

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

October 2024

SBVC Receives Approval to Offer First Bachelor's Degree Program

San Bernardino Valley College is proud to announce the official approval of its new Bachelor's Degree in Water Resources Management, a landmark achievement for the college and the community. The California Community Colleges Board of Governors granted the approval during their historic, first-ever meeting at SBVC on September 23, marking a significant milestone for the institution and its students.

"We are thrilled to receive approval for this groundbreaking program," said SBVC President Dr. Gilbert Contreras. "This degree will not only provide our students with the specialized knowledge and skills required in the water resources management field but also position SBVC as a leader in addressing critical workforce needs in our region. By offering this degree, we are opening doors to high-wage, in-demand careers that will benefit both our students and our community."

The Bachelor's Degree in Water Resources Management is designed to prepare students for a range of careers in the vital and evolving field of water supply, a carefully-managed natural resource in the Western United States. With a focus on sustainable practices and advanced technologies, the program aims to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals who can tackle complex challenges related to water quality, supply, and infrastructure.

Curriculum for the new program is under development, with a tentative program launch scheduled for Fall 2025.



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



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

- Oct 12** 9am **Unity Fest**
Auditorium
- Oct 23** 3pm **CARE/NextUp Harvest Festival**
Greek Theatre
- Oct 30** 5pm **Foundation Alumni & Family Halloween Movie Night**
Greek Theatre
- Nov 5** 9am **CAPSBC Annual Turkey Giveaway**
Greek Theater + Lawn

More Events:

valleycollege.edu/calendar

SBVC Hosts Historic Visit from California Community Colleges Board of Governors

San Bernardino Valley College was honored to welcome the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to campus for their first-ever visit on September 23. This momentous occasion was marked by a tour of several instructional facilities in the northeast of campus, including the Career Pathways building, nursing department, psychiatric technology department, and the STEM-MESA Center, followed by the Board's September meeting in SBVC's Business Conference Center.

The visit provided SBVC with an opportunity to showcase its commitment to academic excellence and student success. "It was a historic and inspiring moment for our college," said SBVC President Dr. Gilbert Contreras. "We were honored to host the Board of Governors and demonstrate the transformative impact of SBVC on our students and community."

During the tour, the BOG members were impressed by the innovative programs and state-of-the-art facilities that support student learning and career development. From cutting-edge technology in the STEM-MESA Center to the hands-on training provided in the nursing and psychiatric technology departments, SBVC's dedication to preparing students for in-demand careers was evident at every turn.

President Contreras welcomed the BOG members with a presentation highlighting SBVC's 99 years of community, growth, and transformation. "We are a reminder that in 2024, place still matters," he remarked. "Our college provides access to education, workforce development, and transfer opportunities that facilitate upward mobility for all who seek education. We are the hope and we are the promise for the millions of students who have started their higher education journey at our college."

The visit underscored SBVC's integral role in the community and its ongoing commitment to student success and innovation. As the college approaches its 100th anniversary, this historic event served as a testament to SBVC's enduring legacy and its bright future.



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

SBVC Receives Full Approval from FAA for New Air Traffic Control Program



Shannon Millen has been appointed to spearhead the new Air Traffic Control (AT-CTI) Program at San Bernardino Valley College, marking a significant enhancement in the college's offerings in aeronautics-related careers. This fall, SBVC introduced its inaugural course, "Introduction to Air Traffic Control," which complements the established Flight Operations and Management Degree program, a cornerstone of the college since 1949. This foundational course equips students with the academic credentials needed to qualify for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Control Academy in Oklahoma.

Looking to the future, SBVC plans to broaden its offerings to include both a certificate and a degree in Air Traffic Control, creating a clear pathway for students pursuing careers in this critical field. The program will also integrate air traffic simulators, with the ambitious goal of achieving an "Enhanced" ATC FAA designation.

The program has received full recognition from the FAA as part of the FAA's Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI), positioning SBVC among a select group of approximately 30 colleges nationwide that offer such programs. A visit from FAA representatives was completed on August 15th to complete the final steps of the approval process.

This initiative highlights SBVC's commitment to providing students with exceptional opportunities in aviation, particularly in a rapidly growing career field. "The need for skilled air traffic controllers is growing, and SBVC aims to meet that demand," Millen emphasized during her presentation to FAA representatives. With projections indicating an 80% increase in demand for enrollment in this area over the next five years, the expansion of the aeronautics program is timely and strategic.

Graduates of this program will be well-prepared to embark on dynamic careers as air traffic controllers, aviation managers, and in other aviation-related professions, contributing to a vital sector of the economy. This initiative underscores SBVC's commitment to providing students with exceptional opportunities in aviation, particularly in a career field that continues to grow in importance.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

SBVC Recognized as Global Leader in Water Stewardship by Switzerland-Based GWF Technologies

San Bernardino Valley College was honored on August 20, 2024, by GWF, a renowned Swiss technology company founded in 1899, as a global innovator and leader in water stewardship.

This prestigious recognition--the first of its kind awarded to a college campus anywhere in the world--underscores SBVC's dedication to sustainable practices and its pioneering role in water resources education.



This recognition by GWF is a tremendous honor and a testament to our commitment to sustainable water management and education," said SBVC President Gilbert Contreras. "It highlights our efforts to provide cutting-edge training and career opportunities for our students, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to address critical water challenges both locally and globally."

SBVC continues to be a leader in sustainability and water resources technologies, with the college's first-ever baccalaureate degree in water resources management approved to begin as early as Fall 2026. The college prides itself on its sustainable facilities planning and building practices, with a series of facilities master planning forums in September garnering intense campus interest.

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

SBVC Hosts 3rd Annual "Black 2 School Night" to Support African American Student Success

San Bernardino Valley College recently held its 3rd annual "Black 2 School Night," a signature event dedicated to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for African American students. Held on September 25, the event celebrated the college's commitment to student success by showcasing a variety of resources and support systems designed to help students thrive both academically and personally.

This year's event, organized in partnership with the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA), Umoja-Tumaini, EOPS, and BROTHERS (Brothers Reaching Out to Help Everyone Reach Success), offered an engaging evening filled with networking, mentorship, and community-building activities. The goal was to create a space where students, faculty, staff, and community members could connect, share experiences, and strengthen bonds in a collegial and welcoming atmosphere.

"It's all about creating a sense of belonging," said Keenan Giles, Vice President of BFSA. "We want our students to feel at home at Valley College, and 'Black 2 School Night' is a way to foster that environment—not just for students, but for faculty, staff, and the community as well."

Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities that encouraged connection and camaraderie, such as jump rope, the card game UNO, and a lively game of Jenga that tested both dexterity and teamwork. The event also featured delicious food from local favorite "The Spirit of Texas BBQ," adding a festive and inviting atmosphere to the evening.

The event built on the success of previous years, which had focused on promoting support programs aimed at increasing Black student success in higher education. This year, the focus expanded to further solidify relationships with the broader community and highlight the numerous opportunities available at SBVC to support student achievement.

"Black 2 School Night" is more than just an annual gathering; it is a reflection of SBVC's ongoing commitment to embracing the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Through this event and many others, the college aims to create a nurturing and empowering environment where all students can succeed and feel a genuine sense of community.

As SBVC continues to strengthen these bonds, events like "Black 2 School Night" serve as important reminders of the college's dedication to supporting every student's journey.



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



Campus Spotlight

Dr. Riase Jakpor Publishes Political Science Textbook



Dr. Riase Jakpor, originally from Nigeria, moved to the United States in 1974 to pursue his education. He earned his BA, MA, and PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he developed a deep passion for American Government.

As an international student, Dr. Jakpor dedicated himself to academic excellence, and he has since shared his enthusiasm for political science with students at various institutions, including Brandeis University, Bentley University, Moreno Valley College, the University of Redlands, and San Bernardino Valley College.

Dr. Jakpor's teaching philosophy emphasizes the relevance of politics to everyday life. "I strive to make complex ideas accessible," he explains. "Students often come in thinking they're simply fulfilling a requirement, but at the end of the day they are disabused of that idea." His goal is to provide "basic information—knowledge that you can truly apply to your life."

To further this mission, he authored his first textbook, *Fundamentals of American Government and Politics*, which distills the foundational principles of the nation. Currently, he is working on his second book, *Continuity and Change in World Politics*, slated for completion in 2025. Through his teaching and writing, Dr. Jakpor continues to inspire a new generation of political thinkers.

Fundamentals of American Government and Politics provides students with a foundational exploration of the United States' political system, diving into the intricacies of American democratic principles and institutions. The book begins with the critical study of foundational documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, leading to a comprehensive understanding of federalism and the power dynamics between national and subnational governments.

The book dissects the multifaceted nature of political engagement within the United States by discussing themes such as interest groups, political parties, election campaigns, and the overarching influence of the media. It analyzes the operational frameworks of central political mechanisms, including Congress, the executive branch, and the U.S. judiciary system. The text concludes with a detailed perspective on the foreign policy and defense establishment of the country, accompanied by a specific focus on the government and politics of California.



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