



# PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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

## Hispanic Heritage Month Shines at SBVC with Concert Featuring Poncho Sanchez

The vibrant sounds of Latin jazz filled the air at San Bernardino Valley College's Greek Theatre on October 12, as Grammy-winning musician Poncho Sanchez performed before a crowd of several hundred.

The concert was part of SBVC's Centennial Celebration and Hispanic Heritage Month festivities, marking a joyful convergence of culture, music, and community.

"Valley College President Dr. Gilbert Contreras has been best friends with my son, Xavier Mongo Sanchez, for many years, so this performance has been a long time coming," Sanchez shared before taking the stage.

Sanchez's connection to SBVC runs even deeper—his band member, Giancarlo Anderson, serves as a music instructor at the college, bridging the world of professional performance and student learning.

For more than three decades, Sanchez has captivated audiences worldwide with what his biography describes as "a fiery stew of straight-ahead jazz, gritty soul music, and infectious melodies and rhythms from across Latin and South America." A self-taught musician from Norwalk, California, Sanchez first explored the guitar, flute, and drums before finding his signature sound on the conga drums.

His career includes more than 20 albums, six Grammy nominations, and four Latin Grammy nominations, along with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. His 1999 album *Latin Soul* earned him a Grammy Award for Best Latin Album, cementing his legacy as one of the genre's most influential artists.



# SBVC Breaks Ground on Student Services Building



San Bernardino Valley College officially broke ground on its new Student Services Building on October 3, marking a major milestone in the college's continued transformation. Construction began in April 2025 and is scheduled for completion in April 2027.

"As we break ground today on a new Student Services Building, we advance our college priority as a boldly student-centered college," said SBVC President Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras. The \$117 million, 102,691-square-foot facility will replace the 1970 Liberal Arts Building and serve as a one-stop hub for student resources. Plans include classrooms, tutoring and collaboration spaces, assembly areas, counseling and matriculation offices, conference rooms, and health and wellness services.

"When this building is finished, it will be the front door to our college — a welcoming front door," said San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Dr. Diana Z. Rodriguez.

State Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes, joined by Assemblymember James Ramos, described the new facility as "a welcoming gateway" for future students taking their first steps onto campus.

The building is being designed for LEED Platinum certification, the highest sustainability rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. Environmentally conscious features include concrete structural elements, vertical windows, easy access to public transportation, and native landscaping surrounded by trees.

Funding comes from Measure CC, a \$470 million bond approved by voters in 2018, and Measure M, a \$500 million bond passed in 2008. Chancellor Rodriguez noted that projects like the Student Services Building have already generated more than \$200 million in local economic activity, reinforcing the college's role as both an educational and economic cornerstone in the community.

## Campus Engages in 'Reimagining SBVC'

Conversations on San Bernardino Valley College's campus-wide reorganization, Reimagining SBVC, are underway with feedback given by faculty and staff at townhall meetings and in the Gresham Art Gallery.



Reimagining SBVC aims for a streamlined student experience, an organizational structure that minimizes duplication of services, and advancing emerging areas and students' multifaceted needs.

The reorganization will more closely align the college's work with board strategic directions, the college mission, and the Valley Up Initiative. Programs and services will be strengthened to improve success and equity metrics and demonstrated return on investment.

Revisions will be presented to the Academic Senate and College Council in November and December, board approvals are slated for spring 2026, and the new organizational structure will be implemented in July 2026.

The reorganization's web hub is [www.valleycollege.edu/reimagine](http://www.valleycollege.edu/reimagine).

## SBVC Celebrates Filipino & Islander Culture

To honor Filipino American History Month, SBVC presented a diverse slate of events, all encompassing the theme "Celebrating Generational Joy: Food, Music, Laughter, and Love Across Generations."

The fun kicked off on October 9 with a Paint & Sip party, featuring the delicious Filipino dessert halo-halo. On October 14 students attended a Karaoke & Self-Care event, and on October 28 Dr. Dustin Domingo came to campus for a discussion on his book *With Love: What We Wish We Knew About Being Queer and Filipino in America*. Domingo shared stories about culture, family, and identity, and signed books that were given to attendees for free. The month ended on a high note with SBVC's Centennial Barrio Fiesta on October 28.

Adding to the month's festivities, SBVC also hosted a Polynesian cultural celebration during the October 12 home football game against Santa Monica College. The halftime performance featured student dancers showcasing traditional island dances and music, bringing powerful energy, color, and pride to the field.

The month's events were sponsored by the Arts, Lectures & Diversity Committee; Dreamers Resource Center; Student Life & Leadership; Riverside University Health System Behavioral Health; and the SBVC President's Office.



## SBVC Brings Home the Gold at the SBCCD Olympics

San Bernardino Valley College proudly captured the gold medal in tug-of-war during the 2nd Annual San Bernardino Community College District Olympics, held on October 17 at SBVC's Kinesiology & Athletics Complex.

The spirited competition brought together faculty and staff teams from SBVC, Crafton Hills College, and the SBCCD District Office for a day of friendly rivalry and campus pride. Team SBVC—decked out in Wolverine blue—showcased teamwork and determination across events including dodgeball, water relay, and more.

By the end of the day, the Wolverines earned one gold, three silver, and five bronze medals, reflecting the college's strong sense of unity and perseverance. The celebration continued with tacos, churros, and ice cream as participants and supporters came together to honor the camaraderie and shared community that define the district.



# CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT

## John Trudell



Hall of Fame Alumnus John Trudell

San Bernardino Valley College is celebrating one of its own during Native American Heritage Month.

Since 2017, SBVC has hosted the John Trudell Poetry Festival in honor of alumnus, poet, and Native American rights advocate John Trudell. He was born in Omaha in 1946, and grew up on the Santee Sioux reservation.

Trudell enrolled at SBVC in 1967 because it was the only community college at the time with a radio and television broadcasting department. In a 2013 interview with the Inland Empire Community News, Trudell said he learned all aspects of television production in his two years at SBVC, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

In 1969, Trudell brought his family to Alcatraz as part of a Native American effort to reclaim the island they considered ancestral land. He credited his broadcasting experience at SBVC for his ability to convey the Native American point of view; Trudell was the movement's spokesman.

Trudell later led the American Indian Movement from 1973 to 1979. That year, his pregnant wife Tina, three children, and mother-in-law died in a suspicious house fire just hours after Trudell burned an American flag on the steps of an FBI building in Washington, D.C. A devastated Trudell withdrew from public life for a few years. "It was when I was looking for something to hang on to, to keep me connected to this reality, that I started writing," Trudell was quoted as saying in his archives. "Tina was the writer. She wrote poetry. And almost six months after the fire, when I was looking for help — I was looking to cut any spiritual deal. I was pissed off at God, at the Great Spirit, at all of 'em because this was a betrayal to me ... And then the lines came. The lines were my bombs, my explosions, my tears, they were my everything."

## 100 Centennial Events

NOV 05	<b>Homecoming Pep Rally</b> Gym 11 a.m.
NOV 07	<b>Men's Basketball Home Opener</b> Gym 5 p.m.
NOV 08	<b>Homecoming Football Game</b> Football Field 6 p.m.
NOV 10	<b>Veterans Day Festival</b> Greek Theatre Lawn 11 a.m.
NOV 18	<b>Native American Day</b> B-100 9:30 a.m.

We're capturing SBVC's 100th year through stories, highlights, and campus moments.



Check out SBVC's Centennial Moments on YouTube!