



PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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

SBVC Designated a Black-Serving Institution



The BSI Task Force with Dr. Contreras: (back row) James Griffin, Yvonne Gutierrez-Sandoval, Gabriel Martinez, Ayanna Spivey, Keynasia Buffong, Amanda Moody, Keenan Giles, Dr. Anthony Blacksher, Maria Notarangelo, Leticia Hector, (front row) Christian Sarfo-Poku, Aida Gil, Carmen Rodriguez, April Dale, Lorrie Burnham, and Veada Benjamin. Not pictured: Dr. Stephanie Lewis, Kimberly Jefferson, Dr. Daniele Smith-Morton, Dr. Kirk Rogers, Brianna Cunningham, Davena Burns-Peters, Garry Parker, Nia BOWENS-McCleod, and Ernest Guillen.

San Bernardino Valley College was officially designated in December as a Black-Serving Institution (BSI) by the Black-Serving Institution Governing Board, a national advisory body whose work is administered through the CSU Statewide Central Office for the Advancement of Black Student Success.

The milestone recognizes SBVC's longstanding commitment to advancing Black student success, equity, and belonging. Dr. BJ Snowden, interim executive director of the central office, conveyed the board's decision in a letter to SBVC President Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras and praised SBVC's leadership and contributions to statewide equity efforts. "Your institution's work has helped to shape a more just and responsive educational landscape for Black students across California, and we are deeply appreciative of your ongoing efforts," he said.

The BSI designation is a newly developed recognition in California that identifies colleges that enroll a significant proportion of Black students and demonstrate intentional, measurable commitment to their success. SBVC is among the first institutions in California to receive this designation, which was made possible through the work of the Black-Serving Institution Task Force, whose members led research, planning, student engagement, and equity-centered strategies throughout the process.

Dr. Contreras shared the announcement with the campus December 8. "Outstanding news! We earned our official designation as a BSI," he wrote. "This reflects the dedicated and heartfelt work of our entire college. I am proud of our collective effort and grateful to everyone who contributed to this achievement."

SBVC 'All Aboard' the Polar Valley Express for WinterFest

Families enjoyed throwing snowballs and sledding down a hill, visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and riding a trackless train during SBVC's annual WinterFest on December 3.

This year's theme was "All Aboard the Polar Valley Express," and real snow was brought in to make the community event feel even more magical.

President Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras extended season's greetings to attendees on behalf of college leadership, and shared that it's "great to see children having fun on our campus."

Two features made their WinterFest debut this year: Los Posadas, a small Mexican village with champurrado and a mini pinata craft, and Club Wolverine in the student lounge.



SBVC Athletics Makes History with Unprecedented Postseason Play



In 100 years of offering athletics at San Bernardino Valley College, the school had never seen a day like November 22, 2025.

For the first time in program history, all six of SBVC's fall sports teams were competing in postseason play on the same day—a remarkable testament to the depth, consistency, and competitive strength of Valley athletics.

From cross country to soccer, football, and volleyball, SBVC teams were in action across the state, representing the college on some of the biggest stages in California community college sports. The men's and women's cross country programs capped championship seasons at the 3C2A State Championships, while both soccer teams advanced to the second round of regional playoffs. Football made its long-awaited return to bowl competition for the first time since 2019, and women's volleyball delivered a dramatic postseason run that included a hard-fought advancement and a strong showing against a top-seeded opponent.

Taken together, November 22 wasn't just a busy day—it was a historic one. It marked a powerful moment of alignment for SBVC Athletics, reflecting the dedication of student-athletes, coaches, and staff, and underscoring the Wolverines' place as a rising force across multiple sports.

SBVC Celebrates ESL Certificate Recipients

More than a dozen San Bernardino Valley College students who received non-credit English as a Second Language (ESL) integrated skills certificates were honored during a celebration held on December 10.

"It was great to see so many people come to the event to support the students, and the students were very excited to get their certificates," said Dr. Dirkson Lee, one of the organizers. "Their families were very supportive as well."

This was the first time SBVC held an event to celebrate students receiving these certificates, and Lee hopes it will become an annual tradition. SBVC leadership, faculty, and staff participated in the festivities, which included an ESL student testimonial video, a presentation from Lee on the history of the ESL program, a congratulatory speech delivered by SBVC President Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras, and food from Vallarta supermarket.

To qualify for the certificate, students complete three classes in the ESL non-credit track. From there, they can go into the credit track and English-language classes, which "encourages them to continue in their educational goals and plans," Lee said.

Accessibility is one of the non-credit program's goals, he added, unlocking more educational and career opportunities, and one student has already moved on to California State University, San Bernardino.



SBVC Faculty and Staff Celebrate the Season at Annual President's Holiday Gathering



San Bernardino Valley College faculty and staff came together for the President's Holiday Gathering on December 5, enjoying a buffet catered by students in the Culinary Arts program, music by the SBVC Jazz Band, a coffee bar, and a visit from Santa Claus. Every attendee also received a blue centennial scarf as a present.

"This has been a very special year because of each and every one of you coming together to define a student experience for this college," SBVC President Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras told the crowd. "That doesn't happen without each and every one of you pulling together to Valley Up."

The event gave faculty and staff the chance to reflect on the year, as they watched a 2025 highlight video and were asked to think of something good that happened during the fall semester. Participants praised the return of the football team, expansion of aeronautics, and an Admissions and Records open house.

A raffle was held for holiday baskets donated by different departments, with all ticket sales going to support student textbook scholarships for Fall 2026. Contreras and other SBVC leaders also announced the winners of the office decorating contest. Facilities took home first place and won a lunch with the president, while Adult Education earned second place and Student Accessibility Services came in third.

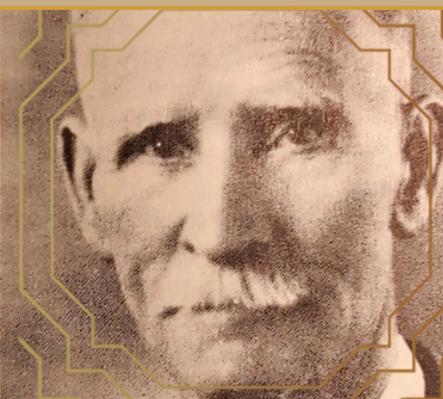
Santa made his entrance toward the end of the gathering, declaring upon his arrival that he was "an alumnus of North Pole Community College."

SBVC President Contreras Delivers \$1,000 Prize to Cajon HS

San Bernardino Valley College President Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras received a warm welcome when he arrived at Cajon High School on December 11 to award the Associated Student Body with \$1,000 from the SBVC Foundation.

He was greeted by an SBVC centennial sign on the door and excited ASB members, who would spend part of the day with him. Cajon earned the \$1,000 prize for having the highest registered attendance at SBVC's Homecoming football game in November. Middle College High School also received \$1,000 for high attendance.

Contreras visited Audrey Reisenhofer's ASB class and played SBVC trivia with students. Principal Dr. Christopher Jackson, an SBVC alumnus, thanked Contreras and the foundation for the award, and spoke about the importance of students pursuing opportunities at the community college level and the ASB's dedication.



N.A. Richardson

CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT N.A. Richardson

Noble Asa (N.A.) Richardson was the earliest champion of San Bernardino Valley Union Junior College, now known as San Bernardino Valley College. He believed in the power of learning, and served as one of the college's founders and first chairman of the board.

Richardson moved to San Bernardino from Kansas in the early 1880s to become a teacher. This was the start of his 50 years in education, which included stints as a principal and superintendent of schools. He was instrumental in shaping San Bernardino Valley Union Junior College during its early days, and his love of astronomy inspired him to add the department in 1931.

On May 20, 1931, Richardson died suddenly of a massive heart attack, stunning the campus community. Because of his dedication to the college, Richardson's funeral was held in the gym and classes were canceled, giving students and faculty the chance to pay their respects. He "devoted his life" to education, President J.B. Griffing said, and the successful college was the "result of his ideals and his untiring energy."

Richardson's legacy lives on nearly 100 years after his death. The oldest building on campus, the observatory, is named in his honor. Built in 1931, it opened with a 16-inch Newtonian telescope — the largest on any U.S. college campus at the time.

100 Centennial Events

JAN
16

Spring 2026 Opening Day
Auditorium
8:30 AM

MAR
20

Health Science and Aeronautics Building Groundbreaking
TBA

FEB
20

Student Services Building Topping Off Ceremony
TBA

MAR
27

Centennial Gala
Kinesiology & Athletics Complex
5 PM

MAR
10-13

WolverineCon
Auditorium
7 PM



Check out SBVC's Centennial Moments on YouTube!

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