



San Bernardino
Valley College

President's Board Report
June 14, 2012

Highlights from SBVC's 85th Commencement



A two-time Iraq war veteran, a blind student, and four scholars with perfect 4.0 grade point averages were among 1,145 students in the class of 2012 who were transformed into college graduates at the 85th Annual San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, May 24, 2012, at the SBVC Football Stadium.

After an address from SBVC Interim President Dr. Larry Buckley, student speaker Dominic Williams addressed his fellow graduates about the challenges of working the graveyard shift for 40+ hours a week as a single parent while still managing to become the first in his family to graduate from college.

To close the ceremony, a quartet of students led the graduates, staff, faculty, and all attendees in singing the SBVC Alma Mater in memory of its composer, Dorothy Inghram, a pioneering educator and SBVC alumna who passed away at the age of 106 earlier this year. SBVC students in the Radio/TV/Film program provided the expertise necessary to broadcast the ceremony live on the SBVC website.

Touching the Brain in a Whole New Way



SBVC Professor David Bastedo's expectation is that introducing Apple iPads into his BIOL 260 Human Anatomy class will stimulate the brain of every student to learn in a whole new way—about itself.

Seeking an innovative way to engage his students, Professor Bastedo downloaded an app to each iPad that allows his students to explore the various regions of their own brain. In addition, he created short narrated videos to play on the iPads as tour guides to the inside of the human skull.

Rick Hrdlicka, Director of Campus Technology Services, secured nearly two dozen of the popular tablet computers and helped Professor Bastedo prepare them for deployment in lab classes with a custom-designed cart that doubles as a mobile charging station.

"We can see everything more clearly because it is more interactive than the models and the textbooks," said Ogochukwu Ugochucku, a first-year nursing student. "We're actually doing it instead of just watching somebody else explore the different parts of the brain."

"It's like we're having fun while learning," said Melissa Carlin, a student in her third year at SBVC. Students in Bastedo's Anatomy class admitted that they could also see the value of integrating the iPad into just about any lab experience and Chemistry or Nutrition classes.

"Being able to use an iPad in the classroom is just one step closer to the future," said Mario Flores, a second-year student studying to become a pediatrician.

Professor Bastedo was recently named the Innovator of the Year by fellow SBVC staff and colleagues for incorporating new technology into the learning environment. He intends to give professional development workshops to show fellow faculty members how to incorporate the devices and software into their own classrooms.

"What I like about it is that it contributes to multi-learning, which is providing options for people who like to learn with different learning styles," said Allegra Fillmore, a dental hygienist in training. "I have friends at four-year schools that are already using this technology, so it is good to have it here at Valley since I will be using it there next year."

Nurse Pinning Ceremony Recognizes 36 New Nursing Graduates from SBVC

The brilliant glow of the gleaming white uniforms could not surpass the excitement and beaming smiles of the 36 graduates at the San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) Nurse Pinning Ceremony held in the historic SBVC Auditorium on Wednesday, May 23, 2012.

Faculty from the SBVC Nursing Program honored each of the graduates with flowers and the cherished pin. The official nurse's pin signals the completion of the rigorous SBVC Nursing Program—one of dozens of California community college programs that train 70% of California's nurses. The program ended with each of the graduates reciting the Florence Nightingale Pledge.



All graduates of the program will continue preparations to take their National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) while concurrently hunting for employment at local hospitals and health care organizations.

Psychiatric Technician Program Ranked #1 in California for Passing Licensing Examination

The Psychiatric Technician Program at SBVC was recently recognized by the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians as the top-ranked school in percentage of students passing their licensing exams after completing their college coursework.

Sixteen graduates from the fall 2011 Psychiatric Technician Program took their exams in December and all 16 passed. The 100% pass rate is the highest success rate of any school in California. The Psychiatric Technology (Psych Tech) program is a one-year certificate program that prepares students to monitor, provide care, and participate in the treatment of mentally and developmentally disabled clients.

Many thanks go out to the dedicated faculty and staff in this program who pour their time and energy into our students to ensure their success—including faculty members Dennis Jackson, Marcia Alfano-Wyatt, Marianne Klingstrand, Neomi Sabio, and numerous adjunct faculty.



Shanice Stewarts Leaps to State Title at Track & Field Championships

SBVC freshman Shanice Stewart (*in blue at right*) earned the equivalent of gold, silver, and bronze medals at this weekend's 2012 California Community College Athletic Association State Track and Field Championships at Cerritos College. She became a state champion in the women's long jump with a leap of 5.58 meters (just over 18 feet). Stewart showcased her full array of skills by finishing 2nd overall in the women's heptathlon (an all-around performance that counts cumulative points in events such as javelin, high jump, 800 meter run, 100 meter hurdles, and more). Finally, the Carter High School grad placed 3rd overall in the women's 100 meter hurdles with a time of 14.16.



Other results included:

- Men's 1500M – 8th place - Juan Arjona - 3:57.12
- Men's 5000M – 11th place - Jonathan Lopez - 15:41.62
- Men's 3000M Steeplechase – 3rd place - Julian Lopez - 9:24.90

Exclusive Theatre Award Bestowed on SBVC Student



The Inland Theatre League held its annual awards ceremony in early May to honor the top performances from the 2011 season. SBVC Student Alecia Ontiveros (*pictured in character at left*) received an award for her role as Miss Pennywise in the SBVC Fall Musical Production of *Urinetown*. Alecia's award is the first Inland Theatre League awarded to an SBVC production since 2009. The Inland Theatre League has been recognizing excellence in community theater in the Inland Empire since 1975.

Highlights Galore from Classified Staff Week



A full week of activities ranging from professional development workshops to exercising mind and body served as highlights of Classified Staff Appreciation Week. Classified employees from across the District gathered together to learn from each other and connect professionally and socially throughout a variety of settings.

After the annual softball game on Friday, Tracy Morrison and Rick Hrdlicka led the team of managers who barbecued lunch for 300+ classified staff members. During lunch, loads of gift cards, baskets, DVDs, and other items were given away via raffle tickets earned at events throughout the week

Foster and Kinship Care Education and Youth Empowerment Strategies for Successful/Independent Living Program

The Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) and Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success/Independent Living Program (YESS/ILP) at San Bernardino Valley College hosted the California Youth Connection (CYC) Foster Youth Summit on the SBVC campus, Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

There were approximately 200 in attendance including 150 who were foster or former foster youth. The California Youth Connection is a statewide organization which consists of 28 chapters throughout the state of California. CYC is guided, focused and driven by current and former foster youth with the assistance of other committed community members. CYC promotes the participation of foster youth in policy development and legislative change to improve the foster care system. San Bernardino County has one of the strongest CYC chapters in the state.

Transfer Celebration Recognizes Record Number of Students Accepted Into UCR, UCLA, and UC Berkeley



The Transfer Center held its fourth annual Transfer Student Celebration on May 9, 2010. This year record numbers of students that were accepted to UC Berkeley and UCLA. Other SBVC students will be transferring to other institutions such as West Virginia University, Cal Baptist, CSU San Bernardino, CSU Monterey Bay and others. This year the celebration's student speaker was Kevin White, who will be transferring to CSU Fullerton and majoring in political science.

Inter-Departmental Projects Receive Statewide Recognition

At the California Community College Public Relations Organization Conference held at Santa Clara's Mission College in April, SBVC received its seventh and eighth Pro Awards in the last four years for two major projects from 2011 whose successes were made possible by cross-functional cooperation within SBCCD:

College Promotional Video – 3rd Place - The SBVC Foundation and Office of Marketing and Public Relations partnered with KVCR to produce the 85th Anniversary Video.

Before & After – 2nd Place - The expertise of District Computing Services, Campus Technology Services, the Office of Marketing & Public Relations, and outside vendor Mind Over Media collaborating on the re-launch of the SBVC website netted this award that recognizes the dramatic improvement in a specific marketing or public relations subject.

SBVC has received eight awards from CCPRO for excellence in public relations and marketing in the last four years.



SBVC Student Profile: Dominic Williams

Dominic Williams refused to let the circumstances of life affect his laser-like focus on education. Working 40+ hours a week on the graveyard shift while raising a 7-year old daughter as a single parent may appear to most people as sufficiently challenging.

But Dominic knew that education would be the only way to ensure the best life for his daughter—someone he describes as the “beat behind my heart every day.”

“It was October 12th, 2009, when I looked at my 4-year old daughter and told her that if she gave me patience and her love, I would provide us with the best life possible and never give up,” Dominic said.

His daughter, now a 2nd grader with multiple listings on the honor roll herself, remembers the promise leading to Dominic becoming the first in his family to graduate from college.

“I’ve already told her that she’s going to college and I’m going to pay for it,” said Dominic, who also volunteers several hours a week in his daughter’s class at Kelley Elementary School and at their church, The Way World Outreach.



BACK TO SCHOOL

It was in 2010 when Dominic first sat down with a counselor at SBVC who advised him that his work and family commitments would likely lead to more than two years of college coursework.

“She told me I wouldn’t be able to finish in two years with my schedule—that it would be more like 3.5 years. I remember her describing it as impossible,” Dominic recalls. “That was all I needed as motivation. I looked her in the eyes and told her that I guarantee I will be in the spring 2012 commencement ceremony.”

Less than two years later, along with three appearances on the Dean’s List, the San Bernardino area native is poised to graduate with a 3.2 GPA and an associate degree in human services. The 31-year old is already registered to take summer school courses that will lead to two additional associate degrees. Although he’s already taken four units at California State University, San Bernardino, this fall he’ll increase that load to full-time student status. His goals include a master’s degree and maybe a doctoral program en route to becoming a social worker in a mental health field working with troubled youth.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Dominic never met his real father and left high school early to start work due to pressure from family members who also told Dominic that education would not get him anywhere.

“Because my extended family is so poverty-minded, I finally realized that I wanted to set a new standard,” Dominic shared. “Excuses are all around my family, and I want to go above that. Negativity fuels me every day and I actually love it because it motivates me.”

At SBVC’s 85th Annual Commencement on May 24th, 2012, some of those same family members who said education wouldn’t get him anywhere were in attendance, and Dominic recognizes that their support has been critical to his success.

“Graduation is not about me—it’s about everybody who helped me along the way—people who watched my daughter, helped me financially, and even fixed my car and kept me on track. I wouldn’t be here otherwise,” Dominic said.

READY TO GRADUATE

While giving the Commencement speech to hundreds of his fellow college graduates on May 24th, Dominic shared that he was empowered by the satisfaction that he finally broke the mold of the lack of education in his family—thereby showing his daughter how to succeed.

“Yes, you can make mistakes in life, but if you are motivated and pay attention to the right things, you can do anything,” Dominic said. “I wanted to rise above and show my daughter that when you start something, you finish it.”

“In my first semester, I experienced some temporary nerve paralysis after a bout with Bell’s palsy, went through a custody battle, and received a ‘D’ on my first mid-term,” Dominic admitted. “I really wanted to quit. But, I told myself that if I was going to leave SBVC, it was going to be with a degree.”

Turns out he was wrong all along—he’s about to leave with three.