

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

September 2024

Fall Enrollment Grows by 6.9%

San Bernardino Valley College is experiencing a remarkable surge in enrollment for Fall 2024, with a noteworthy 6.9% increase, bringing the total number of students to 13,999. This rise marks a significant jump from last year's 13,092 and the 11,219 students enrolled in Fall 2022.

"We are thrilled to welcome so many new and returning students to San Bernardino Valley College," said SBVC President Dr. Gilbert Contreras. "This growth underscores the value students place on our commitment to high-quality education delivered by our dedicated faculty and staff, who prioritize student success."

The college's expanded accessibility is evident this fall, with 652 online sections available this fall, making education more accessible to students both near and far. Nearly 63% of SBVC students are enrolled in at least one online class, while in-person courses are also seeing increased demand. In Spring 2024, 46% of students opted for in-person classes, and for Fall 2024, 4,178 students are enrolled for the first time.

SBVC remains a stronghold for first-generation college students, who represent 49% of the student body. "At SBVC, our faculty and staff are committed to supporting every student in achieving their educational goals," Contreras added. "From creating educational plans to navigating financial aid, we offer comprehensive resources, including the Veteran's Resource Center and the Valley 360 Resource Center, to ensure every member of our community has the support they need to thrive."



GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 29**
9am
Black Infant Health Conference
B-100
- Sep 05**
8am
Accreditation Kick Off Meeting
B-100
- Sep 10**
7am
Grad Fest
B-100
- Sep 17**
9am
Hispanic Heritage Month Opening Event
B-100
- Sep 19**
2pm
Rock the Vote
Greek Theater + Lawn
- Sep 23**
7am
September Board of Governors Meeting
B-100

More Events:

valleycollege.edu/calendar

Dr. Contreras Kicks Off SBVC's 99th Year with Focus on Community, Growth & Transformation

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) ushered in the Fall 2024 semester with a memorable Fall Opening Day event on August 9, marking the conclusion of Convocation Week. This year's event was particularly special as the college community came together to reflect on SBVC's remarkable journey, celebrating 99 years of community, growth, and transformation since its founding in 1926.

Dr. Gilbert Contreras, serving as SBVC's 15th President, opened the event with an inspiring speech that resonated deeply with the audience. In his remarks, Dr. Contreras shared his personal connection to the SBVC community, offering insights into his leadership vision and highlighting the many exciting developments awaiting the college in the coming academic year.

"This year, we celebrate '99 Years of Community, Growth, and Transformation'... That's almost a century of making a profound impact on this community... SBVC is truly a special place because of the people who work here and the people we serve. Our story is one of rich cultural assets and diversity," Dr. Contreras emphasized, setting the tone for a year of reflection and anticipation.

One of the most significant moments of the day was the first-ever land acknowledgment, developed in partnership with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Long-time SBVC employee Angelita Gideon presented this acknowledgment, honoring the indigenous history of the land on which the college stands. The opening ceremony also featured Class of 2023 graduation speaker Daniel Hinojosa leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a stirring rendition of the national anthem performed by SBVC student Kiara Gomez.

The event's theme, "99 Years of Community, Growth, and Transformation," was further brought to life through a special video presentation. This video took attendees on a journey back to 1926, the year SBVC was founded, showcasing the dramatic changes that both the campus and the world have experienced over the past century. The video served as a powerful reminder of SBVC's enduring legacy and its continuous evolution to meet the needs of its diverse and dynamic community.

As SBVC embarks on its 99th academic year, the Fall Opening Day event set a strong foundation for the year ahead. The college community is united in its commitment to continuing the legacy of excellence, innovation, and inclusivity that has defined SBVC for nearly a century. With a rich history behind it and a promising future ahead, San Bernardino Valley College is poised to make its 99th year one of its most impactful yet.



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

8th Annual Summer Bridge Prepares Students for College Life

The 8th Annual Summer Bridge Program was a resounding success this year, providing incoming Valley-Bound students with a valuable preview of college life. On July 17th, the program culminated with 217 students celebrating the end of their two-week Summer Bridge experience at SBVC.

These students, who were also part of the Valley-Bound Commitment program, engaged in the Orientation to College course. This course offered them a comprehensive introduction to various academic and vocational programs, allowed them to connect with different departments and staff members, and helped them become acquainted with the campus before the Fall semester began.

Jennifer Daniela Valencia, the Substitute Valley Bound Coordinator, noted, "This program has been designed to equip students with the necessary tools for succeeding in any career they pursue. These students receive support during their first year while being encouraged to establish connections and actively contribute to the community."

A memorable moment from this year's program was a reflective activity where students wrote self-affirmations and shared their personal takeaways from the Summer Bridge experience. "The Valley Bound Commitment Program offers equal opportunities and support. It signifies dedication within a supportive community. Students can confidently embark on their college journey, knowing they have the support and connections to thrive academically, regardless of their chosen path."



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SBVC's Credit for Prior Learning Program Ranked 8th in California



San Bernardino Valley College is committed to helping every student meet their educational goals, with Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) being one tool in its arsenal. This new program is already having an impact, with SBVC ranked eighth in Potential CPL Savings and Preservation of Funds, 20-Year Impact, and College Metrics.

CPL is part of the California MAP (Mapping Articulated Pathways) Initiative, which awards credits to working adults and veterans for skills and knowledge picked up outside of a traditional college classroom. These credits could come from military service and training, receiving industry recognized credentials or taking the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and College Credit by Examination (DSST) tests.

Students can receive up to 45 units through CPL, allowing them to save money and reach graduation faster. SBVC's CPL program associates have reviewed courses across 79 academic areas, and the CPL database is regularly being updated with qualified classes.

The CPL team spent two years getting the program ready to launch in Spring 2024, collaborating with faculty, counselors, and work force development. Dr. Stephanie Lewis, Dean of Mathematics, Business & Computer Information Technology, applauded several SBVC staffers for being instrumental in the success of CPL, including evaluators Julie Ulloa and Sylvia Romo; Veterans Services Coordinator Jason Alvarez; CPL Counselor/Facilitator Ryan Hogan; Veterans Counselor Deanna Kelly-Silagy; CPL Program Associates Kevin Memminger and Demond Littles; and web developer Matthew Kim.

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SBVC Welcomes Incoming Centennial Class

On August 6th, San Bernardino Valley College buzzed with excitement as over 250 incoming students, along with their friends and families, participated in Wolverine Welcome. This event was crafted to help new students acclimate to campus life and gain insight into the wealth of resources available to them.

Organized with the intention of making new students feel connected and prepared for their academic journey, Wolverine Welcome featured representation from 50 different departments, divisions, and clubs. Amanda Moody, the Outreach Coordinator, highlighted the event's purpose, stating, "Wolverine Welcome is designed to help our new students feel connected and prepared to start the semester off strong. We're excited to see them shine and make unforgettable memories!"

The event provided a platform for students to engage with various campus resources, ensuring they know where to turn for support throughout their academic careers. Notably, the Art department made a splash with their interactive pottery wheel display, offering a showcase of the creative opportunities available at SBVC.

Specialized workshops were held by EOPS, SAS, and Financial Aid, addressing student needs in critical areas. EOPS was particularly successful, collecting over 20 applications during their workshop and an additional 30 at the resource fair. Similarly, Umoja, an organization dedicated to supporting underrepresented students, garnered over 30 applications at the fair, with many students being accepted on the spot and scheduling counseling appointments immediately.

The Financial Aid department proved invaluable staying after the event to answer students' questions, ensuring everyone received the assistance they needed. The Library also contributed to the day's success by distributing free books, both academic and recreational. This gesture underscored the library's commitment to fostering a love of reading and supporting students' educational endeavors.

SBVC President Dr. Gilbert Contreras was actively involved throughout the event, engaging with both students and staff. His presence underscored the administration's commitment to fostering the success of the entire campus community.



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Campus Spotlight

Keith Candelaria & Ashley Reamer | Head Athletic Trainers



With Keith Candelaria and Ashley Reamer as co-head athletic trainers, the student-athletes at San Bernardino Valley College are in good hands.

Candelaria and Reamer share similar backgrounds and experiences. Both are from Los Angeles, where they grew up playing sports — Reamer excelled in basketball and softball, while Candelaria was a quadruple threat in football, wrestling, baseball, and swimming. Before coming to SBVC, they worked at community colleges, and knew they wanted to continue down that path.

"I like the fact that I know I'll get to serve people coming from different backgrounds," Reamer said. "People who could have gone D1 but didn't have the grades, people who had the grades but not necessarily the skills to get to D1, or those who use sports as an outlet and to have some camaraderie."

Reamer became curious about athletic training during a basketball game, when she saw a woman taping up a player from the other team. She was interested in medicine but did not like hospitals, and found that athletic training is a "nice segue between sports, which I love, and medicine, so still being able to help and treat people so they can get past their injuries without being in a hospital setting."

While earning her bachelor's degree from Fresno State and master's degree from Chapman University, Reamer began developing her holistic approach to training. She does not just focus on injuries — she also asks the students questions about school, how things are going at home, and what they are eating.

"You see them as elite athletes, and as an elite athlete you need to be mentally sound and physically sound," Reamer said, adding, "My philosophy is yes, let's get you back to your sport, but I want to make sure when you get back you're better than you were you came in here."



Candelaria shares a similar perspective, and said he tries to "approach every person as a human being first. They really don't care what you know until they know that you care." He has found that once it is clear to an injured athlete that "you're invested in them," they open up and "give a better picture of what's really going on. They won't be timid or shy, and you can put together the missing links so you can properly treat them and help to the fullest of your abilities."

He first honed his skills as a firefighter and paramedic, where he spent his days having to quickly assess the needs of people in distress. Candelaria thought about becoming a physical therapist, but didn't like the idea of being inside an office and wanted to work with an active population. "I found athletic training meshed the two together," he said, and returned to school, earning his bachelor's degree from Cal State Fullerton and graduate degree from the University of La Verne.

Every day at SBVC is different, and Candelaria enjoys not just treating student-athletes, but also using their time together to give pep talks, reminding them of the greatness they can achieve after graduating and the importance of never forgetting their roots.

"I tell them this is a stepping stone to what ultimately is going to be success in your life, whether it's in sports or not, and to remember where you came from and try to give back to the community that got you there," he said.



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