
May 30, 2025

Dear Black Serving Institutions Application Board:

With great enthusiasm, it is my honor to certify that San Bernardino Valley College boldly embraces our identity as a Black Serving Institution.

Since 1926, San Bernardino Valley College has been educating and serving the community with access to higher education and stellar vocational programs. For 99 years, people have come to Valley College with a dream and leave with a future.

For 99 years, the Black community has meant so much to Valley College. Valley College has meant so much for the Black community despite the numerous barriers that define higher education. As a College, we have been intentional in our efforts to advance Black student success and to foster an environment where Black students and the Black community feel at home at Valley College.

The College has established a collective priority to embrace our identity as a Black Serving Institution. This priority has been endorsed by Associated Students, Faculty Senate, Classified Senate, and College Council. As President, my executive team is working collaboratively to move the recommendations from the BSI Task Force into implementation as part of the Valley Up Initiative 2025-2030 (a meta-strategic plan). Our application will demonstrate serving students and employees holistically while we advance Black excellence.

We are optimistic that our long-standing tradition of educating and serving the Black community along with our collective College priority to advance Black Student Success will help Valley College earn the esteemed designation as a Black Serving Institution.

For all these reasons, I proudly endorse San Bernardino Valley College as a Black Serving Institution, without any hesitation or reservation.

Sincerely,



Gilbert J. Contreras, Ph.D.
President