

# 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

April 2025

## Grand Opening of SBVC's New Applied Technology Building Marks Historic Milestone

On March 6, San Bernardino Valley College celebrated the grand opening of the Applied Technology Building, the final facility completed within the college's first century. The event welcomed hundreds of community partners, local stakeholders, students, and employees, who gathered despite the cold and rain to mark this historic moment.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony included remarks from SBCCD Chancellor Diana Rodriguez, SBVC President Dr. Gil Contreras, and California Labor & Workforce Development Agency Secretary Stewart Knox, who emphasized the critical role SBVC plays in workforce development and hands-on training in the region.

Attendees toured the state-of-the-art facility, which will serve as a hub for career education programs in fields such as welding, automotive technology, and electrical technology. The event concluded with an open house featuring food trucks and live music, celebrating the collaborative efforts that made the project a reality.

With this ribbon-cutting, SBVC officially completes its final major construction project of the century—setting the stage for the next 100 years of innovation and student 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.

APRIL 2025 PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



## UPCOMING EVENTS

ends April 24

### Art Gallery Exhibit

From the Sasse Collection • [valleycollege.edu/artgallery](http://valleycollege.edu/artgallery)

April 24

12pm

### Botanical Gardens Grand Reopening

Gardens near HLS building

April 25

5:30pm

### Spotlighting Our Success Awards 2025

Applied Technology Building

April 25

7pm

### Planetarium Show

JPL Missions

May 6

6pm

### Scholarship Awards Ceremony 2025

Auditorium

More Events:

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

# "Valley Up!" SBVC's New Sense of Pride & Belonging Campaign

A new rallying cry and gesture are making waves at SBVC: "Valley Up!" The phrase first emerged from SBVC's football program, with Head Coach James Griffin and his staff leading the charge. It gained momentum at the Applied Technology Building Grand Opening, where Chancellor Diana Rodriguez was the first to publicly use it during the ceremony. President Gilbert Contreras is all in, greeting students across campus with "Valley Up!" and the accompanying "V" hand gesture. All Wolverines are encouraged to do the same, responding to cheers of "Go Valley!" with "Valley Up!"

"Valley Up!" has become an affirmation of SBVC's growth, progress, and pride, symbolizing an unstoppable upward trajectory for the college. In addition to the new slogan, SBVC has launched a campus-wide branding initiative to enhance signage, wayfinding, and campus pride. The initiative involves a reimagining of SBVC's campus media systems, with updated directional signs to help students navigate campus, enhanced branding in The Village to create a more welcoming atmosphere, and new light pole banners featuring SBVC's diverse programs, initiatives, and student success stories, as well as a completely revamped street marquee that sleekly showcases campus highlights to passersby. As SBVC moves forward, "Valley Up!" is more than just a chant or hashtag: it's a mindset that inspires pride, community, and excellence among students, faculty, and staff.



## Annual WolverineCon Spotlights Student Talent



SBVC's WolverineCon Film Festival brought the magic of filmmaking to campus in March, celebrating student creativity and storytelling. One of the festival's key highlights was the 66-Hour Film Competition, where teams had just 66 hours to write, shoot, and edit an original short film.

The annual festival, organized by SBVC's Film, Television, and Media (FTVM) department, also featured student film screenings, workshops, and discussions with industry professionals. Students had the opportunity to network with filmmakers, showcase their work, and gain insights into the evolving media landscape.

Under the leadership of Professor Lucas Cuny, SBVC's FTVM program continues to provide hands-on learning experiences that prepare students for careers in the entertainment industry.



# VALLEY IN THE COMMUNITY

## SBVC Builds Bridges with Local High Schools

SBVC strengthened its relationships with local high schools at its annual High School Counselor Conference in March, where counselors from local high schools gathered to discuss pathways to higher education.

The conference featured interactive sessions, networking opportunities, and a keynote address from SBVC President Dr. Gil Contreras, who emphasized that counseling is more critical than ever in helping students navigate a rapidly changing world, and that SBVC serves as a reminder that PLACE and RACE still matter in shaping educational opportunities.

The event highlighted SBVC's ongoing commitment to building seamless transitions from high school to college, ensuring local students receive the guidance and support they need to succeed.



## Rialto USD Students Experience SBVC



SBVC welcomed hundreds of students from Rialto Unified School District for a campus visit designed to introduce them to higher education opportunities.

During their visit, students learned about SBVC's student services, academic programs, and campus life. A key highlight of the event was a special presentation from SBVC's NextUp program, which provides support for current and former foster youth.

## Honors Students Selected for Research Conference

Students in the SBVC Honors Program continue to impress, with six selected to present their research this month at the Honors Transfer Council of California's 25th Annual Building Bridges Research Conference at UC Riverside: James Vargas, Alyssa Puentes, Yareni Pelayo-Sanchez, Kiana Vasquez, Juanita Lorenzo-Ruiz, and Aaliyah Medawar. The conference gives community college honors students the chance to share their academic work with peers, and the SBVC participants showcased original research projects they developed under the mentorship of Professor Ed Gomez and Dr. Mandi Batalo.

The SBVC Honors Program, led by Professor Carol Damgen, provides rigorous academic experiences that prepare students for university-level research and successful transfers to four-year institutions. This semester, 54 new Honors students were welcomed to the program and 11 participants are set to graduate. Students who meet the GPA requirements and are looking to deeply engage in new learning opportunities and receive support from faculty mentors are encouraged to apply.





# Campus Spotlights

## Soaring High: Daniel Abrego Charts a Future in Aviation

The sky's the limit for Daniel Abrego.

The San Bernardino resident is pursuing his dream of becoming an aircraft maintenance technician—and he's already earned his first FAA Airframe Certification. A San Bernardino native and student in SBVC's Aeronautics Program, Abrego describes aviation techs as the "unsung heroes" who keep aircraft flying safely. Originally a business major, Abrego followed his passion into aviation and hasn't looked back. "The more you love what you do, the more you want to dedicate yourself to it," he said. With mentorship from instructors like Professors Francisco Gonzalez and Delfino Leon, he's stayed focused on his certification roadmap and career goals. Next up for Daniel: completing his Powerplant Certification and eventually pursuing an engineering degree to design aircraft engines.

"It's important for people to understand," Abrego said. "If it wasn't for San Bernardino Valley College, I wouldn't be where I am now."



## SBVC Theater Students Headed to Nationals

San Bernardino Valley College Theater Arts students dazzled the judges during February's Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in Mesa, Arizona. Competing in Region 8, SBVC was invited to perform a scene from *Alice by Heart*, one of just five schools to receive the honor out of 12 states. Individual students also received accolades: Jasmyne Wade won the Aspire Arts Leadership Competition and earned a coveted spot at the KCACTF National Festival in Washington, D.C., and Alexa Salinas was picked to compete at Regionals for Stage Management.

The KCACTF gives theater students the opportunity to audition and perform in productions, attend workshops, and meet and make connections with like-minded peers. Students return to SBVC with new skills and appreciation for the arts and apply what they learned while putting on their spring performances.

## Child Development Day Empowers Future Educators

SSBVC's Spring Child Development Day brought together students, faculty, and community partners for a day of inspiration and hands-on learning. Hosted each semester by the Child Development Department, the event is designed to inform and empower students pursuing careers in early childhood education.

The day featured presentations on degree programs, certifications, and general education pathways, along with transfer and career opportunities. Highlights included a creative puppet-making activity led by TD Early Education Training and Development, and reflections from SBVC alumni Mariana Verdugo and Cesar Beltran, who encouraged attendees to stay committed to their goals. Industry professionals shared insights on employment opportunities, including speakers from Cal State Long Beach and the Redlands Child Development Center, who emphasized the growing need for qualified early education professionals.

Professor Denise Knight praised the event as "a resounding success," and credited its continued impact to the collaboration of faculty, counselors, and community partners.