



# PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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

## SBVC Celebrates Native American Heritage Day

Students, staff, and faculty learned about Native American culture during a day of dancing, music, and eating fry bread tacos on November 18, 2025.

Along with members of his family, Navajo and Hopi fashion designer and dancer Arley Washington demonstrated different dances done at powwows, like the round dance and grass dance. He grew up in Southern California, and told attendees that going to powwows as a youth kept him connected to his roots.

"I've definitely performed and shared my culture everywhere — that's why it's been an honor and privilege to share this with everyone here," said Washington, who danced in a Michael Jackson video and at Knott's Berry Farm.

He also learned how to make Native American clothing and accessories and do beadwork, and brought several items with him to show the crowd, including headdresses, or head roaches, made from porcupine and deer hair; a rawhide shield; deerskin leggings; flutes; colorful breechcloths; and breastplates.

His mother, Marjorie Webster, a former SBVC student, performed a southern cloth dance, and told attendees that this is a way to honor ancestors.

"We dance for people who can't and when I dance, I pray for those who aren't with us," Webster said.





# Veterans Day Festival

## Brings Community to SBVC Campus

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at San Bernardino Valley College and KVCR held their annual Veterans Day Festival on Nov. 11.

Attendees enjoyed food, live music by the band Crimson Revolver, lawn games, and prizes, and perused booths showcasing resources for veterans. Cadets from Del Vallejo Leadership and STEAM Academy in San Bernardino presented the colors and performed drills.

"Here at VRC, we pride ourselves in helping our fellow veterans," said student and VRC employee Isaiah Franco.

SBVC has a history of supporting former service members and helping them adjust from the military to the classroom.

"Service was very important, but the decision to transition here changed my life," said Army veteran Daniel Hinojosa. He was "lost" going back to school, but that changed once he walked into the VRC. Hinojosa went on to earn two associate's degrees at SBVC before getting a bachelor's at Cal State San Bernardino, where he is now a master's candidate.

"I wouldn't have done that without the support of Valley and (Veterans Services Coordinator) Jason (Alvarez)," said Hinojosa, who worked at the VRC and was SBVC's 2023 commencement speaker. He encourages all veterans to reach out to the VRC, as asking for help is the biggest thing you can do."

Army veteran Jeremy Brooks also found the assistance he needed through VRC, and said he quickly learned that SBVC "is a family across the board."



## Barrio Fiesta Honors Filipino Heritage at SBVC

The Arts, Lectures & Diversity Committee celebrated San Bernardino Valley College's centennial and Filipino culture with the Barrio Fiesta October 28.

Attendees enjoyed traditional Filipino food, music, and performances. The event was the last in a series for Filipino American History Month, themed "Celebrating Generational Joy: Food, music, laughter, and love across generations."

The event opened with performances of the U.S. national anthem by SBVC alumna Jessie Koh and the Philippine national anthem by Crafton Hills College alumna Mary Tyree-Garcia. It was "a powerful expression of Filipino American dual heritage," according to co-coordinator Rangel Zarate, associate professor of English.

Kristine Jan Cruz Espinoza, assistant professor of education at California Lutheran University, delivered "a heartfelt address on cultural pride, education, and representation, reminding attendees that joy and identity are not just celebrated -- they are carried forward," Zarate said.

Performances by the Filipinx American Student Organization from Cal State San Bernardino, the Filipino American Association of San Bernardino County, Ube Arte and the Philippine American Cultural School highlighted the richness of Filipino artistry.



## Centennial Homecoming Ends in a Win for SBVC Wolverines

San Bernardino Valley College celebrated its 100th Homecoming with a pep rally and football game the first week of November.

The Middle College High School cheer team performed at the Nov. 5 pep rally, and Homecoming Court nominees and the football team were introduced.

Three nights later, the Wolverines took to the field for a game under the stars against LA Pierce College. SBVC won 66-0, giving the team a share of the American Conference, Pacific League Championship and sending them to the Western State Bowl, where they played Nov. 22 against second-place Antelope Valley.

This was a rematch from the Week 1 game that Antelope Valley won 33-28 at SBVC Stadium. SBVC finished the regular season 7-3 and headed to the postseason for the first time since 2019.



## President's Circle Luncheon Honors Donors and Celebrates Student Success

Local leaders, alumni, faculty, staff, retirees, and community partners filled the room on Nov. 24 for the annual President's Circle Luncheon.

The event was held to thank and celebrate SBVC Foundation donors for their support of San Bernardino Valley College students.

The highlight of the program came when two student speakers, Daniel Aguilar and Jocelyn Olmos, shared how scholarships have helped them on their educational journeys. Aguilar, a recent graduate with double associate's degrees in math and physics, is continuing his education at Cal Poly Pomona. Olmos, a second-year kinesiology major, plans to transfer to Cal State San Bernardino in 2026.

"Their words reminded us why donor support is so vital to student success," said SBVC President Gilbert J. Contreras. "I want to thank Executive Director Mike Layne and the entire SBVC Foundation team for putting on such a meaningful event."



## SBVC Hosts Resource-Focused Event for First-Generation College Students

First-generation college students at San Bernardino Valley College were invited to share their experiences at an event held for them by the Student Equity & Success office on Nov. 5.

Students enjoyed burgers and churros, and heard former first-gen students speak about who and what helped them. Each attendee received a list of resources, like contacts in the counseling and financial aid offices, and specialized programs offered at SBVC.

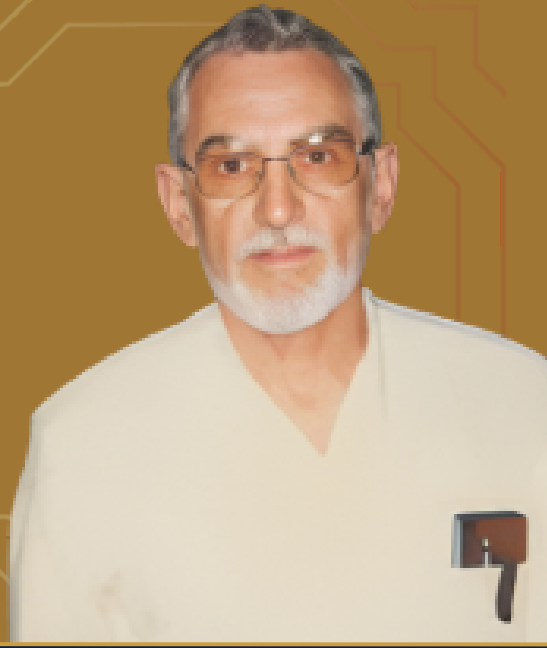
Attendees also received a first-gen T-shirt and a copy of the book "Crack the Code: A Guide to College Success for First Gens."





## CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT

# John Bancroft



Hall of Fame Alumnus John Bancroft

During his nearly 20 years as an administrator at San Bernardino Valley College, Dr. John Bancroft remained dedicated to ensuring all students received a quality and equitable education.

He arrived at SBVC in 1969, first serving as director of counseling and later becoming dean of student development. One of his responsibilities was overseeing adult reentry, and he loved watching these returning students blossom.

"So many adults came back and discovered they were a lot smarter than they had ever given themselves credit for," he said.

A World War II veteran, Bancroft spent four months in a French prisoner-of-war camp, which changed his outlook on life. After this experience, "I became a pacifist and worked with peace groups," he said.

Along with his late wife, he established the Dr. John and Elaine Bancroft Peace & Justice Scholarship in 1988, one year after his retirement. This award is given to SBVC students about to embark on careers that eliminate conflict and promote justice, like family counseling and teaching.

At 101, Bancroft is the oldest living donor to the SBVC Foundation. His generosity has benefited dozens of students over the last three decades, and the Bancroft Peace & Justice Scholarship is a testament to his fondness for SBVC and its mission.

"The campus looks different, but Valley continues to serve the population it was created to serve," he said. "It does that as well as ever."

## 100 Centennial Events

DEC 03	<b>WinterFest</b> Greek Theatre Lawn 4pm-8pm
DEC 04-07	<b>Shrek: The Musical</b> Auditorium 7pm-8pm
DEC 05	<b>President's Holiday Gathering</b> Auxiliary Gym 11am-12 pm
DEC 10	<b>ESL Achievement Celebration</b> B-100 5pm-6pm
DEC 19	<b>End of Fall Semester</b>

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



Check out SBVC's  
Centennial Moments  
on YouTube!