

# President's Board of Trustees Report

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

Celebrating 99 Years of Community, Growth & Transformation

JULY 2024

## SBVC Sees 19% Enrollment Surge During Spring 2024 Semester

SBVC has experienced a significant enrollment increase in the spring semester of 2024, with 12,832 students registering for classes by the census date. This marks a 19% rise from the 10,754 students enrolled in the spring of 2023, and an even more substantial 31% increase from the 9,754 students in Spring 2022.

This remarkable growth can be attributed to the SBVC's "all-hands-on-deck" approach to enrollment management, with a campus-wide, coordinated effort to streamline scheduling, improve course offerings, as well as major investments in outreach, marketing, retention, and community relations efforts. These initiatives have not only drawn new students but also improved retention rates, ensuring that more students started or continued their education at SBVC this past spring.

"The substantial increase we see in our enrollment numbers is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of our classified professionals, faculty and administrators. Their commitment to outreach and student support has helped to foster a welcoming and engaging environment that resonates with both prospective and returning students," said Dr. Linda Fontanilla, Interim President of SBVC.

JULY 2024 PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



### 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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 9  
9:00am

Fall 2024  
Opening Day  
SBVC Auditorium

Aug 12

Fall 2024  
Classes Begin

More Events:  
[valleycollege.edu/calendar](http://valleycollege.edu/calendar)



# SBCCD APIA Holds Inaugural Asian & Pacific Islander Grad

On April 29, SBVC buzzed with excitement and pride as it hosted the inaugural Asian & Pacific Islander Grad Luncheon. This landmark event, organized by the San Bernardino Community College District's Asian & Pacific Islander Association (APIA), celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2024, bringing together graduates and dignitaries from across the district.

Dozens of graduates, along with their families and friends, gathered to honor the hard work and perseverance that led to this milestone achievement. The luncheon included traditional Asian and Pacific Islander performances, adding a unique cultural touch to the festivities and providing an educational aspect that enriched attendee's understanding of the diverse cultures represented at the college.

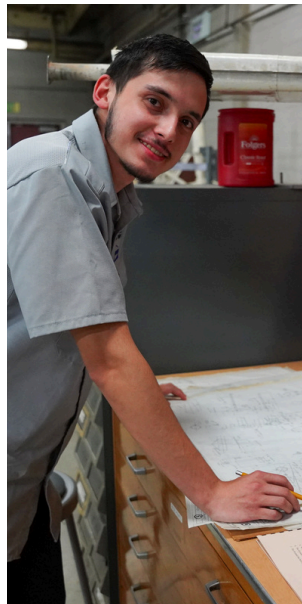
Interim President Dr. Linda Fontanilla underscored the importance of such celebrations. "This luncheon is not just a celebration of academic achievements; it is a vital recognition of the cultural heritage that our students bring to our campus. It's essential for our graduates, faculty, and staff to see and celebrate this diversity, as it enhances our community and broadens our perspectives."



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

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## Expanding Opportunities: SBVC's New Credit for Prior Learning Program



SBVC is proud to announce the launch of its new Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) program, designed to acknowledge and validate the diverse experiences and skills students acquire outside of conventional academic environments. This program enables students to earn college credits through various assessments that recognize prior learning from work, military service, or other educational pursuits.

The CPL program at SBVC offers several pathways for students to demonstrate their knowledge and competencies. These include standardized exams such as CLEP and DSST, evaluations of military training as per the American Council on Education (ACE) recommendations, and assessments of workplace and other training that align with college-level coursework. Additionally, the program considers learning from licenses and certifications that match SBVC's curriculum, providing a streamlined process to translate professional achievements into academic credit.

Students interested in the CPL program can benefit significantly by accelerating their educational journey, potentially saving on tuition and reducing the time required to graduate. This program not only supports students who have taken non-traditional routes to education but also emphasizes the college's commitment to diversity and inclusion in educational opportunities. For more detailed information about the CPL program and to start the application process, please visit the SBVC CPL webpage at [www.valleycollege.edu/cpl](http://www.valleycollege.edu/cpl).

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



# SBCCD Appoints Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras 15th President of San Bernardino Valley College

The San Bernardino Community College District is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras as the next president of San Bernardino Valley College. This appointment, made by Chancellor Diana Z. Rodriguez and confirmed by the SBCCD Board of Trustees on Thursday, May 9, follows a national search involving students, faculty, classified professionals, administrators, alumni, and community stakeholders. Dr. Contreras steps into his new role on July 1, taking the helm of the college as it nears its 100th anniversary, a major milestone for the institution.

Dr. Contreras, who holds a Ph.D. from UCLA in Urban Planning, a Masters in City Planning from MIT, and a B.A. from UC Berkeley, has over 17 years of leadership experience in California's community colleges. He served as Vice President of Student Services and Interim President at Fullerton College. He also brings a strong connection to the local higher education landscape, having taught at CSU San Bernardino, where he instructed a doctoral course on governance and policy.

He served as an Instructor and Teaching Fellow at UCLA in the Department of Chicana/o Studies and led the first-ever Chicana/o Studies module at MIT. His scholarly work has contributed to prominent publications and conferences with an emphasis on community colleges.



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

## Middle College High School Receives Prestigious California Exemplary Dual Enrollment Award



In recognition of its commitment to providing a quality and equitable education and high student success rates, Middle College High School (MCHS) has been honored with a 2024 Exemplary Dual Enrollment Award from the California Department of Education.

"The whole school is excited, and the parents are extremely excited," MCHS Principal James Espinoza said. "We're excited not just for ourselves, but also because it's an acknowledgment of the work we've been doing the last 11 years, work centered around equality and closing gaps for previously underserved students. Everything we've been doing in the last 11 years has been intentional and by design."

MCHS partners with San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) and the San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) to offer an alternative to traditional high school, with students earning college credit. Most are the first in their families to attend college and came to MCHS underperforming in relation to their ability.

SBVC counselors develop educational plans for each student and revisit them every semester, and the goal is to graduate with a high school diploma, an associate's degree, and/or an Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) certification, allowing them to attend UC or CSU colleges.

"Together, Valley and San Bernardino Unified School District and Middle College students and staff are able to close the gap on going to college and college completion and able to change the perception of what first-generation students can do," Espinoza said.

The school's numbers speak for themselves — the Class of 2023 had a 100 percent graduation rate, with each student walking away with at least 50 college credits. Nearly 50 percent earned associates degrees, 62 percent had IGETC certification, and all were accepted to four-year colleges.

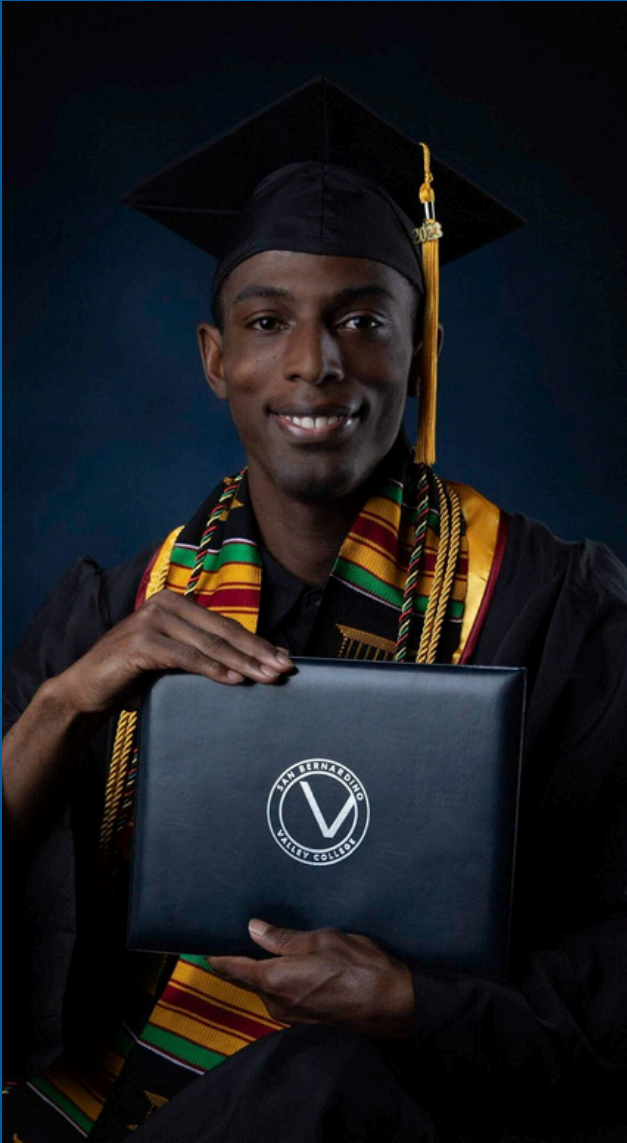
Middle College High School celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



# Alumni Spotlight

**Denmark Harris** reflects on the supportive environment he found at SBVC as he completes his B.A. at U.C. Berkeley.



Denmark Harris faced challenges early in life, including bullying and family responsibilities, which caused him to struggle to pursue his education consistently.

However, a shift in mentality led him to SBVC, where he embarked on a journey of personal and academic growth. Reflecting on his time at SBVC, Denmark says he found support in the campus community. He discovered abundant opportunities for involvement in campus activities and events. "It deepened my appreciation for the activities SBVC holds," he remarked, highlighting the college's ability to organize enriching extracurricular experiences for its students.

Denmark also emphasized the importance of seeking help—a lesson he learned firsthand at SBVC. "The biggest lesson I learned was asking for help," he noted. With support from teachers and counselors, Denmark navigated personal challenges and maintained focus on his academic goals. "When I needed help, I asked for it."

Denmark credits SBVC for playing a pivotal role in preparing him for transfer to UC Berkeley, a long-held aspiration. "It had always been my dream to transfer to a UC," he reflected, acknowledging the guidance he received from counselors and crediting them with making him a "stronger applicant."

Looking ahead, Denmark's ambitions are directed internationally. Upon graduating from Berkeley, he plans to pursue a TESOL program and further his studies in Japan, immersing himself in its culture and language.



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