

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

December 2024

SBVC Named College of the Year for MAP/CPL Initiative

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) has been honored as the MAP College of the Year by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for its exceptional efforts in Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). This prestigious recognition celebrates SBVC's commitment to increasing educational access and career success for non-traditional students, including adult learners, veterans, and apprentices.

The award, presented at the CCCCCO CPL Summit, underscores the impact of SBVC's innovative approach to helping students leverage their prior experiences to achieve their academic and professional goals. Congratulations to the dedicated MAP/CPL team—Dr. Stephanie Lewis, Demond Littles, Kevin Memminger, and Sylvia Romo—whose hard work has been instrumental in advancing this initiative.

SBVC's CPL program, a vital part of the California MAP (Mapping Articulated Pathways) Initiative, enables students to earn college credit for skills and knowledge gained outside the traditional classroom. These credits may be awarded for military service and training, industry-recognized credentials, or successful completion of exams such as the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and College Credit by Examination (DSST).

Through CPL, students can receive up to 45 units, significantly reducing the time and cost required to complete their degrees. This program has already made a measurable impact, with SBVC earning top rankings in metrics like Potential CPL Savings, 20-Year Impact, and overall College Metrics.

To date, SBVC's CPL associates have reviewed courses across 79 academic disciplines, ensuring a robust and continuously updated database of eligible classes. This initiative exemplifies the college's dedication to helping every student succeed by recognizing the value of their prior experiences.

This well-deserved recognition affirms SBVC's leadership in educational innovation, making it a model for other institutions across the state.



GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



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

Dec 14
9am-1pm
CAPSBC Annual Holiday Toy Giveaway Event
Greek Theater Walkway

Dec 17
10am-12pm
Psych Tech Graduation Ceremony
Auditorium

Dec 20
10am-2pm
CARE Holiday Luncheon
B-100

Dec 20
4pm-9pm
Ella Film Festival
KVCR

Jan 17
9am-11am
Spring 2025 Opening Day
Auditorium

More Events:

valleycollege.edu/calendar

San Bernardino Valley College Hosts Inaugural Celebration of Filipino American History Month



San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) proudly celebrated Filipino American History Month on October 24 with its first-ever "Barrio Fiesta." The vibrant event brought together campus and community members to honor Filipino culture and traditions. The event was planned and hosted by Dr. Rangel V. Zarate, Assistant Professor of English in the Arts and Humanities Division.

The celebration featured folk dancers from the Filipino American Association of San Bernardino County performing a traditional Filipino lantern dance called "Sayaw Tanglawan," symbolizing ancestral guidance for present and future generations. The Perris Valley Filipino-American Association also joined the festivities, emphasizing the importance of youth involvement in civic and community service.

Attendees were treated to delicious Filipino cuisine, including lumpia, chicken adobo, pancit, and biko, prepared by Tita Petty Catering. Hot Tropiks Books offered guests a glimpse into Filipino literature and art. The Filipino Martial Arts School of Riverside provided demonstrations of traditional Filipino martial arts, adding an interactive element to the celebration.

Dr. Zarate's vision and coordination of the event, along with the collaborative efforts of dedicated volunteers, faculty, staff, and students, created a warm and festive atmosphere that honored Filipino heritage while strengthening community bonds.

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

SBVC Relaunches Rising Scholars Program

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) is taking a bold step forward in supporting educational equity with the relaunch of the Rising Scholars Program, designed to serve formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students. This renewed commitment underscores the college's dedication to providing holistic, student-centered support to help Rising Scholars achieve their academic and personal aspirations.

The program's mission is clear: to guide students from application to graduation with tailored wrap-around services that address their unique challenges. By fostering access, easing the transition to college, and focusing on retention, Rising Scholars aims to create an environment where every student has the tools and support needed to thrive.

Through partnerships with SBVC's Student Services Division, Counseling Department, and community organizations, Rising Scholars will connect students to a network of resources that empower them to succeed. Services include academic counseling, guidance through matriculation and financial aid, career exploration, workshops, and referrals to on-campus and community resources.

This multifaceted approach ensures that Rising Scholars are not only equipped for academic success but also positioned to achieve their full potential. By addressing systemic barriers and fostering a sense of belonging, SBVC reaffirms its belief in second chances and the transformative power of education.

As the program is relaunched, SBVC invites the campus and community to join in creating a culture of inclusion, support, and opportunity. Together, we can ensure that every student has the chance to rise and succeed.



GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.

San Bernardino Valley College Hosts 3rd Annual Pharmacy Technology Day for Local High School Students

On October 15, 2024, San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) welcomed over 700 high school students from San Bernardino City Unified School District and Colton Joint Unified School District to its 3rd Annual Pharmacy Technology Day. The event provided students with a firsthand look at SBVC's Pharmacy Technology Training Pathway, a program that enables motivated high school students to earn college credits outside regular school hours. This unique pathway supports students aiming for pharmacy technician licensure and gives them a head start on a career in healthcare.

Students had the chance to connect with faculty and staff from SBVC and Loma Linda University's School of Pharmacy. Engaging hands-on demonstrations led by instructors introduced students to STEM concepts within pharmacy, creating an interactive learning experience that combined practical skills with scientific applications.

The highlight of the event was a guest speaker panel with staff from Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy. The speakers shared their personal insights into the profession and the vital role that an early college education played in providing benefit to students pursuing a pharmacy technology career. They also offered guidance for overcoming academic challenges as well as navigating the application process. Inspiring messages from Superintendent Arellano of San Bernardino City Unified School District and Mr. Fuentes, Colton Joint Unified School District Board Member, bolstered the message of encouragement for the student attendees.

Doris Ontiveros, Chair of the Pharmacy Technology Program, emphasized the importance of connecting students with core resources and employment opportunities. "It's essential to provide core resources and employment opportunities," she said. Over 30 local vendors were present, engaging with students about externships and career options within the pharmacy field at the Greek Theatre and along the Lois Carson Campus Center walkway.

Pharmacy Technology Day continues to be a valuable event for SBVC and local high schools, bridging the gap between high school education and career readiness in healthcare.



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

San Bernardino Valley College Honors Veterans Day with Special Community Event



On November 12, the Veterans Resource Program at San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) commemorated Veterans Day with a special Veterans Day Festival, marking 70 years since the holiday's establishment. The celebration honored the service and sacrifice of veterans with a day filled with community connection, resources, and entertainment.

The event opened with a heartfelt rendition of the national anthem by SBVC student Kiara Gomez, setting the tone for a memorable day. Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr. joined in support, highlighting the community effort behind the event. "It's a great event brought on by the SBVC Veterans Resource Center and a coalition of many veterans services. It's important to continue to help our veterans. What the VRC has done today is brought all of these resources to the community, so hats off to them and congratulations," said Baca.

The event included a resource fair offering essential veterans and basic needs services, complemented by live performances from local artists Crimson Revolver and Magnificent Mojo. Local high school troops were invited to showcase their marching drills, adding a sense of tradition and honor to the festivities. Unique attractions like a classic car show and an axe-throwing station provided attendees with a memorable experience.

Abraham Servantes, a U.S. Army veteran and current SBVC student, spoke at the event, sharing his inspiring journey from military service to pursuing higher education. "When I came to SBVC, I was welcomed at the Veterans Resource Center, where I was greeted by fellow veterans who understood my journey," Servantes said. "Today, I'm in my second semester, working towards an AA in Business Administration, with a goal of earning a degree one day. Never let your past define you—always focus on the future."

The SBVC Veterans Resource Program's event exemplified the college's commitment to veterans, fostering a sense of community and support for their journeys beyond service.

GOAL 1: ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS.



Campus Spotlight

SBVC's Dr. Nori Sogomonian-Mejía Selected for HACU Leadership Program

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) proudly announces that Dr. Nori Sogomonian-Mejía, a Spanish faculty member since 1994, has been chosen as one of 54 participants in the prestigious Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program. Hosted by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), this six-month initiative is designed to prepare mid-level professionals at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) for leadership roles, with a focus on increasing Latino/a representation in higher education leadership.



Dr. Sogomonian-Mejía brings a wealth of academic and professional experience to the program. She earned her BA and MA in Spanish linguistics from UCLA, with additional studies in Mexico and Spain. In 1999, she received a Fulbright Scholarship and taught linguistics at the Central American University in Nicaragua. She later completed her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at California State University, San Bernardino, in 2011.

The Enlace Program provides training in areas like academic and student affairs management, diversity and inclusion, and higher education advocacy. It features online workshops and in-person sessions at HACU's Annual Conference in Colorado this November and the National Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C., next April.

Dr. Dina Humble, SBVC's Vice President of Instruction, emphasized the significance of this opportunity: "Dr. Sogomonian-Mejía's participation aligns with our mission to foster leadership that champions diversity and equity. We're excited for the impact this will have on our campus and community." The program is generously funded by Capital One and the Mellon Foundation, supporting participants' professional development and advancing equity in higher education.



SBVC's Bethany Tasaka Selected for Social Justice Leadership Program

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) proudly announces that Bethany Tasaka, Associate Professor of Mathematics, has been chosen as one of 45 leaders for the second cohort of the Social Justice & Career Advancement (SJCA) Institute. Organized by the Association of California Community College Administrators in partnership with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, this prestigious program develops leaders equipped to drive equity, diversity, and inclusion across the state's 116 community colleges.

The SJCA Institute combines training in social justice and identity development with career advancement strategies, empowering participants to lead systemic change. This initiative supports the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) goals outlined in Vision 2030, California's roadmap for creating equitable campuses and improving student outcomes statewide.

California Community Colleges serve over two million students, one of the nation's most diverse populations. The SJCA Institute ensures that leaders like Ms. Tasaka are prepared to champion equity-driven practices, aligning with the needs of students from various backgrounds.

Dr. Gilbert Contreras, President of SBVC, added, "Bethany Tasaka is a passionate advocate for social justice and equity on our campus. Her selection for this prestigious program is a testament to her dedication to advancing these values. We are proud of her achievements and look forward to the positive impact her leadership will continue to have at SBVC and beyond."

The SJCA Institute, supported by ACCCA and the Chancellor's Office, reflects a commitment to developing leaders who will shape a more inclusive future for California's community colleges and the communities they serve.



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