

# SBCCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

AUGUST 8, 2024



## SBVC ACADEMIC SENATE: ANDREA HECHT, SBVC ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

### OUR ROLE

The Academic Senate primary purpose is to ensure that faculty have a voice in the governance and decision-making processes of the district, especially on all matters related to curriculum and academic standards. It ensures faculty involvement in decision-making processes, particularly in areas outlined in the "Ten Plus One," a set of guidelines detailed in Title 5.

### INTRODUCTION

My name is Andrea Hecht, and it's a pleasure to be here today. I began my journey at SBVC working for the First Year Experience and the Dreamers Resource Center. These roles allowed me to connect with our students at critical points in their educational journeys, offering the support and guidance they needed to succeed.

After my time there, I transitioned to a full-time General Counselor position. In this role, I had the privilege of working even more closely with our diverse student body, helping them navigate their academic paths, and supporting their personal and professional growth.

My passion for student success and my commitment to our community has led me to my current role as your Academic Senate President. The Academic Senate is a crucial body within our college. It represents the faculty and makes recommendations to the administration and governing board on academic and professional matters, often referred to as the "10+1" areas. These areas include curriculum, degree and certificate requirements, grading policies, educational program development, and more.

The new Vice President is Tatiana Vasquez, a professor in Biology and Jamie Salyer as Secretary, a counselor in General Counseling.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to working with all of you to support our students and advance our college's mission.

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SBVC Academic Senate President

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### ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

SBVC Counseling has been conducting “Fast Track” Events this summer, which is a one day event where students are welcomed to the college with a One-Stop-Shop: Financial Aid presenter, orientation by the Counseling faculty, Assessment, education plan, and then registered for courses.

I would also like to say thank you to all the faculty members who have continued to teach over the summer, continuously reflecting on and revamping your courses to ensure the highest quality of education for our students. Their commitment to academic excellence and innovation is inspiring. Whether they were engaged in research, developing new teaching strategies, or preparing for the upcoming semester, their dedication to their craft and to our students is truly commendable.

A special thank you goes out to our counseling faculty. They continue to work tirelessly with many students, listening to their concerns and guiding them through the often-complex choices between certificates, associate degrees, and transfer options. Their expertise and support are invaluable to our students as they navigate their academic and career paths.

I would also like to recognize our resource centers, including the Valley 360, tutoring centers and the library. These centers play a pivotal role in supporting our students' academic success. The tutoring center offers vital assistance, helping students to grasp challenging concepts and excel in their studies. Our library, a hub of knowledge and resources, provides a quiet space for learning and research, and its staff are always ready to assist with finding the right materials or providing research guidance. Your contributions are fundamental to our students' learning experience.



### BE A DIVERSE , EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE , AND ANTI-RACIST INSTITUTION

At the end of the academic year Ernest “Ernie” Guillen announced the newest affinity association Sexuality and Gender Affinity Association (SAGAA). This association is charged with advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community. This action not only reaffirms SBCCD’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, but also sends a message about what we value as an institution- creating inclusive and safe spaces for all voices and all identities.

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### BE A LEADER AND PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES

Tatiana Vasquez and Dr. Thomas Lechuga have been serving as Mentors for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant led by the Biology Majors Faculty at College of the Canyons. This NSF grant aims to enhance community college student involvement in undergraduate research, with the goal of educating the community to support native bee species and mitigate species decline. The grant funds paid internships for SBVC students through 2028 to research native bee biodiversity in our campus Botanical Gardens. This summer, our students, Ashley Durkin and Xareni Amezcua, presented their findings at a Zoom Undergraduate Research Symposium.



### ENSURE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY/STABILITY

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SBVC Academic Senate President