

# President's Board of Trustees Report

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

Celebrating 99 Years of Community, Growth & Transformation

August 2024

## Summer Enrollment Grows by 7% Over Prior Year

San Bernardino Valley College is experiencing a vibrant summer semester as the institution experiences a significant increase in enrollment for the Summer 2024 semester over the prior year, with a remarkable 7% increase in student headcount, or from 7,559 in Summer 2023 to 8,089 in Summer 2024.

A particularly exciting aspect of this summer's enrollment is the influx of first-time students. 28% of enrolled students are new to SBVC. One contributing factor to the boost is the extension of the Books+ rental program, which provided students with books and materials completely free of charge. This initiative, combined with a concerted campus-wide enrollment and retention effort across all instructional divisions and student services programs, as well as innovative outreach and marketing campaigns, are collectively credited with contributing to this growth.

As the college continues to innovate and respond to student needs in its 99th year, SBVC remains a cornerstone of higher education in the San Bernardino community. Dr. Gilbert Contreras, the newly appointed 15th president of SBVC, expressed his excitement about the campus's enrollment growth trends. "Seeing more students choose SBVC for their summer studies is a clear indication of the college's impact and appeal. We are committed to continuing our support for students and providing an enriching educational experience," Dr. Contreras said.

AUGUST 2024 PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

### GOAL 1

ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



### 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

**Aug 6** Wolverine Welcome  
10:30am Greek Theatre Lawn

**Aug 9** Fall 2024  
9:00am **Opening Day**  
SBVC Auditorium

**Aug 12** Fall 2024  
**Classes Begin**

More Events:  
[valleycollege.edu/calendar](http://valleycollege.edu/calendar)



# SBVC Partners with SBCUSD to Host Annual Back to School Extravaganza

On July 24, San Bernardino Valley College and the San Bernardino City Unified School District collaborated to host a spectacular back-to-school extravaganza on SBVC's campus. The event drew over 4,000 attendees, including recent high school graduates, their families, and community members, marking a significant step towards strengthening educational ties within the region.

The vibrant event served as a welcoming platform for future Wolverines and their families, with SBVC's outreach team playing a pivotal role. The team distributed backpacks filled with essential school supplies and provided comprehensive enrollment information, helping prospective students navigate the transition to college life. The enthusiasm was palpable as new students and their families explored the myriad opportunities that await them at SBVC.

Representatives from SBCUSD were also on hand, offering valuable insights into the district's diverse array of programs. Attendees learned about English-learner programs, after-school activities, special education services, and student wellness and support services. This comprehensive information aimed to ensure that every student is equipped with the resources they need to succeed academically and personally.

The event featured live music performances by local high school students, adding a festive and energetic atmosphere to the day. In addition to the educational and informational booths, the extravaganza attracted dozens of local vendors and community resources, offering a variety of services and products and contributing to the community-centric spirit of the event. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with local businesses, explore educational resources, and enjoy a sense of community camaraderie.



GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

# SBVC Graduates Class 42 of the Extended Basic Police Academy



After 950 hours of comprehensive training, Class 42 of the San Bernardino Valley College Extended Basic Police Academy graduated on June 29, with every member well-prepared and ready to serve.

One of the college's most well-known programs, the Extended Academy is for working students who need to have flexibility when it comes to classes, and every graduate held down a full-time job during the 52-week course. Four trainees did not miss a single day, and several have already accepted employment offers with the San Bernardino Community College District Police Department, Upland Police Department, Patton Police Department, Irwindale Police Department, and San Bernardino City Unified School District. As they set out on their new careers, Police Academy Director Paul Dennis hopes that they continue to expand their knowledge in the classroom. "I encourage each of our graduates to be committed to lifelong learning," he said. "Higher education is an essential ingredient to successfully navigating the challenges of a law enforcement career."

"In order to graduate from the program, students must take classes on and show proficiency in community oriented policing concepts, cultural diversity, criminal law, investigations, emergency vehicle operations, first aid/CPR, communications, firearms training, and arrest and control techniques. State and local law enforcement agencies are represented in the program, with students also receiving training from "professional experts that have decades of experience within the judicial and corrections branches of our system," Dennis said.



SBVC's Extended Academy is certified through the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), allowing graduates to go on to work at law enforcement agencies across the region. Anyone interested in becoming a police officer who wants to learn more about the academy is encouraged to visit North Hall and meet with Dennis and his team. "We would be delighted to speak with you about the program and assist in helping you identify if this profession is for you," he said. "The Extended Academy is the perfect program for anyone seeking to enter the law enforcement profession. Our evening classes afford the opportunity to continue to maintain employment while attending classes in the evening and on Saturdays."

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



# President Contreras Embarks on Intensive Listening Tour of Campus & Community

On July 1, 2024, Dr. Gilbert Contreras officially began his tenure as the 15th President of San Bernardino Valley College. His arrival marks a new chapter for the institution, as he is the college's first permanent president since 2021, when President Diana Z. Rodriguez ascended to the chancellorship of the San Bernardino Community College District.

Just days into his presidency, Dr. Contreras represented SBVC at its third annual Summerfest on July 6, followed by an official meet and greet on July 8, allowing him to meet many of his new colleagues at SBVC and discuss their mutual perspectives and aspirations for the college.

On July 15, Dr. Contreras undertook a detailed campus tour, meeting with instructional deans to better understand the academic landscape of SBVC. The tours and meetings with individualized groups continued throughout the summer, allowing Dr. Contreras to meet with practically every area of campus. In many of these initial meetings, he expressed his preference for an open-door policy and his intention to foster a culture of inclusivity and open communication within SBVC's campus and community.

"I look forward to connecting with Valley College in meaningful ways," Dr. Contreras said. "It will take some time to visit every area, but I am excited about the journey and the opportunity to work together to advance our college."



GOAL 3: BE A LEADER & PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES.

## SBVC'S 3rd Annual SummerFest Breaks Multiple Records

On Saturday, July 6th, SBVC's campus reverberated with music and the boom of fireworks as SummerFest 2024 took place for its third year. The annual extravaganza once again united the community into a vibrant tapestry of food, fun, and fireworks under the baton of Maestro Anthony Parnter and the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra. The event, a collaboration between SBVC and the San Bernardino Symphony, attracted over 3,000 attendees to the campus to partake in the festivities - the highest number the campus has yet seen.

Although the region was undergoing a record heat wave that same weekend, community members couldn't resist braving the weather to partake in the concert and festivities that have become a staple in the area's summer events calendar. Community vendors had a wide audience to share their offerings with and families could participate in a variety of activities such as coloring pages featuring Blue the Wolverine and face painting. One of the standout highlights of SummerFest 2024 was the Symphony's breaking of the world record for the largest ensemble of piccolo players ever assembled, with an impressive lineup of 192 musicians.



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# Alumni Spotlight

## Alumna **Sarah Gonzales** Starts New Journey with SBCCD Police Department



Sarah Gonzales is stepping into a new role in the San Bernardino Community College District, going from being a student to a member of the SBCCD Police Department.

In June, Gonzales graduated with Class 42 of the San Bernardino Valley College Extended Basic Police Academy, ranking in the top 10. Her desire to make a difference drew her to law enforcement, along with knowing that every day, officers face "physical challenges, mental challenges, and moral obligations," she said. "It makes me proud to be a part of something greater than myself. I know these challenges will not only help me grow, but also the community I live in.

"This wasn't Gonzales' first time at SBVC. This scholar athlete earned her associate's degree in biological and physical sciences in 2017, and her familiarity with the campus is one reason why she enrolled in the Extended Basic Police Academy. She also liked that the program is designed for people with jobs and offers a flexible course schedule." "I hadn't been in school since I graduated from San Bernardino Valley College, and knew I needed some time to readjust to the learning environment," Gonzales said. "I was also able to work full time to continue working towards my financial goals and keep up with my expenses." "Gonzales is excited about continuing her journey with the SBCCD Police Department, as there is "so much more to learn and experience here.

"I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to work and give back to the community that has given me the tools to succeed." She has one main goal: to be in alignment with a community policing approach. This means "reaching out to the different communities and cultures within our college and getting to know every department on the campus," Gonzales said. "This will strengthen the communication and expectations the community has for us. Our goal is to create a safe and secure environment for our students, faculty, and anyone who visits our campuses."



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