



San Bernardino  
**Valley College**

## ***President's Board Report*** *April 21, 2011*

### **SBVC Recognized as National Leader Among Community Colleges Granting Associate's Degrees to Hispanic Students**

According to the March 21, 2011 issue of *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine*, San Bernardino Valley College is ranked in the Top 50 community colleges in the nation for serving Hispanic students and faculty in three separate categories. The findings are a reflection of the college's mission: To provide quality education and services that support a diverse community of learners.

The national magazine's analysis is based on 2009 figures provided by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and includes information on enrollment, faculty diversity and degrees granted. Highlights of the findings are as follows:

- **SBVC ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in the United States - Hispanic Full-Time Enrollment**

*Based on 2009 enrollment figures, SBVC's total enrollment of 14,918 included 7,108 Hispanics (48%)*

- **SBVC ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the United States – Number of Associate's Degrees Granted to Hispanics**

*In 2009, SBVC awarded degrees to 309 Hispanic students representing 44% of the nearly 700 degrees granted that year*

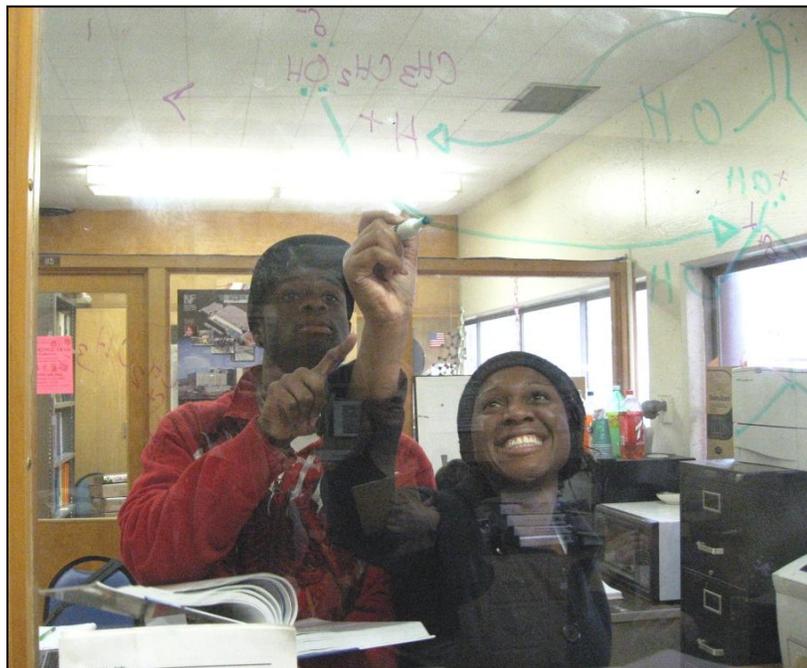
- **SBVC ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in the United States – Hispanic Faculty Members**

*Eighty-five of the 577 faculty members identified as professors at SBVC in 2009 were of Hispanic descent*

As of January 2011, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) indicates there are 1,167 community colleges in the United States - including 112 in California alone. Community colleges are attended by close to half of the undergraduate students in the United States and have become more important than ever in the nation's goal to elevate the numbers of the college-educated entering the work force.



SBVC's Moustafa Kanawati (Math Professor) and Sarah Miller (Lab Technician) were attendees at a standing-room-only Arts & Lectures presentation on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Guest speaker and horticulture consultant & educator Connie Beck Crush gave a presentation entitled "Gardening Nature's Way...With Color." The presentation included samples of native plants and their relationship to the fauna ecosystem.



In a scene reminiscent of the 2002 Academy Award-winning film for best picture "A Beautiful Mind", students in SBVC Professor Dr. Amy Avelar's Chemistry classes make use of dry erase markers and the glass window in her office. The simple, innovative, and "low tech" approach promotes better dialogue and encourages greater success as students work on organic chemistry reactions where she can more easily observe them.

## Spring Mending at the SBVC Library

The SBVC Library staff took advantage of the slowed services during Spring Break Week to mend damaged Textbook Bank books by replacing torn-out pages, mending broken spines and torn-off covers. Circulation Supervisor Angie Gideon (also the instructor of record for the *LIB 062: Care & Repair of Library Materials* course) is a master bookbinder. Angie has been doing this work for over 40 years and shares her fountain of knowledge about book mending with SBVC's Library Technology students and staff. Her expertise means that the Library is able to save money by mending rather than having to buy new materials.

## Placement Fair Draws Huge Crowds

On Wednesday, March 16, 2011 the Placement Fair held in the MAC was filled to the max. Hosted by the Placement Department in the North Hall Multi Activity Center (MAC), the event featured a variety of employers from the Inland Empire who were seeking qualified candidates from SBVC to fill available positions within their organizations. This year's event was held during a non-traditional time period (3 to 5 p.m.) to accommodate students' varying school schedules (including those who are employed during morning hours looking to change their career). Students and community members were lined up an hour before the event with the hope of finding employment.

The event garnered the attention of over 200 people with 15 employers participating. The participating employers were:

Arrowhead Regional Hospital  
Auto Club of Southern California  
Child Care Careers  
EDD  
Home Depot  
K-Frog  
Loma Linda University Medical Center  
Patton State Hospital

San Bernardino Community Hospital  
San Bernardino County Pre-School Services  
SBETA  
Simply the Best HealthCare Staffing  
St. Bernadine's Medical Center  
Think Together Inland Empire Region  
UPS

Outcomes included interviews for positions and internship opportunities Follow-up with employers regarding placements for our students will be done.

## Counseling & Matriculation Launch Pilot Program At Local High Schools

In an effort to reach prospective SBVC students early and to assist them through the admissions process, the Counseling and Matriculation Division has coordinated and implemented a pilot component to high schools in SBVC's service area. The pilot component will assist students in completing the following: SBVC admissions application, assessment, meeting with a SBVC counselor to interpret assessment results, and developing the students' first semester education plan. Participating high schools include Cajon, Pacific, San Bernardino, Colton, Eisenhower and Carter.

With the assistance of the following departments and staff: Admissions and Records, April Dale-Carter, Sylvia Romo; Assessment, Arleen Delgado, Carol Brown; Outreach & Recruitment: Clyde Williams, and his ambassadors; Counseling: Frank Dunn, Dr. Ailsa Aguilar-Kitibutr, Patricia Jones, Jeanne Marquis, , Dr. Denise McCrary, Deanna Silagy and Andre Wooten. The pilot component commenced in March at Cajon, San Bernardino, and Pacific High Schools. Services were provided to 200 prospective SBVC students. The pilot component has continued in April at Colton, Eisenhower, and Carter High Schools. The approximate number of student participants should be about 220.

## **Spring Break Provides Opportunity for Campus Facility & Safety Projects**

Over spring break, members of the Ground and Maintenance departments undertook a major project to remove hedges that were planted around the perimeter of parking lots 2 and 3—despite the rain and cold weather throughout the week. The removal of these plants simplifies the maintenance of the area by reducing the need for regular hedge trimming and represents the first stage of removing such hedges throughout the campus. The labor saved by not having to constantly trim the hedges will be applied to keeping the remainder of our campus landscape cleaner and well maintained.

The campus safety consultant, Keenan & Associates, conducted its annual update of the college's hazardous material inventory while the campus was nearly empty during spring break. This inventory is updated each year and serves as the foundation for the campus hazardous materials business plan, which is filed with the San Bernardino County Fire District. The County of San Bernardino was also on campus to inspect campus sewer lines and clean main lines as necessary. The County inspects approximately 50% of the campus sewer system each year to ensure its integrity and continued safe operation. The remainder of the system will be inspected the following academic year.

## **New Physical Sciences Building Expected To Be Completed This Month**

Finishing touches are winding down on the new Physical Sciences Building with the contractor anticipating that it will hand over the completed building in April 2011. The new occupants of the facility have been touring the new facility in small groups organized by the project management team. Plans to move the faculty and staff into the new building are underway and actual moving will begin in June 2011. Occupancy of the new Physical Sciences Building will allow the college to demolish the old Physical Science and Chemistry buildings along with the last portion of the old North Hall.

Hazardous material consultants are assisting the project management team to properly decommission the old Chemistry and Physical Science Buildings prior to their demolition. All potentially hazardous materials will be abated prior to the building demolition process so as not to risk any accidental contamination. Demolition on these buildings will begin in July and August of 2011.

## **Fledgling SBVC Cyber Security Team Competes Against Four-Year Schools/Universities**

Cyber security is an escalating challenge for modern businesses and governments. The cyber criminals see the world's largest economy as technology-dependent and a target too tempting to ignore. Each day governments endure relentless and sophisticated cyber attacks. Where will the cyber security experts capable of defending our businesses and way of life come from? Why San Bernardino Valley College of course.

Spring break was a frantic time for the SBVC student cyber defense team. The team, though only formed in January, prepared to compete in the March 2011 Western Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense

Competition. The obstacles were formidable but the team was determined. With borrowed and make-do systems they worked all Spring Break in the back of room B210. On Friday morning, the competition would begin and for the first time ever, a team would represent San Bernardino Valley College.

The fictional competition scenario was daunting. With the Securities and Exchange Commission shut down by hackers and the New York Stock Exchange destroyed in a coordinated physical attack, the student team had to bring up a backup center on the West Coast. When the actual competition began at 8:00am on Friday, the situation became much worse very quickly. Hackers had already compromised most of the systems and the rest weren't working at all. As the students struggled to recover the world's most influential stock exchange, the Red team (comprised of professional business, government, and military security experts) skillfully played the role of hackers and attacked mercilessly.

The competition, an exhausting 32 hours in two and a half days was not just limited to technical challenges. Students were also given computer network management and computer analysis tasks to complete. When they completed the tasks, they had to present and defend their results before a panel of 15 executives made up of professors, business managers, and government agency executives.

SBVC Professor Roger Powell, a member of the panel, said that, "the panel was intimidating and asked questions to test a student's ability to perform under pressure. Our students performed exceptionally even though we never had time to even discuss this part of the competition. You can bet we'll be even stronger next year."



*For the first time in school history, SBVC students participated in the cyber security competition alongside four-year schools and universities after receiving training from Professor Roger Powell.*

The SBVC team enthusiasm impressed everyone. The champion Cal Poly Pomona team invited SBVC to participate in their preparation events. The competition administrators and judges encouraged the SBVC team to come back next year.

The SBVC team was exhausted but exhilarated. In three days they were exposed to an unbelievable range of cyber security challenges and learned more than any of them had imagined. Kevin Andrade, the team captain, promised that the team would be back next year.

In addition to the competition, the team members met with cyber security experts from the CIA, NSA, and Boeing to name a few. Representatives from these and other corporations and government agencies were at the competition recruiting potential employees and collecting student resumes.

On the Thursday following the competition the team was meeting again in B210 with Professor Powell and team anxious to prepare for next year.

“We welcome all interested students,” said Professor Powell. “If you are an SBVC student with an interest in cyber security you are invited. We meet every Thursday at 3:00 pm in B210. Don’t worry if you are new to this field. We have a baptism by fire that you won’t ever forget.”

## Celebrating 85 Years - Peeking Inside SBVC’s Oldest Building on Campus: The N.A. Richardson Observatory

By Julie Farren

Amateur astronomer Noble Asa Richardson wanted an Observatory at San Bernardino Valley College. The first president of the San Bernardino Valley College’s Board of Trustees realized that dream when the Observatory was completed in fall 1930.

Sadly, Richardson, didn’t live long enough to see the Observatory’s importance on campus when he died suddenly in May 1931.

So SBVC’s oldest building, which cost a total of \$3,130 (including the sum of \$1,091 for the metal dome), was christened the N.A. Richardson Observatory in the fall of 1932.

A used 16-inch Newtonian telescope had been in storage for several years in Chicago before the college purchased it for \$350 in the spring of 1930. The Newtonian is a reflecting telescope created by scientist Dr. Isaac Newton in late 1668.

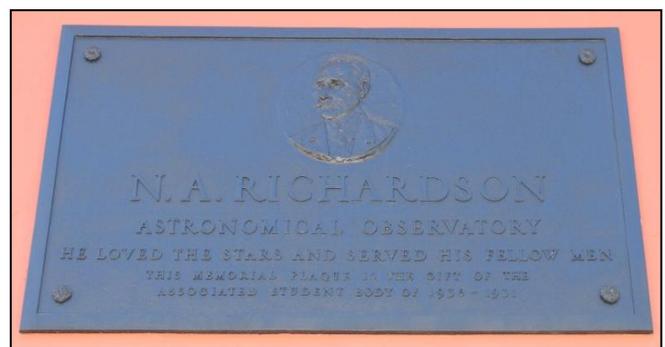
A local amateur astronomer, H. Page Bailey, re-designed the original telescope a year after it came to campus. It was the largest telescope at a junior college during the early 1930s. The telescope even caught the attention of members from California Institute of Technology, who visited SBVC as they were planning for what would become a 200-in. telescope at Palomar Observatory in San Diego County.

Four Astronomy courses were offered at SBVC during the 1930-31 academic year and famed astronomer Dr. Edwin Hubble gave a lecture on the campus in 1931. A year later, the observatory offered star-gazing on Monday evenings for the public and students.



ABOVE: Planetarium Specialist Chris Clarke poses with the Newtonian telescope inside the Observatory.

BELOW: The plaque on the outer wall reflects the 1932 dedication and reads “He loved the stars and served his fellow men.”



SBVC's Observatory remained open for 20 years until interest waned and pollution in the area increased, limiting its use. The telescope also was vandalized in the mid-to-late 1950s so it was removed from the Observatory.

The college turned the downstairs portion of the Observatory into offices for the Recreation Department, Disabled Student Services and College Police.

SBVC Planetarium specialist Chris Clarke authored a book entitled "A History of the N.A. Richardson Observatory" which is available in the SBVC Library. The book includes a comprehensive look at the facility—including his involvement with the facility since 1978.

According to Clarke, Barstow Community College made an offer to buy the telescope in late 1969 and SBVC trustees considered the offer but then declined, citing removal costs as too expensive.

By the mid-1970s, the telescope returned to the dome for student and public viewing. In the late 1980s, Robert Wilson, head of the Physics and Astronomy Department, spent approximately \$30,000 on upgrades, including a new stairwell, heating and air conditioning, and tables. The Observatory re-opened in spring 1990, closed for 8 years, then re-opened again in the fall of 2005.

Clarke said that he is available (on occasion) to take visitors to the Planetarium to see the telescope inside the oldest building on the SBVC campus.

## Professional Accomplishments by SBVC Employees

- One of SBVC's math instructors just inked a two-book publishing deal with Pacific Press. David Smith, in his second full year at SBVC, is a published author of mostly Christian fiction. His upcoming manuscripts have the working title: "Unpacking the Parables of Jesus," and are largely based on his previous years of work for a nationally syndicated radio program. He's also the author of *Finding Waldo*, a biography of his father's years as an actor in the *Our Gang* comedy troupe in the 1930s. His web site is at [www.davidbsmithbooks.com](http://www.davidbsmithbooks.com).
- Mathematics Department Faculty Chair, Dr. Jeremiah Gilbert, was a presenter at the California Mathematics Council Community College South Twenty-sixth Annual Conference which was held on March 4 – 5, 2011. His presentation was entitled "Balancing the Equation: The Effect of Alternate Course Formats on Student Retention and Performance." A description of the presentation follows: "With the rise of nontraditional students at the college level, alternate course formats have been added to address student need. These alternate formats include online, short-term, and weekend courses. This presentation looks at the effect of these alternate course formats on student retention and performance."

- STAR Program faculty, Dr. Reyes Quezada, Dr. Craig Luke Sr., and Deanne Rabon, presented at the national Innovations 2011 Community College Conference in San Diego, on February 28, 2011. The focus of the presentation for their Forum Session was “Factors of Resiliency Within Community College Students: Student Voices”. The exploratory pilot study assessed the extent to which students from an urban California Community College determined factors of resiliency that appeared to be most important in helping them succeed academically.
- History professor Jeffrey Demsky will present a paper discussing American Responses to the Holocaust at a conference co-sponsored by the Netherlands American Studies Association and Antwerp University in Belgium. He is also finishing several entries about U.S. politics contracted by the *Encyclopedia of Off-Altered, Off-Misrepresented, and Generally Misunderstood People, Events, and Ideas in American History*.

### Police Academy Class #181 Totals 35 Graduates

On March 10, 2011, 35 trainees graduated from the Intensive Format POST Certified Basic Law Enforcement Academy at San Bernardino Valley College. The academy, Class 181, began October 4, 2010, with 49 students. Of the 35 graduates, 10 are now employed as full-time sworn peace officers while the remaining 25 graduates continue to seek employment. With fewer jobs available for the time being, the college has cancelled the April academy. Class 182 will begin as scheduled in July 2011.

### Meet The SBVC Team: Check out SBVC’s Library Comedian John Kevari

Most students checking books out of the SBVC Library would never suspect that the employee scanning their items might very well be found scouring an unsuspecting audience for laughs at a comedy club later that evening.

Upon first glance, SBVC Library Media Clerk John Kevari may not strike most people as the prototypical up-and-coming stand-up comedian who is performing regularly in some of L.A.’s hottest comedy clubs. But, for anybody who has worked around him for the last 24 years in the SBVC Library, his humor is unavoidable and infectious.

“Sometimes John just does things off the cuff that are very funny but he always has a good attitude and is very helpful,” said Library Associate Professor Patti Wall who has worked with Kevari at the SBVC Library for his whole career. “His interest in comedy is almost a separate life for him because he is not really trying to be a comedian at work. He really is here to do his job.”



Comically introduced on stage as hailing from “the mean streets of San Bernardino”, Kevari started working in the SBVC Library in the 1980’s as a student worker and actually took some Library Science classes.

“I always liked going to libraries and enjoyed reading and sort of fell into it,” Kevari said. “Ever since then, I have been working in the Library for my day job while dabbling in writing and comedy in my free time.”

## A COMEDIAN EMERGES

With the enthusiasm that only a child could have, Kevari sent the first joke he ever wrote in a letter to Johnny Carson for potential use on *The Tonight Show* back in the 1970’s.

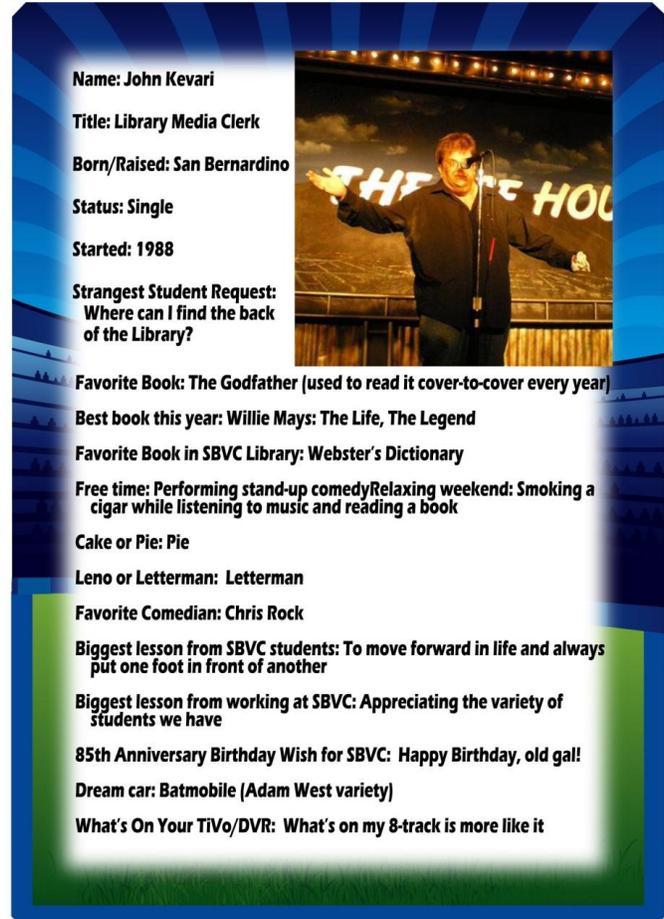
“It had something to do with the arrival of free agency in professional sports. The joke was how a research study had arranged to have lab mice simulate the kind of stress baseball players endure. So, they put the mice through a simulated baseball season and only one mouse survived, and now he wanted to file for free agency.”

Kevari’s memories of comedy go back to his time as a child watching Carson and *Saturday Night Live* as he fondly recalls sitting in his living room with his parents while they laughed out loud to Don Rickles.

“I remember being the class clown in junior high and doing funny stuff whenever we had free self-expression times,” Kevari said. “There was always something that was in me that was drawn to comedy. I didn’t know if I could do it, but it was a little like a moth to a flame.”

The moth encountered the flame when John Kevari made his first stand-up comedy appearance at The Comedy Store in Hollywood in 1986. The fresh-faced 23-year old read an article in People Magazine about the legendary comedy house and took the Greyhound bus from San Bernardino for a Monday night show.

“After that first performance, I remember feeling like I had just hit a home run; it still feels that way today. It’s scary, but, you get those first few moments where everybody is paying attention and you have the chance to win them over and that’s what attracts you to comedy,” John said. “You prepare, you practice in the mirror, at open mics, and when everything goes well, you wonder why you even worried. There’s nothing like it to get those laughs.”



**Name:** John Kevari  
**Title:** Library Media Clerk  
**Born/Raised:** San Bernardino  
**Status:** Single  
**Started:** 1988  
**Strangest Student Request:** Where can I find the back of the Library?  
**Favorite Book:** *The Godfather* (used to read it cover-to-cover every year)  
**Best book this year:** Willie Mays: *The Life, The Legend*  
**Favorite Book in SBVC Library:** Webster’s Dictionary  
**Free time:** Performing stand-up comedy  
**Relaxing weekend:** Smoking a cigar while listening to music and reading a book  
**Cake or Pie:**  
**Leno or Letterman:** Letterman  
**Favorite Comedian:** Chris Rock  
**Biggest lesson from SBVC students:** To move forward in life and always put one foot in front of another  
**Biggest lesson from working at SBVC:** Appreciating the variety of students we have  
**85th Anniversary Birthday Wish for SBVC:** Happy Birthday, old gal!  
**Dream car:** Batmobile (Adam West variety)  
**What’s On Your TiVo/DVR:** What’s on my 8-track is more like it

Legendary comedy hot spots in Southern California like The Ice House (Pasadena) and Flappers (Burbank) are just a few of the locations where Kevari has performed nearly a dozen shows in the last year—all without having to dodge any rotten tomatoes from the audience. In late 2010, he performed in L.A. at the Comedy Store and the Jon Lovitz Club where he was a semi-finalist in the “Funniest Comedian in SoCal” competition.

Kevari describes his comedy as a mix of George Carlin and Steve Martin. So impactful were Martin’s two legendary comedy albums that Kevari admitted he could still recite the entirety of them solely by memory.

## **MORE THAN A PUNCHLINE**

Born with only two fingers on one hand, Kevari approaches his life no different from anybody without a disability. “I do consider it a disability, but I don’t know any different. Never in your life would anybody imagine having three hands. So, for me, I can only imagine life with one hand,” Kevari shared. “I always wondered why people hold a baseball bat with two hands, when I only need one.”

Drawing on the challenges of surviving the tough teenage years, Kevari is unafraid to mix his disability into his routine as more than just a punch line.

“It is a challenge as I don’t really joke about it in real life. But, when a comedian is on stage, you have to confront the obvious because it puts the audience at ease and, in turn, puts me at ease,” Kevari said. “When they don’t laugh, the first thing I think is that they might be seeing my hand. But, if you deal with it in your routine, they can deal with it too.”

## **COMEDY IN HIS DAY JOB?**

Ever the comedian, Kevari jokes that his favorite part of working with students in the SBVC Library is when he finally has the chance to leave at the end of day. All joking aside, Kevari freely admits that he enjoys the variety of dealing with students’ needs.

“Sometimes, students can be the most frustrating, but sometimes the most fun,” Kevari said. “Most are dedicated to what they do and it’s nice to help them because they appreciate it.” So, after 23 years of working in the SBVC Library, certainly Kevari has mined his day job for material in his routine, right?

“Everything in my life is fair game with names changed of course. My colleagues in the library have always known that I’m a goofy guy as I’m always trying out new parts of my routine on them,” Kevari admitted. “Although, I don’t think I even have any librarian jokes so I think people reading this should come up and suggest some to me.”

SBVC Library Circulation Supervisor Angie Gideon has worked with John since the day he started as a student assistant and witnessed his day-to-day humor. “He has always been good to the students,” Gideon said. “I have always told John that someday he is going to be on TV, because he is very funny.” If you want to catch SBVC’s stand-up comedy star, you can see him on YouTube (type in “John Kevari”). He’ll also be appearing at the Ice House Annex on April 27<sup>th</sup> and in the Main Room of the Ice House on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Or, stop by the Library and ask him when his next show is happening—and don’t forget to slip him your favorite library joke!

## SBVC Represented at Joint Higher Education Advocacy Day in Sacramento

On Tuesday, April 6, 2011, higher education leaders from across California gathered in Sacramento for the Joint Higher Education Advocacy Day.

Presidents, chancellors and other representatives from California State Universities, the University of California joined California Community College advocates to speak with legislative officials about the impact of budget cuts to the future of education and the state in general.

Representing San Bernardino Valley College was President Dr. Debra Daniels who joined other top Inland Empire educational leaders as they spoke with numerous legislators on behalf of the students, staff and faculty in California.



*(From L to R) SBVC President Dr. Debra Daniels, UCLA Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Kevin Reed, Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter (D-Rialto), CSUSB President Albert Karnig, California State Student Association Vice President of Legislative Affairs Gregory Washington, CSUSB Assistant to the President Pam Langford, and UC Riverside Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Dallas L. Rabenstein.*

## Save the Date

**April 27 – May 1, 2011-7:00 p.m.:** Theater Arts Performance - Smokey Joe's Café - Auditorium  
*Smokey Joe's Café* is a musical review featuring the songs of Leiber and Stoller. The show opened on Broadway in 1995 and ran through 2000. Audiences will recognize many of the songs featured in this performance as the hits of the Baby Boomer Generation. A \$5.00 preview show will be held April 27, 2011 at 7 p.m. with opening night scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>; the show will run through May 1, 2011. Tickets are \$12.00 general admissions, \$10.00 for students/seniors/military and \$8.00 for children between the ages of 8 and 12.

**Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.:** 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotlighting Our Success Faculty/Staff Awards – Campus Center  
Awards will be presented to the top faculty and staff members of the 2010-2011 SBVC family as voted on by their colleagues. Retirees and employees with years of service anniversaries will also be honored as part of the evening's festivities. Tickets are \$10 per person and dinner will be served by students in Chef Stacy Meyer's Culinary Arts Program. For more information, contact Craig Petinak at 909.384.8978.

**Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.:** 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Ceremony – SBVC Football Stadium  
In an effort to beat the heat and minimize parking challenges, SBVC will be holding its annual Commencement ceremonies at an even earlier start time of 9:00 a.m.