



PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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

SBVC Launches Centennial Year

San Bernardino Valley College launched its centennial year with a festive procession and opening ceremony on August 22 before Fall Opening Day.

Members of SBVC's athletic teams lined the walkway through campus while a drill team, drumline, and SBVC mascot Blue led students, faculty, administrators, and staff to the historic auditorium. Each of the college's 100 years was printed in blue on the sidewalk.

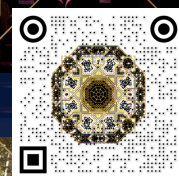
"As we celebrate our centennial, it is worth remembering and sharing with the world that San Bernardino Valley College is the model for the vision and promise of a community college education," President Gilbert Contreras told the crowd.

San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Dr. Diana Z. Rodriguez, SBVC's former president, was also on hand to wish the college a "happy 100th birthday," adding that its employees "all focus on what students need most to be successful, and that's what's most important."

The college will host a slate of celebratory community events over the next year in honor of its centennial. For more information, visit valleycollege.edu/100.



SCAN TO SEE THE RECAP VIDEO



'Valley Up! the Mountain' Leadership Summit Sets Bold Vision for Centennial Year and Beyond

San Bernardino Valley College kicked off its centennial year with the inaugural "Valley Up! the Mountain" Leadership Summit, bringing together faculty, staff, and administrators for a day of collaboration, reflection, and forward-looking planning in Lake Arrowhead.

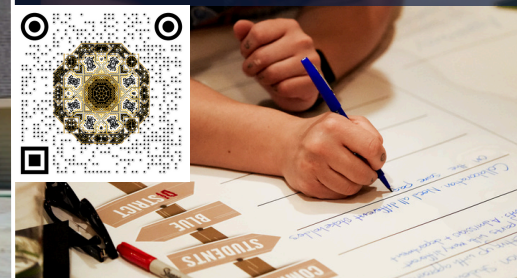
The summit was designed to strengthen community ties and reimagine what it would take for SBVC to be ranked #1 in the world. Guided by the principle of Advancing Community, participants engaged in conversations and activities that reaffirmed the college's commitment to student success, equity, and innovation.

The day was anchored around four strategic priorities: Career & Transfer, Health & Safety, Boldly Student-Centered, and Opportunities for All—each rooted in SBVC's core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism. Through breakout discussions, interactive "choose your adventure" activities, and candid dialogue about campus safety and belonging, the summit provided a platform to align goals across all employee groups.

The energy of the day was palpable, leaving participants with renewed connections and a shared determination to climb higher together. As SBVC embarks on its second century, the Valley Up! Initiative 2025-2030 will serve as both a rallying cry and roadmap for the college's next era of growth, transformation, and excellence.



SCAN TO SEE THE RECAP VIDEO



SBVC's New Professional Pilot Program Takes Flight

San Bernardino Valley College unveiled its Flight Operations - Professional Pilot Degree and Certificate program on Aug. 2 during an open house at Riverside Municipal Airport.

The program, operated in partnership with Riverside Flight Academy, prepares students for careers in aviation; expands local access to high-demand pilot training; and gives participants financial access to the aircraft industry by helping cover their flight hours (a minimum of 40 hours as required by the FAA). It was approved by the state in June and will be offered for the first time in the 2025-26 academic year.

"Our dream is to bring flight to the community college and open opportunities for flight instruction to individuals who might not have that opportunity," said adjunct aeronautics faculty member Shannon Millen.



SBVC & CSUSB Launch Den2Den Student Housing Pathways Program

San Bernardino Valley College and Cal State San Bernardino kicked off a new year of Den2Den, a housing program that strengthens SBVC students' pathway to CSUSB by letting eligible Wolverines live in university residence halls and dine on campus.

"Den2Den is the most recent example of the amazing opportunities we create when SBVC and CSUSB work together," SBVC President Gilbert Contreras said during the August 21 ribbon cutting at CSUSB's Arrowhead Village complex.

In addition to housing, the program includes a meal plan and an ID that students can use at CSUSB's recreation center and library. SBVC students get their own rooms inside four-bedroom, fully furnished apartment-style units and five meals per week. To participate, students must be actively enrolled at SBVC and show interest in transferring to CSUSB.

"This is a win-win for all of us," said CSUSB President Tomás Morales, who told SBVC students moving in to consider the campus "your home."

San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Diana Rodriguez echoed the theme of home while addressing the students.

"What Den2Den really gives you is peace of mind knowing you have a safe place to live while working on your studies," she said.



SBVC Launches First 'Ascend Together' (A2G) STEM Cohort



San Bernardino Valley College proudly welcomed its inaugural A2G (Ascend 2Gether) cohort this August. Designed as a cohort model, the program provides wraparound services to guide students on their journey toward STEM and Allied Health degrees.

The first group of 40 students, representing Black, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander communities, gathered for an engaging orientation where they built connections, toured campus, and embraced the spirit of collaboration.

With the support of dedicated counselors Dr. Dani Smith-Morton, Nicole Jimenez, and Phylicia Deam, A2G is already off to a strong start—advancing equity, success, and opportunity for SBVC students.

CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Judith Valles



Hall of Fame Alumna Dr. Judith Valles, Class of '53

While attending San Bernardino Valley College in 1952, two professors saw potential in Judith Lopez Valles, a daughter of Mexican immigrants. "Their encouragement and support provided the foundation for me to 'dare to compete,'" said Valles, who went on to do that and much more.

Valles, who was elected as the first Hispanic mayor of San Bernardino in 1998 and inducted into the SBVC Alumni Hall of Fame in 1991, got her start in education. She taught elementary and high school while earning her bachelor's degree at the University of Redlands, and was appointed to the SBVC faculty in 1965 as a Spanish teacher. During her 33 years at SBVC, Valles rose through the ranks, leading the department of foreign languages, chairing the division of humanities, and later serving as administrative dean of academic affairs, chief instructional officer, and executive vice president of academic and student affairs. At the same time, she continued her own education, earning her master's in Spanish literature from UC Riverside in 1970 and doing doctoral work at UCLA and the University of Redlands.

She left SBVC in 1988 when she was named president of Golden West College, and at the time told the Los Angeles Times she was ready to put her perseverant spirit to the test. "As a woman and minority, you have to work twice as hard and twice as long," she declared. After retiring in 1993, Valles continued to devote herself to education, serving as a San Bernardino Community College District trustee, hosting the Spanish-speaking television shows 'Impacto' on KVCR-TV and "La Voz" on KCSB, launching the Valles Family Scholarship at SBVC, and guest lecturing at Harvard University on gender and leadership issues. During her two terms as mayor of San Bernardino, Valles oversaw renovations of the city's historic areas, increased neighborhood cluster associations, and expanded youth programs.

100 Centennial Events

SEPT
02

Men's Soccer Home Opener

Athletics Field 4 p.m.

SEPT
05

Women's Soccer Home Opener

Athletics Field 1 p.m.

SEPT
15

Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff

Auditorium TBD

SEPT
18

Black 2 School Night

B-100 5-8 p.m.

OCT
3

New SS Building Groundbreaking

South of Auditorium TBD

