

# President's Board of Trustees Report

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

Taking Flight: Soaring With Partners for Student Success

APRIL 2024

## SBVC Foundation Raises Quarter of a Million at "Taking Flight" Gala

On March 15, San Bernardino Valley College celebrated its 98th year of supporting student success with a record-breaking fundraising effort to increase the SBVC Foundation's capacity to award student scholarships. Showcasing the campus's state-of-the-art Kinesiology & Athletics Complex in a truly special evening of dining, entertainment, and donation opportunities, the 98th "Taking Flight: Gala raised over \$247,000 in combined proceeds from event sponsors, a live auction and ticket sales - the highest amount ever raised in a single fundraising effort on campus. A total of 40 corporate sponsors contributed the largest share of the proceeds, with Amazon contributing the gold sponsorship; Stater Brothers Charities and KVCR the silver; IEHP, SBCUSD, SBCCD, SafeworkCM, SBVC Associated Student Government, and the SBVC President's Office the bronze; and Teamsters Local 1932 and the San Bernardino International Airport Authority contributed the underwriter sponsorships. The entirety of the gala's net proceeds will be used for awarding scholarships and other assistance to students at San Bernardino Valley College.



Throughout the evening, SBVC student performers captivated the audience with musical numbers echoing the college's annual theme of "Taking Flight," while distinguished alumnus Dexter Thomas took to the stage with his jazz ensemble, The Brass Brothers, adding to the evening's unforgettable ambience. SBVC's interim president, Dr. Linda Fontanilla opened the event with an homage to the enduring partnerships that have driven SBVC's growth and success over close to a century, emphasizing the college's vital role as a driver of the regional economy through its addition of a vast network of over 850,000 alumni to the local and global economy. Describing the night as an unequivocal triumph, SBVC Foundation Director Michael Layne extended heartfelt appreciation to the college's community partners and stakeholders. "Thank you for igniting hope and empowering possibilities," Layne said. "This gala truly stands as a testament to the power of our community and our shared commitment to higher education. These donations pave the way for countless students to pursue their dreams and shape brighter futures."

### GOAL 1

ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

### GOAL 2

BE A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, & ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION.

### GOAL 3

BE A LEADER & PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES.

### GOAL 4

ENSURE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 24 | **Black Excellence Educational Summit**  
Auditorium
- May 21 | **Commencement 2024**  
San Manuel Stadium
- July 6 | **SummerFest 2024**  
Football Field

More Events:  
[valleycollege.edu/calendar](http://valleycollege.edu/calendar)

# SBVC Student Health Hosts International Women's Day Event

SBVC's Student Health Services hosted a special event for International Women's Day on March 12, focused on empowering the physical and mental well-being of those who attended while providing a platform for students, faculty, and staff to come together and reflect on the accomplishments, challenges, and aspirations of women around the world.

The event's guest speaker was Dr. Nicoleta Dragan, co-founder of Beingfuliyou, a provider of courses tailored to educators to enhance their overall well-being. Dragan focused on the concept of self-compassion, which—in her research and practice—can lead to many positive outcomes, including increased psychological wellbeing, self-efficacy, motivation, self-worth and positive interpersonal relationships.

GOAL 2: BE A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, & ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION.

## 13th Annual WolverineCon Features Science Fiction, Fantasy & Nostalgia

On March 5, SBVC kicked off the 13th annual WolverineCon and International Student Film Festival on campus. Named after the college's mascot and now in its 13th year, WolverineCon provides a vital platform for aspiring filmmakers to showcase their creativity, and for industry experts to offer valuable insights. This year's event featured 1980s science fiction and fantasy, with events including a DC Versus Marvel Debate, an 80s Horror Film Panel and a workshop on motion capture basics.

"This year marked our most successful event yet," said SBVC Co-Faculty Chair and Director of Film, TV, Media, Institute of Media Arts and Arts & Humanities, Lucas Cuny. "We had 131 submissions from 8 countries, nearly 300 tickets sold for the festival, and an average daily attendance of around 100 visitors. We're continually impressed by the dedication and talent of the filmmakers who submitted to our festival, and we are already looking forward to next year's event."

A few of the festival's highlights included the opening night feature-length film produced by SBVC's own FTVM department. The film was written and directed by Briana Navarro, a recent alumna and part of the class of 2023. SBVC's Juan Villeges clinched the Grand Jury award for the second consecutive year. A variety of local high schools were represented, such as Rialto High School, Cajon High School and Jurupa Hills High School.



Attendees participate in WolverineCon's Wolverine Fight Fest, a competitive gaming event.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



A little bit of rain didn't stop WolverineCon's red carpet event, hosted by FTVM alumni, Brianna Navarro and Manny Sandoval.

The highlight of the festival is the award ceremony, where filmmakers are recognized for their work.

2024 Award Winners:

- **Grand Jury:** We Missed You, directed by Juan Villeges, San Bernardino Valley College
- **Best Fiction:** We Missed You, directed by Juan Villeges, San Bernardino Valley College
- **Best Documentary:** Don't Get Any Ideas, directed by Olivia Andrade, Florida State University
- **Best Direction:** Adam Desjardins, Acting Out! S1E1: "Pilot", La Sierra University
- **Best Public Service Announcement:** Music Counts: LGBTQ+, Samantha Morales, Arrival, San Bernardino Valley College
- **Best Animation:** 1 2 3 Red Light, Green Light
- **Best Experimental or Digital Story:** Getting Classified, Student Section
- **Best Screenplay:** Juan Villeges, We Missed You, San Bernardino Valley College
- **Best Cinematography:** Zach Guiteirez, Eduardo Lopez, Mike Contreras, and Paul Black, Afterworld
- **Best Editing:** Juan Villeges, We Missed You, San Bernardino Valley College
- **Best Sound Design:** The Shadow of Green
- **Best Original Score:** Gabriel Alexander, Second Sight
- **Best Lead Actor:** Jayce Lamb as "Mark" in Second Sight
- **Best Lead Actress:** Noemy Clara in We Missed You, San Bernardino Valley College
- **Best Special Effects:** Oscar Bermudez, Error

2024 Audience Award Winners:

- Group 1: Rams Head
- Group 2: The Others
- High School Group: The White Gloves

Submissions for the 2025 WolverineCon and SBVC International Student Film Festival are already open.

For 2025 submissions, please go to [https://filmfreeway.com/SBVC\\_FilmFest](https://filmfreeway.com/SBVC_FilmFest).

For more information about SBVC's Film, TV, and Media Department, visit [www.valleycollege.edu/ftvm](http://www.valleycollege.edu/ftvm).

# SBVC's SummerFest 2024 Promises Fun, Food, and Festivities!

Summer plans at SBVC are already underway. San Bernardino Valley College is proud to continue this one-of-a-kind partnership with the San Bernardino Symphony for a third year in a row in celebration of Independence Day.

This year's festivities and concert are being held on July 6 at the SBVC Football Field from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, with the concert starting at 7:30 PM. The concert, titled "America, the Beautiful," is expected to bring thousands to campus this summer. The show ends with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture and an exciting firework display. In addition, the concert will be celebrating the great music from 3 American musicals, The Wizard of Oz, Wicked and The Wiz!

Food vendors, face painters, games and more are expected at this year's SummerFest. You don't want to miss out!

Table seating and general admissions tickets are available now on the San Bernardino Symphony website: <https://www.sanbernardinosymphony.org/july-6th-concert>

If you are a vendor interested in participating, email Alejandra Aguilera at [aaguilera@valleycollege.edu](mailto:aaguilera@valleycollege.edu) or visit [valleycollege.edu/summerfest](http://valleycollege.edu/summerfest) for more information.

GOAL 3: BE A LEADER & PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES.



## SBVC Welcomes Keith Bacon, Vice President of Administrative Services



Life has come full circle for San Bernardino Valley College's new Vice President of Administrative Services, Keith Bacon.

Ever since he graduated from San Bernardino High School, Keith has cultivated a career in public education: most recently serving as chief business official with the Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa ROP, Romoland School District, and director of fiscal services in the Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District. Now, he is back in his hometown of San Bernardino, ready to help the college achieve its mission in the community.

"Growing up just five miles from the campus, amidst challenges like food insecurity, poverty, and educational disparities, which still persist in the city, gives me a unique perspective and drive to contribute to the community's improvement," Keith said.

As Vice President of Administrative Services, Keith supports campus-wide initiatives, like building projects and efforts to modernize programs, and his division's goals are aligned with SBVC's overall mission and district objectives. "We are dedicated to being an anti-racist institution, focusing on eliminating barriers and fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility," he said.

Keith is excited about working in a city that means so much to him: it was a teacher at San Bernardino High School, Mr. Corigliano, who inspired Keith to go into education, and he met his wife in the ninth grade while they were riding an Omnitrans bus. He started as Vice President of Administrative Services in January, and immediately found camaraderie.

"Engaging with individuals across the campus, understanding their challenges, and collaborating on solutions is incredibly fulfilling," Keith said. "This environment not only fosters professional growth but also strengthens my commitment to the institution's mission and the community it serves."



# Student Spotlight

## Omar Sanchez | Class of 2023



Omar Sanchez, Class of 2023

Omar Sanchez is rising up the ranks at the Riverside Transit Agency.

The San Bernardino resident honed his skills in the Automotive Technology Department at San Bernardino Valley College, where he learned everything from "electrical and mechanical diagnosing to simple inspections on a vehicle," he said.

While at SBVC, Sanchez enjoyed being able to read about each topic in textbooks while also "getting hands-on experience," he said. "It was a great time learning a little bit of everything in the various classes I attended. The courses most definitely sharpened my skill set as well as taught me new techniques. It prepared me for the real world."

Armed with his certification, Sanchez applied for an entry-level job at the Riverside Transit Agency, and was hired as a servicer. The RTA promotes from within, and in just three months, Sanchez was offered a mechanic job, and he now works as a Level C Heavy Duty Mechanic. This fast career advancement, he said, is "thanks to my education at SBVC."

Sanchez has found that "a lot of the habits and practices from the classroom setting can be transferred to the professional level." He's able to quickly pick up on things, and "quite often, I tell myself, 'Wow, I learned how to do that at school already,'" he said. "That makes me more effective and valuable to my employer."

Looking ahead to the future, Sanchez aims to become the "best heavy duty mechanic I can be," he said. "I want to progress my career in this field and hopefully one day teach others and pass down my own knowledge."



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