



MEDIA RELEASE

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May Gray Turns Sunny for Over 400 Grads at SBVC's 88th Commencement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (San Bernardino, CA)—On Friday morning, May 22, 2015, San Bernardino Valley College celebrated its 88th Commencement. A total of 1,043 associate degrees and certificates were awarded to the class of 2015, with over 400 of them braving the chilly weather and gray skies to be present on the campus's athletic field.

College President Dr. Gloria Fisher delivered an address of hope and encouragement. Student speaker Sara Arps told her personal story of overcoming the depths of feelings of failure to the salvation she now feels, having achieved her educational goals. Arps praised the SBVC faculty generously, and it was easy to see (or hear) that the assembled graduates agree with her, as the applause and cheers rang out.

Judith Valles was the keynote speaker. Valles, a Valley College alumna who both taught and worked as an academic administrator at San Bernardino Valley College, delivered a message of the need to embrace failure as one rises to the top. Valles was the first-ever Latina president of a California community college when she assumed the presidency of Golden West, a position she held until retiring in 1993.

She has also served as acting President at Coastline Community College and a trustee of the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees. She was a two-term mayor of San Bernardino from 1998 to 2006 and was inducted into the SBVC Alumni Hall of Fame in 1991.

Commencement began promptly at 9:00 a.m. with a formal processional and was over around 11:15, ending with an equally formal and dignified recessional. Then it was time for the joy and happiness to spread like wildfire across the college's football field as families and friends engaged in a veritable feast of picture taking and congratulatory hugging and gift-giving.

The entire affair turned a cold, dark and stormy day into a very sunny experience for all who were there.

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