



2025 Legislative & Budget Priorities

College Affordability | Workforce Development | Community Prosperity



SBCCD Economic Development
& Corporate Training Center

Opportunity Is Here

Tomorrow's leaders are
studying today at the
**San Bernardino Community
College District**

20,000 Students



Every year, SBCCD serves 20,000 students through Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College, offering affordable pathways to career training and transfer to four-year universities.

140 College & Career Programs



Our two colleges offer more than 140 academic and hands-on career training programs, preparing students for careers in health care, public safety, business, education, technology, and more.

1 Job Training Center



SBCCD's Economic Development & Corporate Training Center is one of California's largest Contract Education providers. We partner with industry to customize rapid upskilling programs for working adults, job seekers, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

1 Public Media Station



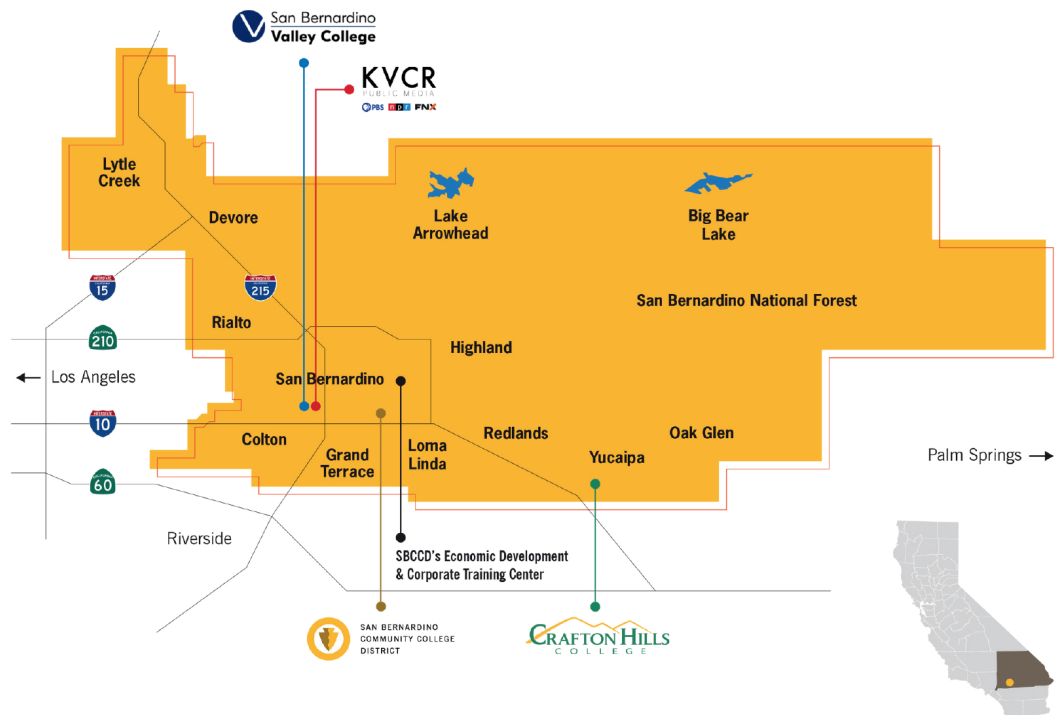
SBCCD owns and operates KVCR, the Inland Empire's PBS and NPR affiliate station. KVCR is the home of First Nations Experience (FNX), the only U.S. TV channel devoted to Native American and World Indigenous programming.

Table of Contents

- 4 Chancellor’s Message
- 5 Let’s Make College & Career Education More Affordable
- 7 Let’s Prepare Students For Good-Paying Careers
- 9 Let’s Build Affordable Student Housing & Combat Hunger
- 10 Let’s Open Doors of Opportunity For Everyone
- 11 Let’s Safeguard the Financial Stability of Our Community Colleges



SBCCD serves 23 cities and unincorporated communities across the Inland Empire, home to 765,547 residents (2020 Census). Since the last census, the district's population has grown by 7.3%, outpacing California's 6.1% increase. Our service area includes the cities and communities of Angelus Oaks, Big Bear City, Big Bear Lake, Bloomington, Blue Jay, Cedar Glen, Colton, Crestline, Fawnskin, Forest Falls, Grand Terrace, Green Valley Lake, Highland, Lake Arrowhead, Little Creek, Loma Linda, Mentone, Redlands, Rialto, Running Springs, San Bernardino, Twin Peaks, and Yucaipa.



Chancellor's Message

Dear Reader,

Families across our region are feeling the weight of rising living costs, making college or career training seem out of reach. At the San Bernardino Community College District, we're committed to tackling these challenges head-on and creating opportunities that empower our students and communities.

We proudly serve 20,000 students through Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College, spanning 23 cities, communities, and seven feeder K-12 districts. Our mission generates a \$723.2 million annual economic impact through student spending, alumni earnings, and district operations, including strategic partnerships with local businesses. More than a college district, SBCCD is a vital partner in strengthening our region's economy and workforce.

As a first-generation college graduate who began my journey as a community college student, I've experienced firsthand that **'Opportunity Is Here.'** Now, as Chancellor, I'm committed to ensuring every student and family has the chance to succeed. With your support, we can make that vision a reality.

Our 2025 legislative and budget priorities offer workable ideas, including the following:

- **Increasing college affordability** by expanding financial aid for adult learners, building affordable student housing, and cutting red tape for programs that help students become self-sufficient.



- **Expanding job training and apprenticeships** to prepare students for high-demand careers and meet the needs of local employers.
- **Investing in community prosperity** through initiatives like the San Bernardino Job Growth Corridor, which will modernize SBCCD's training facilities and the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center for first responders and essential industry jobs.

I am grateful to SBCCD's Board of Trustees for their leadership in approving this agenda and to our policymakers and student advocates for your partnership. Thank you for your service in this important work to make the Inland Empire a region of opportunity for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana Z. Rodriguez'.

Diana Z. Rodriguez, Ed.D.
Chancellor

Let's Make College & Career Education More Affordable



Streamline Access to Local and State Resources for College Affordability and Self-Sufficiency

- **SBCCD is committed** to putting students on the path to self-sufficiency and career success by supporting streamlined referral systems and data-sharing between local and state public agencies and community colleges.
- **By reducing red tape**, improving government efficiency, and safeguarding student privacy, we can connect students to essential resources like financial aid, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, and housing referrals.
- **This approach eases** financial burdens, improves college affordability, and strengthens pathways to degrees and career training. The result is a skilled workforce, the breaking of poverty cycles, and sustained economic growth in the Inland Empire.

Expand State Financial Aid to Strengthen the Talent Pipeline

- **Inland Empire families** are struggling with the high cost of living, making college and career training feel out of reach. SBCCD supports expanding and simplifying financial aid for all California students and families, particularly adult learners who attend community college part-time but need help paying for skills training and industry-recognized career certificates.
- **We advocate for** funding and implementing the Cal Grant Equity Framework or similar efforts that ensure college is affordable, including support for Cal Grant C, which directly targets the unique needs of part-time adult learners pursuing fast-track career programs at our community colleges.
- **Addressing the total cost** of attending college—not just tuition but also books, housing, food, and transportation—is critical to helping students graduate, transfer to four-year universities, or complete career training. These steps reduce financial barriers, create opportunities, and build a skilled workforce that drives economic growth and strengthens California's future.



Invest in Simplifying FAFSA and Expanding Pell Grants for a Skilled Workforce

- **SBCCD supports federal policies** that simplify financial aid access by reducing unnecessary complexity in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Streamlining FAFSA will ensure all eligible students—including those from low- and middle-income families, regardless of their parents' background—can access financial aid, making community college and career training more attainable. This approach empowers working adults, returning veterans, and students to strengthen our local economy.
- **Additionally**, SBCCD supports increased investments in the Pell Grant and passing the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act to help adult learners. This act expands Pell Grant eligibility to high-quality, short-term workforce programs at community colleges, equipping students for in-demand careers.

Promote Affordable Access to Textbooks and Learning Materials

- **SBCCD supports** policies, funding, and partnerships that make textbooks and learning materials more affordable and accessible for students. By negotiating agreements with textbook companies to lower costs and expanding initiatives like open educational resources (OER), the Zero Textbook Cost initiative, textbook rental programs, and digital access options, we can reduce financial burdens on students. These efforts help ensure students have the tools to succeed in their studies and develop the skills essential for the workforce.



Let's Prepare Students for Good-Paying Careers



Support \$10 Million for the San Bernardino Job Growth Corridor to Modernize Job Training Facilities

- **Both the SBCCD** Economic Development & Corporate Training Center and the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center are in critical need of life and safety infrastructure improvements and space modernization to support hands-on training for first responders and essential industry jobs.
- **SBCCD is seeking** \$10 million to create the San Bernardino Job Growth Corridor, a revitalization project to modernize job training facilities located in the neighborhood adjacent to San Bernardino International Airport, the former Norton Air Force Base. These upgrades will revitalize the community, address regional job training needs, and equip a skilled workforce to drive economic growth.

Expand Bachelor's Degrees at Community Colleges for High-Need Careers

- **SBCCD supports** expanding bachelor's degree offerings at community colleges to prepare students for high-demand careers. Currently, Crafton Hills College offers a bachelor's in Respiratory Care, and San Bernardino Valley College offers one in Water Resources Management—fields critical to our region's health and sustainability.
- **Adding new bachelor's** degree programs in other career fields will address regional workforce needs and strengthen partnerships with four-year universities to support student success.





Strengthen Apprenticeships and California's Career Education Systems

- **SBCCD supports the Governor's** goal of creating 500,000 earn-and-learn apprenticeships by 2029 and advocates for funding to strengthen initiatives like the California Apprenticeship Initiative. Apprenticeship opportunities enable students to earn credit toward certificates or degrees through on-the-job training or classroom-based experiential learning—reducing the need to sacrifice income for education.
- **Moreover,** SBCCD supports the collaborative approach and core principles of the Master Plan for Career Education, which aims to modernize how education and workforce systems work together, ensuring learners gain skills and qualifications for high-opportunity careers.

Enhance Credit for Prior Learning to Support Adult Learners

- **SBCCD supports competency-based** education and initiatives that allow adult learners to receive college credits based on their relevant work experience, making higher education more accessible and aligned with workforce needs.
- **Additionally,** SBCCD advocates ensuring that any “credit for prior learning” recognized by community colleges seamlessly transfers to University of California (UC) and California State University (Cal State) institutions. These efforts support students' career advancement and educational progress across California's higher education system.



Let's Build Affordable Student Housing & Combat Hunger



Support Fair Funding for Affordable Student Housing

- **More than 50% of students** at Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College face housing insecurity, and nearly 1 in 5 have experienced homelessness in recent years. However, state grant formulas to build affordable housing often prioritize coastal regions with a higher cost of living, putting Inland Empire colleges at a disadvantage.
- **SBCCD advocates** for adjustments to these formulas to ensure fair access to housing resources statewide. SBCCD also supports regional collaboration and public-private partnerships to address housing insecurity.

Expand CalFresh Access at Community College Cafeterias for a Healthy Future Workforce

- **Hard-working community college** students gaining career skills to become self-sufficient often struggle to access affordable, nutritious meals on campus. Current regulations classify college-owned and operated cafeterias with over 50% prepared foods as restaurants, restricting CalFresh/EBT usage despite their focus on healthy, accessible options. This creates unnecessary barriers for students who rely on CalFresh/EBT to meet basic needs.
- **SBCCD advocates for an exemption** allowing campus-owned dining facilities to accept CalFresh/EBT regardless of the percentage of prepared foods. This change would ensure students have access to affordable meals, helping them stay productive, complete their programs, and enter the workforce prepared. Expanding CalFresh/EBT access on campuses is an investment in California's talent pipeline, reducing barriers to success and strengthening our economy.

Let's Open Doors of Opportunity For Everyone



Building a Community of Respect, Belonging, and Opportunity

- **At SBCCD**, we are committed to fostering a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging, respect, and value. We support funding and policies that provide equitable access to education, career training, financial aid, and support services, while prioritizing safety and well-being. We do not discriminate based on culture, race, gender, age, religion, political perspective, sexual orientation, immigration status, or ability.
- **By cultivating a welcoming environment**, we empower students and employees to achieve their potential, build meaningful relationships, and succeed in the workforce—strengthening the Inland Empire's prosperity.

Support Federal Investments in Hispanic-Serving Institutions For a Stronger Local Workforce

- **As Hispanic-Serving Institutions**, Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College serve students from all backgrounds. This federal designation provides funding for STEM education, tutoring, and other student services available to all, fostering success. SBCCD supports continued investments in HSIs to prepare future healthcare workers, first responders, and skilled professionals who drive our economy.

Strengthen Equal Employment Opportunity Best Practices

- **SBCCD supports** ongoing funding to align hiring practices with statewide equal employment opportunity goals, creating a workplace and learning environment where everyone can succeed and feel they belong. This investment fosters thriving employees and students who contribute meaningfully to our communities.

Let's Safeguard the Financial Stability of Our Community Colleges



Protect Funding for Community Colleges Under Proposition 98

- **Proposition 98**, passed in 1988, mandates a minimum state funding level for K-12 schools and California community colleges. We urge policymakers to protect state funding for community colleges. Ensuring community colleges receive their fair share of funding is essential to maintaining educational quality and accessibility.

Provide CalSTRS/CalPERS Relief

- **SBCCD supports** state funding to “buy down” employer contribution rates for CalSTRS and CalPERS. By reducing these costs, colleges can free up funds to invest in student programs, support services, and workforce training, directly benefiting students and the community.

Ensure Emergency Preparedness and Immediate Relief for Our Community Colleges

- **In times of crisis**—such as wildfires, extreme heat, snowstorms, and pandemics—community colleges like SBCCD face significant challenges in maintaining operations and supporting students, faculty, and staff. Delays in accessing emergency funds can disrupt essential services, including broadband access, and hinder our ability to serve the community effectively during recovery.
- **SBCCD supports** partnerships and funding at all levels—local, state, federal, and public-private—to quickly address the safety and technology needs of our campuses. Securing rapid access to emergency resources ensures our colleges remain operational during crises and emerge stronger, ready to drive the Inland Empire’s recovery and growth.





Support the CCC's 2025-26 Systemwide Budget Request

- **SBCCD supports** the California Community Colleges' 2025-26 systemwide budget request, which seeks \$152.8 million in ongoing and \$213.1 million in one-time funding. This investment aligns with Vision 2030 and the Governor's Roadmap for the Future by ensuring stable base funding, strengthening faculty support, and expanding flexible academic and career pathways. These initiatives are critical to equipping students with the skills needed to thrive in California's workforce and contribute to the state's economic growth.

Strengthening KVCR: A Public Media Asset for the Inland Empire

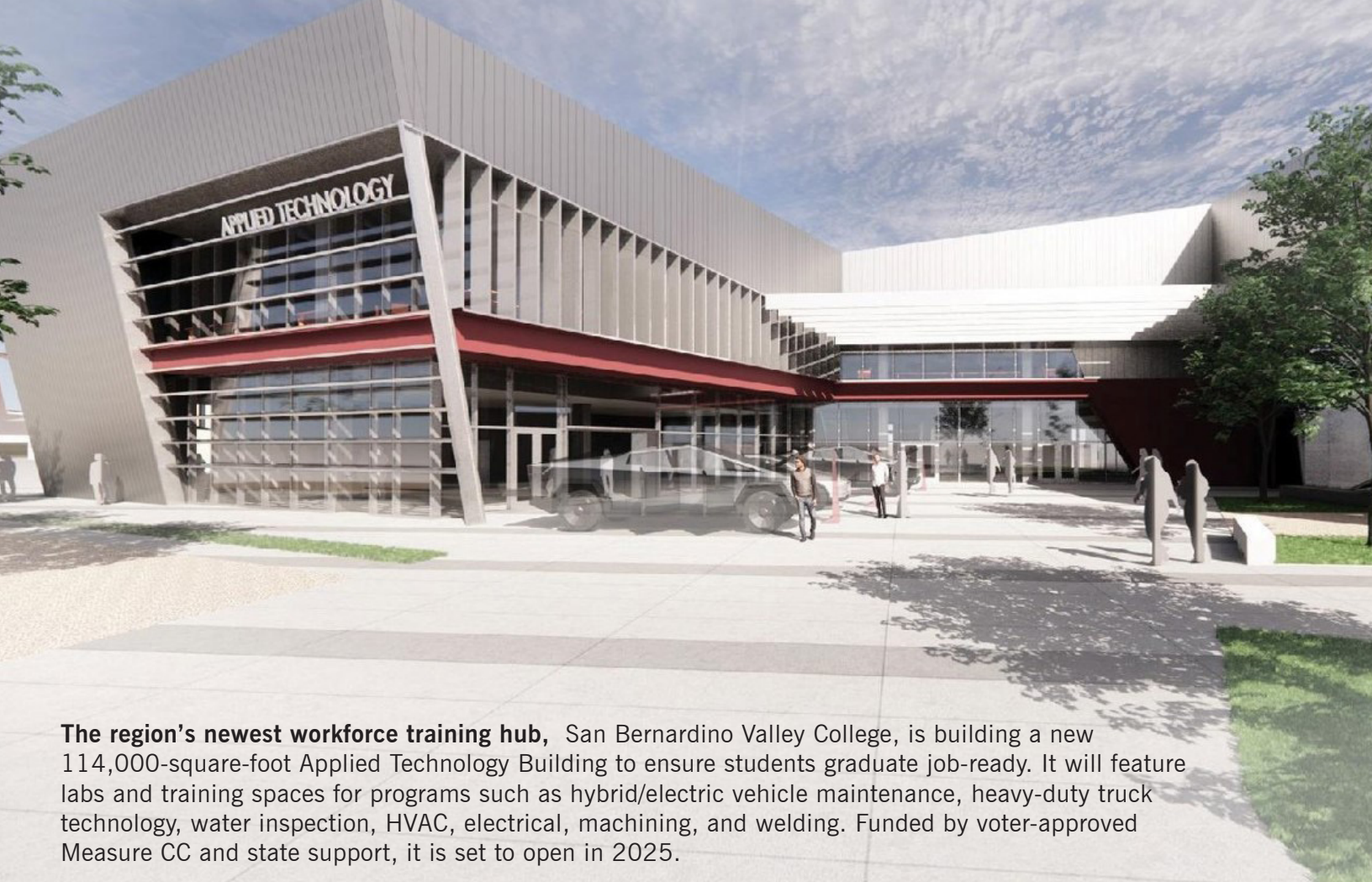
- **SBCCD owns and operates KVCR**, the Inland Empire's nonprofit public media outlet, providing free community news, educational TV for children, and documentaries on history and science through TV channel 24, radio 91.9 FM, and online at kvcr.org. As the headquarters of FNX, the nation's only TV channel dedicated to Native American and World Indigenous programming, KVCR delivers unique content that reflects and enriches our diverse community. Our broadcast signal also serves a critical role in delivering emergency alerts to the region, ensuring public safety.
- **Local, state and federal investment is essential** to enhance KVCR's ability to keep our neighbors informed, educated, and connected. This funding will sustain and grow a vital resource that serves the Inland Empire and beyond.





Supporting California's creative economy, Crafton Hills College is building a new Performing Arts Center. This 24,000-square-foot facility will feature a 274-seat theatre, black box theatre, music recital rooms, recording studio, and classrooms to prepare students for careers in theatre and music. Thanks to voter-supported Measure CC and state funding, the center is set to open in 2025.





The region's newest workforce training hub, San Bernardino Valley College, is building a new 114,000-square-foot Applied Technology Building to ensure students graduate job-ready. It will feature labs and training spaces for programs such as hybrid/electric vehicle maintenance, heavy-duty truck technology, water inspection, HVAC, electrical, machining, and welding. Funded by voter-approved Measure CC and state support, it is set to open in 2025.





Opportunity Is Here

SAN BERNARDINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

550 E. Hospitality Lane, Suite 200
San Bernardino, CA 92408



SBCCD.edu



CraftonHills.edu



ValleyCollege.edu



KVCR.org



SBCCD.edu/EDCT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Nathan Gonzales, Chair
Joseph R. Williams, Vice Chair
Dr. Cherina Betters, Clerk
Carlos Aguilera, Trustee
Dr. Stephanie Houston, Trustee
John Longville, Trustee
Frank Reyes, Trustee
Hadi Natour, Student Trustee
Nelva Ruiz-Martinez, Student Trustee

CHANCELLOR'S CABINET

Dr. Diana Z. Rodriguez, Chancellor
Jose F. Torres, Executive Vice Chancellor
Dr. Kevin Horan, President, Crafton Hills College
Dr. Gilbert J. Contreras, President, San Bernardino Valley College
Kristina Hannon, Vice Chancellor
Dr. Nohemy Ornelas, Vice Chancellor
Angel Rodriguez, Associate Vice Chancellor

OUR MISSION

SBCCD positively impacts the lives and careers of our students, the well-being of their families, and the prosperity of our community through excellence in educational and training opportunities.

OUR VISION

Inspiring possibilities for bright futures and a prosperous community.