President's Board Report

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community | June 2017

Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

As one of the most exciting academic years in San Bernardino Valley College's history comes to a close, the campus reflects on the many milestones that were achieved by its students, faculty, classified professionals and administrators in the year of the college's 90th anniversary. A significant increase in staffing levels and student enrollment during the 2016-17 academic year allowed the college to provide more services to students than before, resulting in one of the largest graduating classes the college has had in its 90-year history.

Not only will the Class of 2017 be remembered for its high transfer rate, but also for an impressive number of associate's degrees awarded to students, with a 48% increase over the prior year.

In total, 1,468 students received 2,056 degrees and certificates, with 55% of graduates being the first in their families to graduate from college, and 28 seniors from Middle College High School graduating concurrently with high school diplomas and associate's degrees. Congratulations, SBVC!

Wolverine Spotlight: Andrew Montana

The Class of 2017 has 12 graduates with a 4.0 GPA. One of these remarkable individuals is Andrew Montana, a Middle College High School graduate who is also receiving his associate's degree in liberal arts from SBVC and will be transfering to UC Berkeley this fall.

At Berkeley, Andrew is considering a double major in environmental design and marketing with a minor in music, after which he will go on to pursue a master's degree in his chosen field.

When asked what his dream job would be, Andrew says he hopes to be successful as both a musician and designer, if possible. His inspiration as a designer is Friedensreich Hundertwasser, an Austrian architect he discovered while listening to podcasts, and his musical inspirations are Bob Dylan and Jack Johnson.

"I had a pretty well-defined path when entering college," says Andrew. "I always knew that I wanted to get my associate's degree, and SBVC has really allowed me to pursue my dreams and passions while saving money." Congratulations, Andrew!

SBVC Recognized for Historic Significance

On May 9, San Bernardino Valley College was officially recognized as a historic site by the Native Sons of the Golden West, a statewide service organization dedicated to historic preservation. The college was recognized for providing over 90 years of comprehensive education and for being a regional leader in career and technical education.

"It is especially fitting that we celebrate the dedication of a historical marker in 2017," said President Diana Rodriguez. "SBVC has been a pillar of advancement, economic growth and opportunity for generations, and its impact on our region is beyond measure."

Food Festival Highlights International Students

On April 27, SBVC hosted the college's first-ever FoodIEFest, a campus-wide celebration of international cultures that brought cuisines from across Southern California and the world to campus for an all-day food festival. During the event, students organized an international flag parade to showcase the 26 countries represented by international and immigrant students on campus. Over 1,000 people participated in the day-long event, which featured an outdoor dining experience hosted by the Culinary Arts Department, free food tastings, food trucks, a resource fair, games, and live international music and dance performed by SBVC students.

SBVC Wins Inaugural Districtwide Poetry Slam

On April 27, the first-ever intercampus poetry slam resulted in a victory for San Bernardino Valley College's team, which was composed of students from disparate majors and disciplines. The Slam, organized by the Arts, Lectures & Diversity Committee, was organized to increase student and faculty involvement in events that promote diversity on campus. The trophy will be housed on campus at San Bernardino Valley College until next year's competition at Crafton Hills College, when the trophy will once again be up for grabs between the SBCCD's two colleges.

Employees Recognized at 22nd Annual Spotlighting

On May 12, SBVC celebrated the nominations of 48 of its employees in 26 campus-wide award categories, including Outstanding Professor and Classified Employee of the Year, as well as its 2016-17 academic advancements in rank. Winners were presented with trophies and congratulated by campus administrators at a 90th-anniversary-themed dinner in Campus Center. The college also celebrated the retirement of 6 long-time employees. Congratulations, SBVC!

Theatre Department Presents First-Ever Devised Play

On May 4, San Bernardino Valley College's Theatre Arts department launched "A New Day," its first-ever devised play, which was comprised of real stories from the lives of SBVC students and alumni.

In celebration of the college's 90th anniversary, images from the last 90 years on campus were projected onto beautiful customized frames onstage. "I was blown away by the actors," said Delia Mejia, a sophomore who graduated in May. "They transported us directly into their personal lives, so we got to see how much all of us SBVC students have in common."

SBVC Recognizes Outstanding Middle College Grads

In April, San Bernardino Valley College and Middle College High School recognized the high school students who had demonstrated the highest levels of achievement on college coursework during the 2016-17 academic year. With 28 associate's degrees awarded to MCHS grads during the Spring 2017 semester and the vast majority of recipients having a 3.5 GPA or higher, the MCHS Class of 2017 is one of the largest and most successful graduating classes in the SBCCD and SBCUSD's combined histories. Congratulations, SBVC!

Upcoming Events

June 15
Police Academy Graduation #206
7:00pm / ALFC

June 22-23
Opera Performance
La Clemenza di Tito
free / 7:00pm / MAC