



PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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

SummerFest Celebrates Growth, Music, and Community



The San Bernardino Valley College community and residents from across the Inland Empire enjoyed live music, food, and butterfly-themed activities at SBVC's annual SummerFest June 20.

Before the San Bernardino Symphony's evening concert in the football stadium, attendees perused informational and activity tables run by various SBVC departments and the SBVC Foundation. They also explored the campus' Oak Garden and participated in a butterfly-themed scavenger hunt for a chance to win prizes.



The butterfly theme was chosen because, just as a caterpillar metamorphoses into a butterfly, college can be a place of growth, transformation, and new beginnings.

"We are proud to welcome the community to our campus as the celebration of our centennial continues, and to celebrate our country's 250th birthday," said SBVC President Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras.



San Bernardino Symphony Music Director Anthony Parnter invited San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Dr. Diana Z. Rodriguez to join him onstage to announce the branches of the military for the Armed Forces Medley. Rodriguez has "really championed this region and championed education here and in our city and beyond," Parnter said, and the Symphony's longstanding partnership with SBVC is one that "we absolutely treasure."

The concert included patriotic songs and selections from Broadway musicals sung by guest vocalists.

SBVC Hosts District Juneteenth Event

Joy was in the air on June 17, 2026 as San Bernardino Valley College faculty, staff, students, and members of the community gathered to commemorate Juneteenth.

“Thank you all for coming out to support this event, and making sure that this is something that is in the forefront of our minds and our brains as we celebrate liberation,” San Bernardino Community College District Trustee Dr. Cherina Betters told the crowd.

Attendees enjoyed music from a live band and DJ and food from Gram’s BBQ. Special T-shirts were distributed, and attendees played lawn games and interacted with SBVC mascot Blue.

The San Bernardino Community College District Black Faculty and Staff Association, which organized the event, also awarded \$500 scholarships to six students.



SBVC Foundation Awards Record Amount in Scholarship Funds

The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation awarded more than \$882,000 in scholarships — the most in its history — at its annual scholarship ceremony on May 7, 2026.

A total of 638 San Bernardino Valley College students received scholarships in the 2025-26 academic year. This includes funding from the two-year pilot ValleyUp2CSUSB program for SBVC students committed to enrolling at Cal State San Bernardino.

“Your college community is proud of you. Tonight is not the end of your journey — it is a reminder of what you have already overcome and what you are still capable of achieving,” said SBVC Foundation Executive Director Mike Layne.

Many scholarship recipients juggled work, family obligations, and other challenges while attending classes.

The Foundation raised more than \$1 million at SBVC’s centennial gala March 27. In addition to awarding more than \$882,000 in scholarships, the Foundation distributed more than \$20,000 in other student support.

Top scholarship funders include Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, the Foundation for California Community Colleges, the Jay Pritzker Foundation, Chuck Obershaw and the Obershaw family, and Southern California Edison.



SBVC Hosts 600 High Schoolers for Senior Day

Hundreds of high school students got a close look at San Bernardino Valley College during Senior Day on April 15, 2026.

Visitors toured the campus, had lunch, played lawn games, and met faculty, staff, and students at information booths that lined the breezeway from the south end of the stadium to the Applied Technology Building.

At the art complex, students and their chaperones watched glassblowing demonstrations, while near Applied Tech they viewed augmented reality demos and drawings for a drone. Everyone took home Valley College swag.



STEM-MESA Center Holds Hands-On Open House

San Bernardino Valley College's STEM-MESA Center drew scores of students to its open house April 8, 2026.

Students did hands-on STEM activities and collected a stamp from each station to exchange for food from Habit Burger & Grill. They met STEM-MESA staff, connected with other students, and learned about the center's academic support services.

The STEM-MESA program offers free tutoring and supplemental instruction sessions to STEM students, who can also participate in STEM-related activities, campus events, and field trips. The Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) program supports students pursuing science, engineering, and math degrees.

SBVC Celebrates Nursing, Pharmacy Tech, Aero, and Police Grads

San Bernardino Valley College sent future nurses, pharmacy technicians, and aviation and law enforcement professionals into the world this spring and summer.

SBVC hosted its nursing pinning ceremony in May, with Interim Director of Nursing Yolanda Simental noting the importance of the occasion. "As we celebrate 100 years of San Bernardino Valley College, we also honor the legacy of the San Bernardino Valley College nursing program," she said. "For over nine decades, San Bernardino Valley College School of Nursing has stood as a beacon of nursing excellence in the Inland Empire."

The pharmacy technology white coat and pinning ceremony and aeronautics graduation and Career Runway Expo, featuring aviation employers and tool manufacturers, were also both held in May. The Basic Extended Academy Class 44 graduation was held on July 18, 2026.



Nursing Program



Nurses receive their caps at SBVC in 1942.

In 1908, almost 20 years before San Bernardino Valley College existed, what is now the college's nursing program launched as the San Bernardino County Hospital Training School.

Its stated purpose was to provide "young women instruction in the art of caring for the sick." Students were required to make their uniforms before entering the 36-month program, and they had to live at the hospital complex and couldn't marry, said Interim Director of Nursing Yolanda Simental. When SBVC opened in 1926, the program affiliated with the college.

"In those early days, the nursing students walked onto this brand-new campus to master the basic sciences. And what did they wear? They wore their white hats, blue-striped dresses, and white aprons," Simental said at the department's pinning ceremony in May.

The nursing school became a department at SBVC in 1931, and graduates received both a diploma from the college and a certificate from the hospital.

A century later, much has changed but there is an echo of familiarity. According to a book chronicling the program's history, "there is a demand for good nurses, who will fill the ever climbing standards of the profession."

Library Employee Angie Gideon Retires After Six Decades



When Angie Gideon's family drove by San Bernardino Valley College in her youth, she told her father, "I'd like to go to that school someday."

She stayed for six decades.

Gideon retired June 30 after 59 years working at SBVC's library — 61 years if you count her time as a student employee and substitute staff member. "Even now when I'm going to retire, I can't believe I'm going to retire. This has been my home away from home forever," she said.

Gideon's earlier home was a ranch in Texas, before her family moved to Colton in 1959. After graduating from Colton High School in 1965, she earned a degree in art from SBVC, and the library's art collection was a main draw to working there.

"I fell in love with the library — the books and the students," said Gideon, who was SBVC's first Employee of the Year in 1986. "Every year you have new books and new students. So I never got bored. I love my job."

Gideon worked in three library buildings and saw the advance of history and technology. She signed deferments for students who were drafted to fight in the Vietnam War, worked with students known as "boat people" who fled Vietnam, and remembers when President Bill Clinton and Dolores Huerta visited campus.

More than six decades ago, Gideon's father called her a dreamer for wanting to attend SBVC.

"And you know what? The dream came true," she said.



Angie Gideon, circulation supervisor of the San Bernardino Valley College Library, was among those welcoming visitors from China during an educational tour on the Chinese New Year's holiday. The visitors were part of a group of the first in a series of educational systems in light of nation's the expanding market economy. "What are we doing today, China will be doing tomorrow," said Gideon.