



INSTRUCTION INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Spring into Action – A New Semester of Possibilities!



A Welcome from Leticia Hector, Interim Vice President of Instruction

Happy Monday! It's amazing to think we're already in February—the Spring semester is flying by! I'm excited for what's ahead and grateful for the energy on campus. It was wonderful seeing so many of you during Convocation Week, Adjunct Orientation, Opening Day, and around campus. A special highlight was connecting with our student alumni, who returned on Opening Day to share their inspiring journeys with us.

I am eager to collaborate with each of you to strengthen our programs and support your efforts in the classroom. I look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the coming months.

You should have all received our Accreditation Newsletter, announcing that ACCJC has determined that our Institutions progress is appropriated and has accepted our Mid-Term report. Continue to look out for our updates, as we continue to prepare for our Site visit in the Fall term of 2027. One way to begin preparing is to ensure your syllabi list accurate Student Learning Outcomes. Visit the [Outcomes Webpage](#) for more information.

If you have not had a chance yet, be sure to visit [The SALA – Services Advancing Learning for All](#) – Your one stop for information on student services, resources, and supports.

This semester is an opportunity for continued growth, innovation, and success. Thank you for your continued dedication to our students and our community. Together, we can build on the great work that has already been done and make this a memorable semester.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Michael Torrez - Chemistry

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) is home to many dedicated educators, but Michael Torrez, a chemistry faculty member, stands out for his innovative teaching methods, passion for his field, and commitment to student success. His journey to SBVC is as inspiring as his contributions to the college and its students.

Torrez's academic journey began with a career in computer support. Seeking to enhance his resume, he delved into computational chemistry. This decision led him to a lab instructor role, where he discovered his true calling: teaching. "I fell in love with teaching," he shared. This newfound passion led him to pursue a full-time teaching position, eventually bringing him to SBVC.

Originally captivated by organic and biochemistry computational research, Torrez found a way to blend his fascination for the sciences with his love for teaching. Today, he considers himself fortunate to teach the subjects he loves most. "I am obviously biased," he joked, "but organic and biochemistry are the best subjects!"



One of Torrez's standout achievements was pioneering one of the Inland Valley's first online hybrid organic chemistry courses—years before the pandemic-driven transition to online learning. He also collaborated with Dr. John Stankas to create the first allied health general, organic, and biochemistry courses at SBVC. His drive for innovation extends to revising laboratory components, making them safer and more applicable to real-world scenarios. Torrez's commitment to his craft doesn't stop there. Currently completing his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, he believes this advanced study has further enhanced his teaching and interactions with students.

Outside of his professional life, Torrez enjoys hiking, climbing, and playing Minecraft with his son. Together, they've even conquered the game's Ender Dragon—a testament to his philosophy of perseverance and teamwork.

