

PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The President's Monthly Report to the
Board of Trustees, Campus & Community



San Bernardino
Valley College

December 2021

SBVC BECOMES FIRST COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO WIN CMAA COMPETITION

San Bernardino Valley College made history at the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) California Rising CM Conference in November. The virtual conference included resume and interview workshops, a career fair, professional development webinars, and networking opportunities. There was also a competition where students could showcase their school's construction management, architecture, and engineering programs. For the first time ever, a community college district was included, and SBVC's construction management team walked away with first place in the category, winning \$7,000 in scholarships. In the presentation, Preston Haerr, an electrical contractor project manager, explained that



he came to SBVC to gain more knowledge on the technical aspects of his work and become a problem solver. The courses he takes at SBVC are helpful because they bring "the technical theory with the hands-on nature, and that is invaluable," Haerr said. "I am not a tradesperson for the electrical field, but Valley has taught me all the skills I've needed to excel in my office position as well as being able to manage a project." Prof. Anthony Ababat said his goal as an electronics instructor is to provide students like Haerr with "the knowledge that they can apply in the field, and at the same token, since I'm a contractor, I apply those experiences and share them with the students."

SBVC BECOMES ONE OF FIRST COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO LAUNCH DISCORD SERVER



San Bernardino Valley College launched a Discord server in September, giving students and alumni an exclusive and centralized location to share and build community online. The platform is growing in popularity among universities and four-year institutions, but SBVC is one of the first community colleges in California to launch an official public server. Discord is a free instant messaging and digital distribution platform, where users communicate with voice calls, video calls, text messaging, and media files in private chats or as part of communities called "servers." Paul Bratulin, Director of Marketing, Creative Services and Public Affairs, said current and former students can use the platform to connect on both an academic and personal level. "The SBVC

Discord server allows students to maintain a campus community in a virtual space," Bratulin said. "From forming a study group to seeking career advice from their peers, students can easily communicate and stay connected through this platform." During the COVID-19 pandemic, several social networking platforms and chatting apps experienced exponential growth as people sought to connect online during social distancing. Discord was among those platforms, growing to over 140 million monthly active users as of the end of 2020. SBVC's Discord server allows Wolverines to ask questions, share information and stay updated on campus news and events. Users can also set their roles to show pride in their academic progress or as alumni of SBVC.

HIGHLIGHTS

SBVC RANKED IN TOP COLLEGES FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS

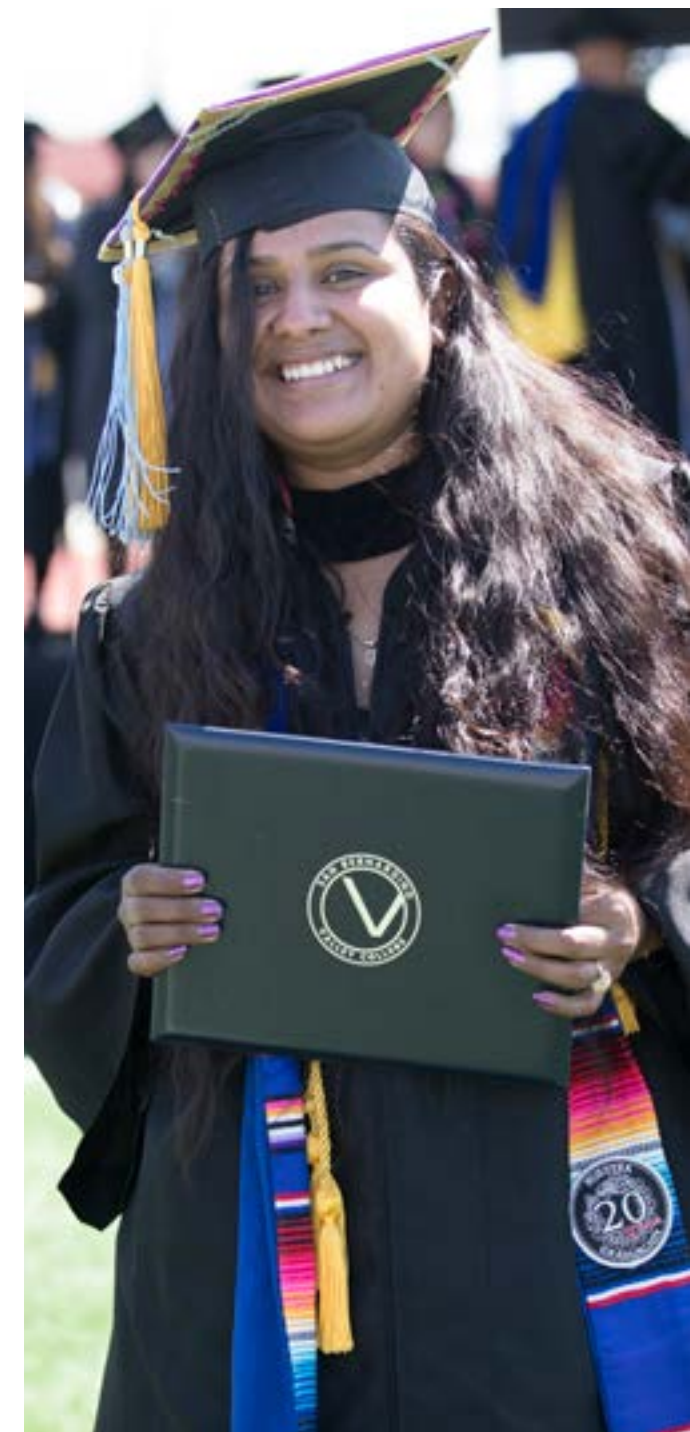
San Bernardino Valley College was recognized by *Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine* in its October issue as one of the Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanic students.

SBVC was ranked #28 in "Total Enrollment 2-Year Schools" and #55 in "Total Associate Degrees Granted" for the 2019-20 academic year. *Hispanic Outlook on Education* releases its Top 100 lists every year to show the national progress Hispanic students are making in higher education and to applaud the colleges and universities leading the way.

San Bernardino Valley College's student population is currently 68% Hispanic, making it a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). To be considered an HSI, at least a quarter of students at a college or university need to identify as Hispanic. There are currently 570 HSIs across the country, according to an analysis by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) released in 2021. According to the most recent enrollment data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, during the 2019-2020 academic year, HSIs made up 17% of all institutions of higher education. They also enrolled 67% of all Hispanic undergraduate students.

**"San Bernardino Valley
College is proud to
be a Hispanic-serving
institution,"**

Interim President Dr. Scott W. Thayer said. "Students come here knowing that they will find support from faculty, staff and administrators who want to help them succeed. The tools they equip themselves with here at SBVC will serve them well no matter what path they take after graduating."



SBVC DISTRIBUTES \$2.3 MILLION IN FREE TEXTBOOKS & COURSE MATERIALS



San Bernardino Valley College launched the Books+ Program this fall semester, providing all SBVC students free rental access to textbooks, plus course materials like lab equipment, regardless of income level or the number of units enrolled. In total, students received \$2,297,757 in books and supplies for the fall 2021 term. All 9,902 enrolled students in 24,557 courses at the 2-year institution received free materials through the program.

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) student LaToya Pleasant, a single mother working two jobs to make ends meet while pursuing her degree, knew what it meant to struggle financially. So when SBVC announced that every student enrolled at the college for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters would be able to receive free textbooks and materials, she was relieved. "Textbooks can be so expensive," Pleasant said. "This initiative definitely took a burden off of my family and me."

SBVC student Alina Alvarez said the program made it possible for her to continue pursuing her education. "Books+ has been very beneficial because I'm a full-time college student and I only have a part-time job," she said. "It has saved me a lot of money, and I would recommend it to others, especially for college students who struggle financially."

SBVC Interim President Dr. Scott Thayer said Books+ was a way to continue to make college accessible for students during the financially-challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have seen so many students struggle because of what the pandemic has done to our economy and livelihoods," Thayer said. "Community college students are much more likely to be working at least part-time than students in universities. The last thing we wanted to see was our students have to give up on their dreams because they couldn't afford textbooks and course supplies."

Students who register for courses at the college are automatically enrolled in Books+. Once they register, their list of required course materials is sent directly to the campus bookstore. Bookstore staff collect all of the materials and notify students when their order is ready for pick up. Should a student drop a class, they must return the rentals to the bookstore promptly. Students must also return all materials in good condition once the course concludes. The Books+ program will be available to students who enroll in the spring 2022 semester. SBVC plans to continue the program pending continued federal funding.



Alina Alvarez, FTVM Major

SNAPSHOTS



15TH ANNUAL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS EVENT RETURNS TO SBVC CAMPUS

SBVC's 15th Annual Dia de los Muertos celebration returned as an in-person event this October. Presented by the SBCCD Latino Faculty, Staff and Administrators' Association, the cultural celebration observed the ancient observance that pays respect to loved ones no longer with us. The festivities included art and food sales, a classic car showcase, community altars, dance performances, music, free face painting and a free outdoor screening of Disney Pixar's "Coco." Many campus and community members attended the evening event, showing off festive Day of the Dead attire and sugar-skull face paint.



BLUE THE WOLVERINE CELEBRATES TURNING TWO

SBVC's Blue the Wolverine mascot turned two years old this November 9, and SBVC celebrated with a special birthday party. Hosted by the Associated Student Government, Blue's 2nd Birthday Party was held on Campus Center Walkway, where students could enjoy free cookies and a photobooth with the mascot. The Culinary Arts Department also participated in the festivities, offering "Blue's Special" in the Sunroom, where students could purchase Blue's favorite meal of a blue cheese, mushroom, and onion string burger. In 2019, student legislators undertook the task of designating the official wolverine mascot character, which was named "Blue" after a campus-wide vote.



HVAC SPECIALIST GIVES LECTURE & LIVE BRAZING DEMONSTRATION

This November, guest speaker Bob Cristan visited SBVC for a lecture on brazing joints, a method used to connect refrigerant tubing to equipment when installing or repairing an HVAC system. "Bob the Brazzer", a Brazing Application Specialist for Lucas Milhaupt, joined the HVAC/R Fundamentals class to share his vast knowledge from his 45 years in the industry. Following his lecture, Cristan conducted a live brazing demonstration, uniting two joints with a brazing torch and aluminum metal filler. Students in the class were then able to attempt their own brazing joints, giving them hands-on training with state-of-the-art equipment.



FTVM CLUB OFFERS FREE HEADSHOTS FOR STUDENTS

The Film, Television and Media Club offered free professional headshots for SBVC students this October, allowing them to refresh and update their LinkedIn profiles as prospective candidates applying for jobs. Research has shown that LinkedIn profiles with headshots get 21 times more views than profiles without a photo, and profiles with non-professional photos only get 14 times more views. 25 students took advantage of the free opportunity to get professional headshots made. The film club takes on media projects aimed at sharpening students' skills in film and media, while expanding their network of filmmaking friends and colleagues.



MECHA DE SBVC COMMEMORATES INDIGENOUS HERITAGE MONTH

MEChA de SBVC commemorated Indigenous People's Day this October with a virtual discussion about the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of Native American communities. In November, the campus club hosted a series of virtual conversations to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Heritage month. Every Tuesday, the club invited students to come learn about the unique ancestry, traditions, contributions, and struggles their communities embody today and have made throughout history. The event hosted several guest speakers, including indigenous activist Julie Dine Richards, founder of the Mothers Against Meth Alliance, which spreads awareness of the meth epidemic in Native American communities. Richards was also the first woman in the Standing Rock Sioux-led fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline to lock herself to construction equipment, stopping work that day. Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) is a student organization that promotes higher education, cultura, and historia. MEChA encourages student political involvement and education in order to enact change in society.



SBVC STUDENT AWARDED IN TWO FILM COMPETITIONS, WINNING \$20,000

San Bernardino Valley College student **Odin Contreras**, 22, in the Film Television & Media (FTVM) program, has won \$20,000 in the college's Short Film Production course competition, and will be able to shoot an entire short film with a state-of-the-art Arriflex 435 35mm motion picture camera. The prize winnings will fund his entire project, including production equipment, digital transfers, processing, film stop, and a final cut on actual film. The equipment and processes used will be of the same level of picture typically produced in current Hollywood cinema.

The classroom competition held in November consisted of 11 participants, who were judged based off a short-film script and pre-production execution. Contreras, a current resident of Highland, was chosen as the winner by the FTVM department at SBVC.

"I moved all the way to California from East Texas in 2017 to pursue my dream in film as a director. As a first-generation college student, I was accepted to Cal State Los Angeles, but due to financial reasons I was forced to find a college where the tuition was more practical. Ultimately, I chose SBVC's FTVM program due to its value, partnership with public television station KVCR-TV, state of the art equipment and critical hands-on experience in a real studio," said Contreras.

With the forthcoming film scheduled to begin shooting November 29 in the San Bernardino Mountains, Contreras has networked and cast two notable actors. They include Jesse Posey of the Netflix series "Selena", and Arianna Rivas of Nickelodeon's "Henry Danger", both of whom have dreams of shooting a movie on real film.

In addition to his classroom win, Contreras was also awarded at the 48 Hour Film Festival this October. The annual event has filmmakers around the world spend two days writing, shooting, and editing a 4- to 7-minute movie. For the third year, the San Bernardino Valley

College Institute of Media Arts sponsored the Inland Empire project, which raised \$1,500 for SBVC media arts student scholarships.

Three SBVC student teams competed, and two received acclaim for their work.

Nancy Aljouni won the Best Acting award for her role in The Ghostwriter, and Contreras received an honorable mention in the Best Directing category for his horror film Temporal Fate. The movie industry is a "very fast-paced environment," Contreras said, with long hours to ensure directors get the right shots, and the 48 Hour Film Project gave him "the closest experience of what my future career holds."

While directing his cast and crew, Contreras said he had to be "sure of myself so my team would be able to trust my decisions. However, I had a plan before we started filming which allowed us to not be so confused. There was a lot of blood, sweat, and tears that helped our short film be the result it is today. Without my crew and the resources from FTVM, I wouldn't have received honorable mention for best directing. I couldn't be any happier with the result."

Some of the state-of-the-art equipment in the FTVM department includes professional-grade cameras such as the Arri Amira, Black MagicPocket 6K Pro, Sony FS7, Sony A7iii, as well as a 4K television studio via KVCR. Other opportunities include motion capture cameras and Davinci Color Correction Suites.

"Providing access to this type of equipment and experience gives our students a leg up in the industry. When Motion Picture Film Stock came (the company the department purchased the film stock from) to hand deliver the film to us, they mentioned that if our students can load a 35mm camera, they'll get work," said FTVM department co-chair Lucas Cuny.

EVENTS

WinterFest 2021

December 7-10

Auditorium & Campus Center Walkways

YESS/ILP Graduation Ceremony

December 15 • 5pm

Cafeteria

Psych Tech Completion Ceremony

December 17 • 10am

Auditorium

Winter Recess

December 24 - January 3

Campus Closed

Spring 2022 Opening Day

January 14

Virtual

As SBVC celebrates its 95th anniversary, we look back on some of the college's rich history. In this photo from the 1970s, SBVC students study in the Liberal Arts building.

For more campus events, visit calendar.valleycollege.edu

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

When **Nhan Zuick** moved from Vietnam to the United States in 2002, the first thing she did was sign up for an English as a Second Language class at San Bernardino Adult School.

Zuick, an adjunct math professor at San Bernardino Valley College, came to the U.S. to marry her husband, and didn't know a word of English. While enrolled in her first class, she learned a lot more than just the language — Zuick also had to figure out everything from the San Bernardino bus system to how the on-campus vending machines worked.

"It was about survival," Zuick said. "My husband trusted me to take care of myself, and I learned from everybody." Zuick covered her house with vocabulary flashcards and spent hours a day in class, and after seven months of intense learning, set her sights on earning a GED. With that goal accomplished in 2004, she transferred to San Bernardino Valley College.

"Every time I walk onto campus, I feel like this is my home," Zuick said. "I will love San Bernardino forever. It's where I learned English, learned culture, and made friends."

In Vietnam, Zuick worked at a hospital, and knowing SBVC has a strong nursing program, initially planned on studying that major. Instead, she found herself drawn to numbers and switched her major to math, graduating with honors. Zuick went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal State San Bernardino, and then returned to SBVC — this time to teach.



"When I came here and learned English, I thought I would find a restaurant and ask them if I could wash the dishes and earn money," she said. "I never thought I would become a teacher. All my life I never thought I would learn English, and learn it so fast."

Because of her experience at the adult school, Zuick understands what it's like for students who feel out of their element, and shares with them the challenges she once faced. She also encourages people who do not know English to take ESL classes, so they can understand and fill out paperwork and important documents.

"I don't want people to ever give up," Zuick said. "If we don't try, we don't know what we can do."

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