley College's Veterans Resource Center (VRC) honored veterans on November 9 with a special community event filled with free food, games, entertainment and prizes. The Veterans Resource Center went above and beyond to honor those who have served their country by creating a fun and supportive atmosphere in celebration of all those who have served. The celebration was an opportunity for the SBVC community to come together and show their appreciation for our veterans.

The inclusion of the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion of Upland and recruiters from the Army and Navy added to the event's sense of community and camaraderie. “It was heartwarming to see such a great turnout from the SBVC campus and community,” said alumnus Alexander Cabrera. “Our VRC should be commended for organizing such a unique celebration and for their ongoing efforts to provide support for veterans in the SBVC community.”



➤ Interim President Dr. Linda Fontanilla and SBVC alumnus Daniel Hinojosa in front of a tactical vehicle at the Veterans Day Celebration in November.



➤ SBVC mascot “Blue the Wolverine” poses with a local cadet corp at the Veterans Day event on November 9, 2023.

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



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

GAGE HENSLEY

The Primetime Emmy Awards recently recognized San Bernardino Valley College alumnus Gage Hensley of Colton, California, and his team at Industrial Light and Magic for their work. Hensley is a part of the team behind the magic that viewers see on the television series “The Mandalorian” and “Ahsoka.” Hensley’s team was recognized in the Engineering, Science, and Technology category.

Hensley said he was excited to receive the award and credited SBVC’s Film, Television and Media (FTVM) program, and its Institute of Media Arts (IMA), which provides career development services, for teaching him many of the skills that have helped him break into the industry.

“The FTVM department did a remarkable job of both creating a community of peers and staying up to date with modern technique/equipment while simultaneously teaching the tried-and-true methods from every era,” Hensley said. “I still come back to help out on projects and give speeches whenever I have the time.”

While in the FTVM program, Hensley was a curious student, recalled SBVC’s IMA Director Lucas Cuny. “The drive that Gage has is really key to this or any subject you want to learn,” Cuny said. “We were very impressed by his willingness to listen and a solid ability to adapt. This industry requires all of those in abundance.”

Although he is confident in continuing to work in the film and television industry, Hensley was not so sure about college. When he was accepted in SBVC’s program, however, he dedicated himself fully to his studies.

Hensley said any aspiring film student should strongly consider SBVC.

“I think it’s one of the best places to learn about film as an art and an industry. The school has created a safe place to succeed and fail, giving you plenty of room to learn any avenue of film you want to explore. I would recommend this college to anyone serious about a film or television career.”

SBVC alumnus and Primetime Emmy award winner Gage Hensley. Photo Credit: Kelly Urban.

EVENTS

Dec 4-7 | WinterFest Week
valleycollege.edu/winterfest

Dec 7 | President’s Holiday Gathering
11:00 AM | LCCC

Dec 22 - Jan 7 | Winter Break

Jan 12 | Spring 2024 Opening Day



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