

President's Board of Trustees Report

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

Taking Flight: Soaring With Partners for Student Success

MAY 2024

San Manuel Awards \$2.2 Million Grant to SBVC Foundation

The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation has been awarded a three-year, \$2.2 million grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. The grant will continue the Tribe's long-term support of the SBVC Valley-Bound Commitment program, as well as significantly expand the Foundation's advancement capacity.

"On behalf of the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation, I want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for their extraordinary generosity in awarding us a three-year \$2.2 million grant," said Michael Layne, director of the SBVC Foundation. "This is a transformational investment that will enable us to implement the Foundation's Development Plan and cultivate relationships with donors at a much higher level, which is key to building our capacity and sustaining those efforts."

"Every student should have an opportunity to pursue their educational dreams regardless of the hardships and challenges they might face. The SBVC Valley-Bound Commitment Program offers a wonderful path for students to launch their life ambitions right here in the Inland Empire," said Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "This grant is an investment to help our historically underserved community members find or create their own opportunities for a better quality of life for their families."

The grant will fund multiple facets of the program: \$1.3 million will be allocated towards hiring three new categorically funded development positions within the SBVC Foundation to cultivate donor contributions and prepare for a major fundraising campaign in honor of SBVC's upcoming 100th-anniversary celebration.

Additionally, the grant includes \$900,000 to sustain the Valley-Bound Commitment program over the next three years.

"The Tribe has supported the Valley-Bound Commitment program for over 15 years. We are deeply grateful for the partnership and commitment of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in helping us fulfill our shared vision for providing our community with equitable access to higher education," said Layne.

For more information about the San Bernardino Community College Foundation and its initiatives, visit www.sbvcfoundation.org.



200 Valley-Bound Commitment students pose for a picture during the Summer Bridge program held in July 2023.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

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GOAL 2

BE A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, & ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION.

GOAL 3

BE A LEADER & PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES.

GOAL 4

ENSURE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 11 4pm | Nuestra Graduacion Greek Theater
- May 18 4pm | Black Graduate Recognition Celebration Auditorium
- May 21 9am | Commencement 2024 San Manuel Stadium
- May 23 6pm | MCHS 21st Commencement Ceremony Greek Theater

More Events:

valleycollege.edu/calendar

“Black Woman Evolved” Workshop Inspires Growth & Healing at SBVC

“Black Woman Evolved” hosted women throughout the San Bernardino Community College District for an empowering message of healing on April 17 in the Gresham Art Gallery. The event exemplified the transformative power of nurturing one’s inner voice and relying on community to foster growth and support. Students, faculty, and staff came together to embrace their multifaceted identities, reclaim their narratives, and chart a course toward self-actualization.

The event’s guest speaker was Dr. Salina Gray, who has conducted research focused on the intersection of racial and science identities with an emphasis on critical race theory. Dr. Gray led the event workshop, which emphasized the importance of self-care and maintaining a strong connection to one’s cultural heritage. Through engaging activities and thoughtful discussions, participants discovered the significance of honoring their roots while navigating the complexities of modern life. The atmosphere was filled with positivity and encouragement as individuals shared stories of resilience and growth, inspiring one another to continue their journey towards personal fulfillment and empowerment. By coming together in solidarity, the attendees left the event feeling uplifted, connected, and ready to embrace the limitless possibilities that lie ahead.



Dr. Salina Gray, speaker at the “Black Woman Evolved” workshop.

GOAL 2: BE A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, & ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION.

Hundreds of High Schoolers Are Introduced to Collegiate Experience at SBVC’s Annual Senior Day

San Bernardino Valley College hosted a robust cohort of over 600 high school students during its annual Senior Day event on April 10, offering a compelling glimpse into the collegiate experience as an SBVC Wolverine. Invitations were sent from the Outreach team to local high schools in the San Bernardino, Colton, and Rialto Unified School Districts as early as December 2023.

Attendees were treated to an enriching itinerary, encompassing keynote presentations, interactive workshops, a comprehensive resource fair, guided campus tours, and a luncheon. These curated activities aimed to provide prospective students with an introduction to the diverse academic, extracurricular, and support services available to students at SBVC.

The event garnered participation from a multitude of programs, including Athletics, Allied Health, and EOPS, underscoring a campus-wide commitment to student engagement and success that has been instrumental in amplifying the reach and impact of Senior Day. SBCCD Vice Chancellor of Educational and Student Support Services Dr. Nohemy Ornelas served as the keynote speaker at Senior Day. Her message to students was that “when times get tough, hang in there and believe in yourselves - because we believe in you!”

Justine Plemons, Outreach Coordinator, lauded the collaborative effort that underpinned the event’s success. The event is truly a “campus wide collaboration,” Plemons said. “We’d like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the departments, divisions, and community vendors that made this event a success. A special thank you to our FYE Department for their continued contributions to our recruitment efforts. We are looking forward to Senior Day 2025.”

Since its inaugural inception in 2019, Senior Day has burgeoned into a hallmark occasion on SBVC’s academic calendar, witnessing a steady increase in attendance each year. Senior Day 2025 is anticipated to showcase the continued commitment of SBVC in helping students get involved and succeed academically through community partnerships.



Left to right: Dr. Joanna Oxendine, Dr. Linda Fontanilla, Dr. Nohemy Ornelas, Dr. Olivia Rosas, Amanda Moody, and Justine Plemons attend SBVC annual Senior Day on April 10, 2024.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

SBVC Celebrates API Heritage Month with Special Cultural Performances & Expressions of Unity

The SBCCD Asian & Pacific Islander Association kicked off API Heritage Month on April 10 with a festive event held on the SBVC campus. The unique event celebrated the rich cultural heritage of Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Attendees were treated to a special catering menu provided by Pho Mai. Special performances by the Pasefika Student Union and TaikoMix showcased the diversity and talent within our local community.

SBVC Interim President Dr. Linda Fontanilla and APIA President Bethany Tasaka's speeches highlighted the importance of honoring and celebrating the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander individuals to our society. The sense of unity and pride in one's heritage was palpable throughout the event, bringing attendees together in a spirit of positivity and inclusivity. It was truly a memorable start to API Heritage Month, setting the tone for a month filled with appreciation, education, and celebration.



Left: Dr. Linda Fontanilla speaks at the API Heritage Month Celebration on April 10, 2024.



Right: The event featured special performances by the Pasefika Student Union & TaikoMix.

GOAL 2: BE A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, & ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION.

SBVC Hosts Specialized Programs Extravaganza, Showcasing Student Support Services

On March 26, San Bernardino Valley College showcased over a dozen specialized programs at the Specialized Programs Extravaganza, designed to enhance student success and support.

Highlighted programs included Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and Dedicated Engagement to Empower Part-Timers (D.E.E.P.), among others. Representatives from each program were available to discuss the services offered, assist students in achieving their academic goals, and help new applicants with their applications.

"It is imperative that we inform students of the multitude of programs and services available to them on campus for a successful college experience," said Marco Cota, Dean of Counseling and Matriculation. "The programs and services provided can assist students as they move forward to obtaining their educational goals."

The event attracted over 150 SBVC students who, in addition to discovering various programs, enjoyed complimentary lunch and t-shirts. The college aims to hold this event biannually—once each in the fall and spring semesters—to ensure students are fully aware of the benefits of engaging with these resources and can connect with program leaders.

These connections are crucial, as they allow students to seek "additional referrals to other programs, increase their comfort level in seeking assistance as needed, and receive academic guidance and support," added Cota.

SBVC offers more than a dozen free specialized programs to help students balance their academic pursuits with personal obligations, ensuring a holistic approach to higher education.



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Faculty Spotlight

Jesse Chou | Associate Professor, Computer Science



Jesse Chou spent decades in the high tech industry—with a front row seat to the internet boom in Silicon Valley—and now he is sharing what he learned with the next generation.

Chou, a computer information technology professor at San Bernardino Valley College, first became interested in computer science as a teenager. In 1986, he moved to the United States from Taiwan to learn English, then enrolled at the University of Massachusetts, where he earned his bachelor's degree and later his doctorate in computer science focusing on data modeling. Chou's first job was at a community college as an IT administrator, before he was recruited to be a software engineer in Silicon Valley.

There, he had a "blast from the front row seat," Chou said. He soon started pulling double duty, working in the high tech industry by day and teaching computer management at night. When he moved to Southern California, Chou wanted to keep teaching, and found the perfect position at SBVC.

Teaching, Chou said, allows him to "further my knowledge as well as to help others to contribute in the advance of technology."

At SBVC, Chou jumped right in and became a faculty co-sponsor of the Cyber Club. It was important for him to not only serve as a leader for students but also show them the power of camaraderie.

"Throughout my career I found that software engineers normally band together, especially nowadays as software are getting much more complex, thus teamwork is paramount," he said. "I thought with a Cyber Club for computer students, it'll be a fun place and also a home camp for students to grow and to network and bond."

Students team up to compete at cybersecurity competitions, a field that Chou is experienced in. He recently worked with California State University San Bernardino on a federal cybersecurity grant that will help train students interested in entering the cybersecurity and tech industries. Chou also participated in the Winternship research project, assisting six SBVC students studying artificial intelligence.

"I got involved when I saw that there is this rare opportunity for our students as undergrads to participate in a paid research project," Chou said. "Working with students in this kind of internship is a gratifying mentorship, to see them exhibit their innovative creativity and work semi-independently for the research projects that interest them."

Chou thrives in this collaborative environment and said he "truly believes that teamwork is a must in achieving greater goals." He is "really thrilled to be working in a place like SBVC," and feels "blessed to be spending decades in the high tech industry and now in education. With the current AI boom, data volume is growing astronomically and there is more interesting work coming up in the tech area, which I would love to get our students into."



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