

# 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

January 2025

## SBVC Holiday Spirit Shines with Annual WinterFest Celebration

The San Bernardino Valley College transformed its campus into a winter wonderland on December 3, welcoming over 800 community members to celebrate the eighth annual SBVC WinterFest. This much-loved tradition brought together students, staff, and families for an unforgettable evening of holiday cheer, community connection, and campus pride.

The event, a collaboration between the Department of Marketing & Public Relations, Student Equity, and the Associated Student Government, provided a much-needed break from the stress of finals week. "WinterFest is meant to provide a relief from the stress of finals week and allow students, staff, and faculty to come together on campus with their loved ones in their own community," said Project Coordinator Eve Mulhall.

The evening featured an impressive lineup of activities and attractions. A thrilling snow slide brought winter magic to the library quad while a cozy indoor movie theater equipped with a popcorn giveaway set the stage for relaxing family fun. Thirteen SBVC programs, departments, and clubs participated this year. They showcasing the many opportunities the college offers and engaging attendees with creative displays and activities.

The festive marketplace offered a wide variety of food, beverages, and custom items for purchase ensuring there was something for everyone. Whether indulging in holiday treats or picking up unique gifts, attendees enjoyed endless options to make the night special.

One of the highlights of the evening was the free photo station with Santa and Mrs. Claus, where families created cherished holiday memories. The warmth and generosity of the SBVC community were on full display making WinterFest a true celebration of togetherness.

As WinterFest grows each year, it continues to embody the spirit of SBVC—a campus committed to fostering connection, celebrating diversity, and creating moments of joy for students and the community. This year's event was a resounding success, setting the stage for even more holiday magic in the years to come.



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



### 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

Jan 17 9am Opening Day Auditorium

Jan 21 First Day of Spring 2025

Feb 05 9am Black History Month Kickoff Auditorium

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

# SBVC Women's Volleyball Scores Historic Milestone



The SBVC women's volleyball team made history in 2024, securing its second consecutive Inland Empire Athletic Conference (IEAC) co-championship alongside Mt. San Jacinto. The back-to-back co-championships came after the Wolverines had not posted a winning season since 2005, or won a conference title since 2006. This season also brought significant milestones not seen in decades, cementing the Wolverines' return to prominence.

In 2023, the team's conference championship and playoff appearance were their first since 2006. Building on that momentum, the Wolverines hosted a postseason game for the first time since 2002 this year, clinching their first postseason victory in the same span. The moment carried extra significance for current Athletic Director David Rubio, who was SBVC's head volleyball coach during that 2002 playoff run.

The team's postseason journey culminated in reaching one of the four Southern California Regional Final games, where they fell to Cerritos College in three hard-fought sets. Despite the loss, the Wolverines' season was one for the history books. "There will never be another group like this," Coach Robert Vansant said after the loss to Cerritos. "I told them that during our meeting after the game." As far as the future, he added, "But, yes, if I can get something close to this group and get good kids that work hard in the classroom and on the court, and have that level of trust that these guys had in me, they'll do OK."

The Wolverines' achievements this season have energized the SBVC community and set a high standard for the program. With a strong foundation built by this exceptional group of athletes, the future of SBVC volleyball looks brighter than ever.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



## SBVC Welcomes Yvonne Gutierrez-Sandoval as New Vice President of Student Services

San Bernardino Valley College is proud to announce Yvonne Gutierrez-Sandoval as the new Vice President of Student Services. With over 20 years of higher education experience, Ms. Gutierrez-Sandoval brings innovative leadership and a deep commitment to equity and student success. She has held leadership roles at Long Beach City College, Rio Hondo College, and the University of La Verne. Notably, she spearheaded initiatives at Long Beach City College that led to enrollment growth and reduced equity gaps.

A community college alumna and Inland Empire native, Ms. Gutierrez-Sandoval is passionate about serving diverse student populations and has expertise in areas such as financial aid, scholarships, veterans' services, international student programs, and strategic enrollment planning. She has also contributed significantly to the field as president of the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and as a National Community College Hispanic Council Leadership Fellow.

The SBVC community is excited to welcome Ms. Gutierrez-Sandoval, whose collaborative leadership will enhance the college's mission of fostering student success and equity. We also extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Olivia Rosas for her exceptional service as Interim Vice President of Student Services.

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

## Two Cutting-edge SBVC Projects Honored with California Green Building Awards

San Bernardino Valley College is at the forefront of sustainability efforts and building responsible community college infrastructure. Two of its transformative projects — Career Pathways 2 and the Technical Education Center — were recognized during USGBC California's 20th Annual Green Gala on December 11.

"We are thrilled and deeply proud of these achievements, which highlight our campus and district's unwavering commitment to innovation and sustainability," SBVC Vice President of Administrative Services Keith Bacon said. "These awards reflect our dedication to providing cutting-edge programs while leading the way in sustainable design and environmental stewardship for the state."

The Career Pathways 2 project, a state-of-the-art facility designed to earn Zero Net Energy, LEED Platinum, and Envision Gold certifications, received an Award of Honor in Water Technology. This facility combines the Allied Health and Aeronautics buildings and is equipped with advanced sustainability features and flexible learning spaces.

The Technical Education Center, a trailblazing "living lab" where students will receive hands-on training in electric vehicle and water technologies, earned an Award of Merit. Features like solar thermal chimneys and real-time performance monitoring keep the center's energy costs at a minimum, while still allowing the building to be used by thousands of students and community members a day.

Winners were honored during the Green Gala's annual California Green Building Awards. These awards acknowledge built and under construction projects that excel in showcasing sustainable strategies, innovation, occupant health and community engagement.



GOAL 4: ENSURE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY.

# Wallet Hub Ranks SBVC First Place in Community College Affordability

San Bernardino Valley College's dedication to ensuring a fair and equitable education at a low cost caught the attention of WalletHub, which ranked SBVC First in the United States for Affordability.

Out of every community college in the country, SBVC has the lowest in-state tuition and fees, with an 18x difference between SBVC and the bottommost-ranking institution. Courses are \$46 per unit, with most SBVC students receiving assistance through financial aid, grants, and scholarships. More than 97% graduate without having to take on student loan debt.

"We are proud to be not just the most affordable community college in California, but the most affordable in the entire United States," SBVC President Gilbert J. Contreras said. "SBVC is committed to its mission of ensuring that every student, regardless of income and economic status, receives a quality education that will help them reach their career goals and aspirations. We want all Wolverines to thrive on campus and wherever life's journey takes them."

In addition to low unit costs, SBVC offers affordable fees, like a maximum of \$10 annually for the Campus Center Fee, and keeps several fees optional. Students are also encouraged to apply for SBVC Foundation Scholarships, which are awarded exclusively to the SBVC community. Scholarships range from \$100 to \$1,500, and students are eligible to receive multiple awards. Annually, the SBVC Foundation distributes more than \$300,000 in scholarships.



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

# SBVC Cross Country Earns Fifth IEAC Title and Shines at State Championships

The SBVC men's cross country team demonstrated its dominance once again in 2024, winning the Inland Empire Athletic Conference (IEAC) Championship for the fifth consecutive time. While their streak is impressive, it spans non-consecutive years due to the absence of a race in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wolverines built on their conference success with a stellar postseason, finishing third at the Southern California Regionals at Chaffey College, which SBVC co-hosted. They carried that momentum to the 3C2A State Championships at Woodward Park in Fresno, achieving a remarkable third-place finish—the program's best performance at the state level since 2016.

Sophomore Vinnie Quiroz, a standout from San Bernardino's Cajon High School, led the team with an extraordinary performance. Competing against a field of 192 runners, Quiroz completed the 4-mile course in 21 minutes, 2.1 seconds to secure seventh place overall. His effort earned him All-American honors, a prestigious distinction that underscores his skill and dedication.

Quiroz wasn't the only Wolverine to make waves. Sophomores Kevin Nava (Bloomington High School) and Jacob Mendiola (Cajon High School) also delivered strong performances. Nava finished 15th, and Mendiola placed 22nd, with both earning second-team All-State honors for their outstanding runs.

The women's cross country team also defended its IEAC crown, winning its third conference championship in four years. Sophomore Sara Jaquez (Grand Terrace High School) finished 26th (out of 172 runners) at the State Championships, finishing the 5-kilometer course in 20:02.2.

The 2024 season showcased SBVC's exceptional talent, determination, and commitment to excellence. With their continued success in the IEAC and strong showings at regional and state levels, the Wolverines have further cemented their reputation as one of California's premier cross country programs.



JANUARY 2025 PRESIDENTS BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



# Campus Spotlight

## SBVC Staff & Faculty Raise Over 11K during Annual President's Holiday Gathering

The annual President's Holiday Gathering on December 6 brought faculty and staff together in the spirit of holiday giving. The gathering has been a long-time tradition in which the campus convenes to enjoy a specially prepared menu by the Culinary Department while participating in opportunity chance drawings and other fundraising efforts that contribute to SBVC programs that support student success.

The seasonal event raised more than \$5,600 through opportunity chance ticket sales, with proceeds going directly toward supporting textbook scholarships for SBVC students. Adding to the season's spirit of giving, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) introduced the heartfelt addition of Adopt-an-Angel, allowing attendees to sponsor holiday gifts for foster youth.

President Dr. Gilbert Contreras expressed profound gratitude to the SBVC community for their generosity and ongoing commitment to student success. "This gathering is a reflection of the collective impact we can make when we come together," Dr. Contreras shared, highlighting the dedication of faculty and staff in creating opportunities for students to succeed.

The 99th Anniversary Holiday Gathering also showcased the incredible fundraising efforts of the campus community. Opportunity drawing prize baskets were donated by various SBVC departments and programs, and featured items totaling an approximate retail value of \$8,000.

The SBVC Foundation encouraged participation in the Employee Giving Campaign by selling opportunity tickets with a Disneyland gift basket as the prize. The total value of the basket was estimated to be more than \$1,000. The generous contributions of SBVC employees resulted in more than \$5,400 annually in new or increased payroll deductions, with those funds supporting student scholarships and program fund accounts at SBVC. The Employee Giving Campaign is ongoing until January 31, 2025.

Visit [sbvcfoundation.org](http://sbvcfoundation.org) for more information and to set up your monthly contribution. All funds go toward supporting SBVC students, scholarships, fund accounts, and programs.



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