

# 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

November 2024

## SBVC Celebrates Culture, Unity & Community During Hispanic Heritage Month

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with events uniting students, staff, and the community. Delayed by the Line Fire campus closures, the festivities began October 1 with a lively taquiza lunch where students enjoyed tacos, marking the start of the cultural celebration.

Throughout October, SBVC hosted engaging activities. Students enjoyed Lotería, a traditional Mexican bingo game, on October 8, followed by a Hispanic culture-inspired painting session on October 10. The celebration concluded with a live concert at the Greek Theatre on October 14.

As a Hispanic Serving Institution, SBVC takes pride in our diverse Latinx community. Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate and enjoy food, music, and art," said Aida Gil, First Year Experience Program Administrative Assistant.

In addition to celebrating the month with food and art, SBVC also encouraged meaningful discussions on Latinx heritage and the importance of representation in education. These events offered students the opportunity to reflect on their cultural backgrounds, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for Latinx history and contributions. SBVC's Hispanic Heritage Month events continue to foster campus unity and celebrate Latinx contributions.

NOVEMBER 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

Nov 16  
9am-12:30pm

FKCE Resource Fair  
B-100

Dec 3  
4pm-7pm

WinterFest  
Library Quad

Dec 6  
11am-1pm

President's Holiday Gathering  
Lois Carson Campus Center

More Events:

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

# SBVC Partners with TimelyCare to Expand Mental Health Support & Basic Needs Assistance for Students

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) is dedicated to the health and well-being of its students, recognizing the crucial role that mental health plays in academic success and overall quality of life. As part of this commitment, the college is actively examining recent student wellness survey results, which have been shared with governance bodies to guide decisions on mental health services and initiatives. In alignment with this commitment, SBVC has partnered with TimelyCare, a leading virtual health and well-being provider in higher education, to offer students free and equitable access to essential mental health support and basic needs assistance. This partnership enhances existing resources from our campus health and counseling center, with the primary goal of improving student well-being, engagement, and retention. The need for accessible, high-quality care has never been more critical, especially in today's challenging environment. With TimelyCare, students can now access services from any device, ensuring they receive the support they need whenever they need it.



Key services available through TimelyCare include:

- On-Demand Mental Health Support (TalkNow): Students can receive immediate emotional support at any time.
- Appointment-Based Counseling: Up to 12 sessions of mental health counseling are available each academic year, providing students with personalized care.
- Basic Needs Assistance: Support is offered to help students meet their essential living requirements.
- Care Navigation: Students can receive guidance to help them access various health and wellness resources.
- Peer Support Community: A network where students can connect and support each other.
- Digital Self-Care Content: Resources to promote self-care and mental wellness.

"By extending TimelyCare's benefits to faculty and staff, we're providing them with the knowledge and tools needed to guide students toward valuable resources," said President Gilbert Contreras. "Empowering our team in this way fosters a supportive environment where students feel encouraged to prioritize their mental health, live healthier lifestyles, and succeed academically." Vice President of Student Services Olivia Rosas added, "This partnership with TimelyCare marks an important step forward in enhancing our student support services. Addressing both mental health and basic needs helps us create an inclusive campus community, ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive. It underscores SBVC's commitment to holistic student development and positions us as a leader in supporting students in higher education."

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## SBVC Participates & Hosts First Ever SBCCD Olympics

On September 27 and October 11, 2024, the SBCCD Olympics debuted with events hosted at Crafton Hills College (CHC) and San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC). This inaugural event brought together teams from SBVC, Crafton Hills, and the SBCCD District Office, fostering campus pride and unity, inspired by the recent Olympics in Paris.

Before the competition began, participants and supporters enjoyed a BBQ lunch, which added to the day's spirit of camaraderie and connection. The competition featured four exciting events: the Inflatable Raft Relay Race and cornhole tournament at CHC, followed by a 3-point & free throw shooting competition and a cart relay race at the SBVC Gym. Mascots and a supportive crowd fueled the competitive energy, while faculty and students cheered for their respective teams, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and excitement.

SBVC showcased strong teamwork, winning four bronze medals overall. The District Office and CHC each took two gold and two silver medals, highlighting an impressive performance. All teams showed dedication and enthusiasm, and the events were warmly received, encouraging community connections and friendly rivalry.

Looking back on this successful event, there is palpable excitement about making the SBCCD Olympics an annual tradition, celebrating teamwork and school pride throughout the fall semester. Special thanks go to all participants and supporters who helped make this event memorable for the district community.



# SBVC Foundation Secures \$10K Grant to Support Students Affected by Line Fire

In response to the recent Line Fire, the SBVC Foundation was able to secure a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation for California Community Colleges to provide emergency assistance to students directly impacted by the disaster.

The Foundation identified over 1,200 SBVC students living in areas subject to mandatory evacuation orders during the fire. A targeted email was sent to these students, inviting them to apply for emergency aid. Priority was given to students who demonstrated a clear emergency need, resided in affected communities, and maintained good academic standing. Within the first 36 hours of the application opening, more than 50 students applied for assistance.



Twenty students were selected to receive \$500 each. In addition to notifying recipients, the Foundation also provided resources to those not selected, including information about SBVC's student scholarships, Basic Needs program, and the Food Pantry for those with ongoing unmet needs.

Looking ahead, the Foundation anticipates awarding over \$500,000 in scholarships again at the end of this academic year. This is a significant increase from six years ago when annual scholarship awards averaged less than \$200,000, and the fourth year in a row that the Foundation has been able to exceed the 500k mark in scholarships and grants. The SBVC Foundation remains committed to supporting students in times of crisis and ensuring they have the resources they need to succeed.

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# SBVC Partners with Motown Relief Concert to Give Back to Students in Need

On October 5, San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) transformed its Auditorium into a vibrant showcase for the inaugural Magical Music of Motown concert. This benefit event celebrated the iconic sounds of Motown while raising funds for SBVC's "Feed the Need" initiative, a program dedicated to addressing student hunger and providing essential resources to those in need. Top-tier musicians volunteered their time and talent to create an unforgettable evening that brought together music, community, and philanthropy.

Attendees were treated to a night of Motown's greatest hits, highlighting the timeless music that has united generations. The concert underscored the importance of community involvement in tackling local hunger issues. Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rogers, an SBVC alumna, expressed her gratitude, saying, "I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the sponsors for helping us continue making a difference." Her words captured the spirit of the evening, as community members came together for a meaningful cause.

Proceeds from the concert benefited the United 2 Feed The Need initiative in partnership with Arrowhead United Way, aiming to provide resources to those facing food insecurity. Funds raised will support AUW's outreach efforts and SBVC's Valley360 Resource Center, a vital resource hub for students and the community.

Special recognition went to Arrowhead United Way and all the contributors who made this concert possible. Combining music with a powerful mission, the Magical Music of Motown concert not only delivered an evening of entertainment but also set a strong foundation for future events dedicated to fostering community support and unity.



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# Campus Spotlight

## Gigi Callejas: SBVC Equipment Specialist & Billiards Champion



Gigi Callejas, an Athletics Equipment Specialist at San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC), is not only a valued member of the campus community but also a formidable competitor in the world of professional billiards. With nine seasons on the West Coast Women's Tournament tour under her belt, Gigi recently claimed the 2024 tournament title, adding another milestone to her distinguished career, which includes winning the prestigious Tour Champion title in 2018.

Born in Guatemala, Gigi moved to the U.S. at the age of eight, settling in Los Angeles County, where she has lived for the past 26 years. It was during college that Gigi's passion for athletics took root. "In college, I got involved in athletics, and from there, I knew I wanted to work in this field," she recalls. Her drive to make athletics her career ultimately led her to SBVC, where she now plays a vital role in supporting the athletic department.

Gigi's love for billiards began when she encountered the challenges of playing on a 9-foot table. "I couldn't make an easy ball because the table was bigger and tougher," she explains. This difficulty didn't discourage her—it fueled her desire to improve. Determined to master the game, Gigi spent five years playing in competitive tournaments across Arizona, Northern California, Texas, and Las Vegas. Her hard work paid off, earning her sponsorships from Tiger Products USA and Hustlin' USA.

While Gigi's career in billiards was taking off, she pursued academic success as well. She earned an AA/AS degree in Criminal Justice from Rio Hondo College, where she also worked as the Women's Equipment Attendant Assistant for three years. During this time, she balanced caring for her grandmother with honing her billiards skills whenever she could. After the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gigi decided to return to her athletic roots and secured a position as an Athletics Equipment Specialist at Cal State San Bernardino before landing her current role at SBVC. "I love the facilities and everyone I've met and worked with here," she says.

For athletes pursuing a professional career, Gigi emphasizes the importance of hard work and consistency. "Staying consistent with training and practice is crucial," she advises. "And it's not just about physical health; mental resilience is just as important." Drawing from her experiences in billiards, Gigi stresses the need for athletes to be adaptable and resilient, able to bounce back from setbacks, failures, and injuries. Her final piece of advice? "Stay positive, no matter what comes your way."

As for her future in billiards, Gigi has her sights set on competing regularly in the Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA) tour. "Playing against top players would help me grow and gain more experience," she says. Her recent victory on the Northern California Women's Tour, where she currently holds the top ranking, is a testament to her relentless drive for improvement.

Looking ahead, Gigi remains focused on her goals, always striving to be the best version of herself both on and off the billiards table. Whether she's supporting the athletic programs at SBVC or competing in tournaments, Gigi Callejas is an inspiring example of passion, resilience, and dedication.



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