

President's Board Report

January 13, 2011

Holiday Basket Fundraiser Nets \$8,846 for Valley-Bound Commitment

On Friday, December 10, the annual President's Holiday Gathering took place in the Campus Center, where hundreds of faculty and staff enjoyed the fruits (and chocolates!) of the final-exam labor from students in Chef Stacy Meyer's Culinary Arts classes.

More than 30 elaborate baskets were donated by SBVC/SBCCD employees, including themed entries like *Viva Elvis*, *Think Pink* and *Super Heroes Save Christmas*. Contents of other baskets included a Blu-Ray player, a full tailgate party package, a gift-card laden Christmas tree, and premium car wash kits.

SBVC and SBCCD employees also participated in an opportunity drawing, with \$4423 in total donations, to see who would take home the popular baskets. As has become tradition, SBVC President Dr. Debra Daniels matched each donation dollar-for-dollar to bring the total raised to \$8846, which will help fund the Valley-Bound Commitment program.



As part of their fall 2010 semester final, SBVC Culinary Arts served a magnificent feast complete with a faux Christmas tree with boughs of fruit.



Susan Bangasser (right) attempted to win a basket like retired faculty member Nick Zoumbos (above).



While teaching a class in North Hall, Kellie Barnett was excited when Santa delivered the "Saturday Play" basket she won at the event.



Steve Race carted away with three baskets of his own as the biggest winner of the morning's opportunity drawing.

Edison International's Green Jobs Education Initiative Donates Additional \$100,000 to SBVC

Edison International has invested another \$1 million in its innovative Green Jobs Education Initiative for green education and job training at California community colleges, including another \$100,000 for San Bernardino Valley College.



SBVC was the only community college in the Inland Empire to receive the initial \$100,000 award from Edison International in 2009 and the only local recipient of the 2010 award of an additional \$100,000.

The \$200,000 will provide scholarships to students entering the Water Supply Technology or Geographic Information Systems programs in the Science Division. Students became eligible to apply for the scholarships starting in fall 2010. Starting this May, recipients will be awarded \$1000 per year for two years while attending classes that prepare them for careers in these fields.

"This initiative provides a vehicle for us to create a vibrant 21st century workforce as we engage our communities and work together to address strategic needs. The grants enhance education programs, support environmental efforts and skilled-employee training," said Theodore F. Craver Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of Edison International. "The Green Jobs Education Initiative also has the additional advantage of giving an economic boost to community colleges across the state coping with pressing financial needs."

The Green Jobs Education Initiative funds scholarships for students demonstrating a financial need and who are enrolled in job preparation classes for the green workforce. The training programs include the study of renewable energy, solar panel installation, water and wastewater management, transportation and alternative fuels, biofuels production, environmental compliance, and sustainability planning.

Tumaini Mentor/Mentee Event Celebrates End of Year

On Wednesday, December 15th, several SBVC Tumaini students gathered at an event aimed at acquainting them with their mentors in a relaxed social setting. Throughout the year, Tumaini mentors assist their mentees with various questions they have about their academic pursuits, while forming a relationship which will help students continue their studies at SBVC.

At the event, students interviewed their mentors about their educational pursuits, advice that he/she would give to the mentee regarding how to obtain their academic degrees, and the name of one important book that the mentee should read before leaving SBVC.



On December 15th, SBVC's Tumaini Coordinator Willene Nelson addresses the group of mentors and mentees.

In the upcoming spring 2011 semester, Tumaini students will serve as student ambassadors in the Martin Luther King, Jr. event at SBVC on January 21st. In addition, the Tumaini Program will participate in the SBVC Black History Month events throughout February, as well as planning a "Speak Your Soul" poetry event.

SBVC Nursing Program Gains 40 New Alums

With the backdrop of an SBVC Auditorium draped in Christmas decorations and candlelight, 40 students participated in the memorable SBVC Nurse Pinning Ceremony held on Wednesday, December 15th.

SBVC Professor Michele Spahn was the speaker, and SBVC student Lisa Neas addressed her fellow graduates as the student speaker. Rewarding students' years of hard work in the classroom and clinicals, SBVC's Priscilla Taylor presented the coveted class pins and Dr. Susan Bangasser provided the congratulatory handshake. Ms. Rochelle Fender led the new RN Graduates in the Florence Nightingale Pledge.

Student Profiles: Angel and Brenda Orozco

As a senior at Colton High School in early 2009, Angel Orozco wanted to study Construction Engineering and was interested in applying to Cal Poly Pomona. However, Angel observed his older siblings rack up major financial debt at four-year institutions and trade schools, with various levels of success in pursuit of their higher educational goals. Angel had similar dreams of attending college, but was determined to find a better way.

With this goal in mind, and without the funds available to afford tuition, his high school counselor suggested community college—specifically, a new program called the Valley-Bound Commitment Program at San Bernardino Valley College.

"My older sister and brother both attended college at expensive schools and are still trying to pay off their student loans," Angel said. "My goal is to graduate from college with as little debt as possible, and the Valley-Bound Commitment is great because I don't have to worry about working or paying for school."

As part of the 2009-2010 Valley-Bound Commitment, Angel's first year of college expenses (books, tuition, parking, and more) were covered by funds from the SBVC Foundation, along with 88 of his incoming classmates.

"The whole process of college seemed confusing at first. But, in talking with my high school counselors, getting to know my Valley-Bound counselor, and setting up an educational plan, it was almost like that extra help and push made me confident," Angel said.

After a successful first year, Angel is about to start his 4th semester with 50.5 units and an impressive 3.3 GPA. Over the summer of 2010, Angel participated in the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU) National Internship Program in Pennsylvania, the nation's largest Hispanic internship program. Students accepted into the program participated in paid internships with federal and corporate offices across the nation.

While Angel was expanding his horizons via the east coast internship, his younger sister Brenda was awaiting word on whether she would be able to attend SBVC as part of the Valley-Bound Commitment Program after graduating from Colton High School in June.



Brenda and Angel Orozco

Angel had shared his experiences at SBVC and in the Valley-Bound Commitment Program with his sister, but the program was nearly full. Leaning on real-time experiences of lobbying gained from his internship, Angel lobbied SBVC administrators on her behalf to get her into the program.

"I was thinking about attending Riverside Community College," Brenda Orozco said. "My brother asked about getting me into the Valley-Bound Commitment Program and a place was found for me."

Brenda enjoys the proactive approach of her counselor who checks in with her beyond the initial crafting of her educational plan. Brenda's educational goal is to graduate with a degree in liberal studies with the purpose of becoming an elementary teacher, specifically, a bilingual 2nd grade teacher.

True to form, the award-winning Valley-Bound Commitment Program continues to change the college-going rate in the region—one family at a time. In the Orozco family, the blossoming leadership of one member (Angel) has created a viable pathway to college for siblings who are following in his footsteps.

"My brother motivates me. He has goals for himself and that has been a great example to me," Brenda shared with deep emotion as her brother sat beside her listening with quiet approval. "Coming from my neighborhood, people look at college as something they can't afford. But, this program really works and helps those in need to afford college. The more education we get as individuals, the more it shows our community that you can go to college and succeed."

Sixteen-year old Colton High school student Victoria Orozco is the youngest sibling in the family. If all goes according to plan, her application to the Valley-Bound Commitment Program in 2012-2013 is all but a certainty, thanks to Brenda and Angel who have paved the pathway for her to follow.

"Without this program, I would have been completely lost," Brenda shared. "The Valley-Bound Commitment Program is the perfect way to show my younger sister how to go down this path of college."



Save The Date

Friday, January 21 – 7:30 a.m – 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast – Campus Center

Hundreds of members of the local and campus communities are expected at this event aimed at honoring the legacy and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For more information, contact Shari Blackwell at 909.384.8297.