

# PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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



San Bernardino  
Valley College

January 2022

# HIGHLIGHTS

## SBVC RANKS 'BEST IN THE WEST' FOR TUITION



San Bernardino Valley College not only provides quality education from respected instructors, but it also offers some of the best tuition rates for out-of-state students, according to the college ranking website Intelligent.com.

Intelligent.com ranks online and on-campus programs across the United States. For its 2022 rankings, Intelligent.com looked at more than 2,900 colleges and universities, evaluating each on the resources and programs available. Institutions were scored on a scale of 0 to 100, taking into consideration program strength, student readiness, return on investment, cost, and student engagement. Based on its scores, SBVC ranked #5 in Best Online Colleges with Lowest Out-of-State Tuition and #42 for Best Community Colleges in California.

"San Bernardino Valley College offers flexible distance learning that appeals to busy adults or hybrid models that include on-campus and online formats," Intelligent.com says, adding that its experts assessed that SBVC's programs "help students enhance and develop advanced skills for a variety of in-demand positions."

Most SBVC students receive financial aid in the form of grants and scholarships, and more than 97 percent are able to avoid having to take on student loan debt.

**"It is important to us at San Bernardino Valley College that our students are able to reach their educational goals without having to worry about the cost,"**

Interim SBVC President Dr. Scott Thayer said. "Thanks to our financial aid offerings, students can focus on their studies and graduate on time, or even early."



## VALLEY WINTERFEST BRINGS SNOW TO CAMPUS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1949

The 5th Annual Valley WinterFest returned to SBVC this December to bring holiday cheer to the campus community. For the first time ever, the event was held over several days, kicking off with an office décor contest that was won by the Office of the VPSS. On Tuesday, December 7, a fresh, 8-ton pile of snow appeared on the Auditorium Lawn for students to enjoy. A mini holiday market and the Culinary Arts Food Truck were nearby as students played in the snow to the tunes of Alumni DJ "Holly Jolly Tom." This marked the first time snow has appeared on the SBVC campus since a freak snowstorm in 1949. Within view of the glimmering holiday lights around

the Auditorium, an outdoor movie was held later that night with the screening of the holiday classic "Elf." The following day, students were invited to take a quick break from studying to refresh and grab some coffee and treats at The Den, as well as a holiday photo with the SBVC mascot, Blue. The mascot posed with students and employees, most of whom donned holiday sweaters and other merry apparel. Pozole and holiday treats were sold at the SBVC Café throughout the week to emphasize the festive spirit of campus. The outdoor, socially-distanced festivities celebrated the completion of the Fall 2021 semester and the coming of Winter Break.

## SBVC'S ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY DEGREE NAMED TOP PROGRAM IN CALIFORNIA



SBVC's electronics technology program has been named the top one in California offered in an online format, according to college ranking website Intelligent.com. SBVC's program offers students the opportunity to select and operate electronic test equipment during troubleshooting and repair operations, emphasizing safety in use and accuracy in results. Students learn to analyze, interpret and trace digital logic diagrams used in signal tracing of complex digital circuits. When students complete the program, they can efficiently communicate and advise customers and co-workers about test and repair procedures and project progress. The Bureau

of Labor Statistics estimates that jobs in electronics technology will grow two percent through 2030, adding an estimated 1,900 jobs in the Inland Empire, where the median annual wage for electronic technologists is \$67,550. "We are incredibly proud to be recognized by Intelligent.com for the quality and affordability of our online electronics technology program," said Dr. Scott Thayer, Interim President of SBVC. "SBVC is determined to keep higher education accessible and affordable for our students - and this designation confirms our commitment."

# SBVC FOUNDATION SECURES \$200,000 IN NEW GRANTS



The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation is set to receive more than \$200,000 in new grants, funding that will be used to support first-year students, provide scholarships, and cover the cost of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) exams.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians awarded a \$100,000 grant to support the Valley-Bound Commitment Program. Valley-Bound Commitment removes economic barriers that stand in the way of success, and since 2008, has covered enrollment fees and textbooks costs for hundreds of low-income students from local high schools during their first year at SBVC.

“San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is a transformative partner for San Bernardino Valley College and Valley-Bound Commitment students, providing almost \$2 million to support the program over the past 13 years,” SBVC Foundation Director Mike Layne said.

Edison International has granted the SBVC Foundation two awards: \$50,000 for the Clean Energy Hybrid and Electric Vehicle (EV) Technician program and \$25,000 for STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) scholarships. Students in the EV Tech program learn the skills necessary to enter the electric vehicle and clean energy fields, where technicians who know the latest technology are in demand.

This is Edison’s 11th year of working with SBVC to provide scholarships to students pursuing careers in STEM fields like computer science, bioengineering, and mechanical engineering.

**“For students who begin their studies at SBVC with an economic disadvantage, these grants help to improve training and create scholarship opportunities that represent a lifeline to higher wage jobs and career advancement opportunities,”** Layne said.

Additional scholarships are being made possible by a \$25,000 grant from SoCalGas. This award will provide 20 \$1,000 scholarships for economically disadvantaged students enrolled in alternative fuels classes or taking alternative fuels certification exams, as well as \$5,000 to promote these courses and sponsor the SBVC 95th Anniversary Gala.

A \$15,000 Careers in Aviation Project grant from Wells Fargo will be used to help aeronautics students soar. SBVC’s Aviation Maintenance Technician Certificate is designed to prepare students to qualify for the Airframe and Powerplant Certificate, which is issued by the FAA and allows recipients to perform 100 hours and annual inspections on aircraft. The Wells Fargo grant will cover the cost of the Airframe and Powerplant Certificate for low-income students.

# SNAPSHOTS



## SBVC REACHES OUT TO LOCAL COMMUNITY IN 6TH ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE

Since 2016, San Bernardino Valley College students, staff, and faculty members have hit the streets during the annual Day of Service to share with local residents the many programs SBVC has to offer. On Dec. 4, 43 students and staff members participated in this annual volunteer community outreach event. They knocked on doors across San Bernardino and surrounding cities, distributing 1,500 bags and informing the local community of the services and classes SBVC provides. At the end of the day, the volunteers returned to the SBVC campus for a barbecue and opportunity drawings. This sixth annual Day of Service was a return to in-person efforts following 2020's virtual event, which acknowledged the volunteer services of SBVC students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## SBVC STUDENTS ATTEND 35TH ANNUAL HACU CONFERENCE IN VIRTUAL FORMAT

SBVC students were able to participate in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) annual conference this October without leaving campus. The conference is a way for member institutions to showcase and share their successful programs and initiatives, form partnerships, and discuss everything from policy issues to scholarships to trends in higher education. A space was set up on the SBVC campus for students to gather and watch the virtual sessions together, with catered meals and matching polo shirts included for participants. Like in 2020, students couldn't travel to the event because of the pandemic, but were able to attend as a group and have discussions this time around, Oscar Rodriguez, Student Success and Support Program Coordinator with First Year Experience, said. "We are looking forward to attending in person next year if the circumstances allow."



## SBVC THEATRE RETURNS IN PERSON WITH CLASSIC SHOW

The San Bernardino Valley College Theatre Arts program made a triumphant return to in-person shows for its fall production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." The campus community gathered in the historic Auditorium to join Charlie Bucket in his adventurous tour of Willy Wonka's world-famous chocolate factory. The students, portraying classic characters like Augustus Gloop and Veruca Salt, wore face coverings on stage and continued to socially distance. Melinda Fogle, Theatre Arts professor and director of the play, was featured on KVCR's "Lifestyles with Lillian Vasquez" to discuss the production. She was joined by SBVC theatre student Saige Azaria, who was cast in the lead role of Willy Wonka and shared her excitement to be playing such an iconic character as a female. "This has been a dream role of mine ever since I was a little girl," Azaria said in her interview.



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING RAISES RECORD AMOUNT FOR STUDENTS

Over 200 campus, district and community partners of SBVC donned their holiday sweaters and festive apparel for the Annual President's Holiday Gathering. The online event turned into one of the most successful Holiday Gatherings, with 23 gift baskets donated by various campus programs and departments, resulting in a total of 9,759 raffle tickets purchased and \$7,873 for student scholarships, the highest amount ever in the event's history at SBVC. The total value of the 23 beautiful baskets donated was \$6,385, also one of the highest amounts in the event's history. The event was the second remote holiday gathering, with Interim President Dr. Scott Thayer drawing randomly virtual tickets entered into each basket through a custom web portal. Gift basket themes ranged from "Now We're Cooking" and "Santa's Casino", to gift card bouquets and even concert tickets.



# SBVC RECOGNIZES FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS DURING INAUGURAL EVENT

San Bernardino Valley College honored the hard work and dedication of its first-generation students during the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration Day. This is a new national event, held on Nov. 8 to coincide with the anniversary of the day President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Higher Education Act of 1965. This legislation strengthened United States colleges and universities, making higher education more accessible for people from underserved communities. SBVC's inaugural First-Generation College Celebration Day event was attended by 35 campus community members. First-generation students are the first in their immediate families to attend or graduate from college, and the celebration recognized not only SBVC's current first-generation students, but also employees who were the first in their families to continue their educational journeys after high school.

The highlight of the event came courtesy of the speakers who shared their stories during two panel discussions. The first panel was comprised of a diverse group of professionals from the Inland Empire, including many who attended SBVC, who spoke about their career paths and experiences as first-generation students (below, left). The second panel was made up of current and recent first-generation students, who shared their experience navigating the uncharted waters of higher education (below, right). "They touched upon a number of topics, including overcoming imposter syndrome, the importance of the campus and the services provided, and dealing with the pressure of being the first college student in their family," Oscar Rodriguez, Student Success and Support Program Coordinator with First Year Experience, said. In the past academic year, over 14,400 SBVC students identified as first generation college students. After a successful inaugural event, SBVC is looking forward to celebrating the next First-Generation College Celebration Day in November 2022.

“  
**We are so proud of our first-generation students pursuing higher education, something they've never seen anyone in their family do before. We will continue to help them navigate the college process, and acknowledge their success every step of the way.**  
”

- Dr. Scott Thayer  
San Bernardino Valley College  
Interim President



As SBVC celebrates its 95th anniversary, we look back on some of the college's rich history. In this photo, members of the class of 1949 gather in front of the SBVC Administration building.

# EVENTS

## Spring 2022 Opening Day

January 14

Virtual • 9:00am

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 17

Campus Closed

## Spring Classes Begin

January 18

For more campus events, visit [calendar.valleycollege.edu](https://calendar.valleycollege.edu)

## 95th "Great Expectations" Gala

TBA

Athletics Complex

## Lincoln's Birthday

February 11

Campus Closed

## Washington's Birthday

February 21

Campus Closed



# GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

**LaToya Pleasant**, 39, knows the impact a positive role model can have on a college student's life. After a chance encounter with San Bernardino Valley College Adjunct Professor Mary Lawler who convinced Pleasant to go back to college, the Fontana resident had a whole new perspective on education and mentorship.

Pleasant wanted to do for others what Lawler had done for her. As a single mother who had struggled financially and worked multiple jobs to make ends meet, Pleasant suddenly saw her future fully materialized, aiming to do what Lawler had done for her. She would inspire, motivate, and provide for students' mental health, and would study psychology with the ultimate goal of becoming a school psychologist.

Pleasant enrolled at SBVC and dove into her studies and her experience further reinforced her desire to push forward toward her goal. Lawler continued to mentor her, helping her "every step of the way."

"College can be overwhelming, and you can feel like a small fish in a big pond," Pleasant said. "I believe educators should be fully invested in their students. The impression they leave on pupils, good or bad, is life-changing and stays with them forever."

Pleasant graduated from SBVC this fall in December 2021 with her Associate in Arts in Psychology. She plans to transfer to a university to complete her bachelors' and eventually earn her master's degree, and she is already inspiring and motivating others. Her daughter, Alexis Winters-Dixon, started at SBVC in August and will also study psychology with the



goal to become a child psychologist. Pleasant said through her hard work and good example, she is "determined to break the impoverished, substandard generational curses" in her life.

"I believe I am unique because my attitude is positive despite all that I have been through," Pleasant said. "My experience in life has made me into a stronger person. I have worked two jobs as a single mother while maintaining a 3.9 GPA during my time at SBVC. My outlook on life is great regardless of my circumstances."

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