

SBCCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

MARCH 13, 2025



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.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PROFESSOR EMERITUS STATUS TO DR. PETER JOHN STANSKAS

The Academic Senate of San Bernardino Valley College has approved the following resolution and wishes to inform the Board of Trustees:

SP25.01 Conferring Professor Emeritus for Dr. Peter John Stankas

Whereas, San Bernardino Valley College expresses deep gratitude to Dr. John Stankas for his unwavering dedication to students, the campus community, and the California Community College System; and

Whereas, Dr. Stankas earned his Doctorate in Nuclear Chemistry from the University of Maryland and pursued his passion for teaching at San Bernardino Valley College, beginning as an adjunct faculty member in 2001 and becoming a full-time Chemistry faculty member in 2002; and during his tenure, Dr. Stankas served in numerous leadership roles, including Academic Senate President, Dean of Science, and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, profoundly impacting the lives of students and colleagues; and

Whereas, his contributions extended beyond SBVC, serving as President of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, where he championed the interests of faculty and students statewide; and

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Whereas, AP 7210 Academic Employees (Academic Rank) authorizes the conferral of Professor Emeritus status to retiring faculty with a minimum of 10 years of service upon favorable recommendation by the Committee on Academic Rank and approval by the Academic Senate; and the advancement in academic rank recognizes exceptional service to the college and promotes a culture of dedication to the college community;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Academic Senate of San Bernardino Valley College hereby grants Professor Emeritus status to Dr. John Stankas in recognition of his outstanding contributions, distinguished service, and lasting impact on San Bernardino Valley College and the California Community College System.

This resolution is accompanied by a memorial statement signed by numerous faculty and staff who wish to honor Dr. Stankas's legacy.

Note: Full resolution is attached to the end of this document.



ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

I am pleased to report the outstanding success of our recent Grad Check Event, organized and led by Jamie Salyer, whose exceptional leadership made this event possible. The results were impressive: 320 graduation applications were submitted in a single day with a 99.3% satisfaction rate from surveyed students.

The enthusiasm and dedication on display were remarkable. The event featured 32 counselors across multiple departments and numerous Classified Professionals and student workers who assisted with check-in, giveaways, food service, and information booths. Many counselors also stayed well past 7:00 PM to ensure all students received assistance.

While we celebrate this successful event, I must bring to the Board's attention our critical need for additional tenured counseling faculty at SBVC. Tenured counselors provide essential support to our students from entrance to exit, and their specialized expertise is invaluable in helping students navigate complex academic pathways. The high demand we witnessed at the Grad Check Event illustrates the ongoing need for dedicated Counseling faculty who can build long-term relationships with our students and provide consistent guidance throughout their academic journey.

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I respectfully request that the Board prioritize the hiring of additional tenured counselors in future staffing decisions to ensure we can properly support our students at every stage of their educational path. This investment directly aligns with our goal of eliminating barriers to student success.



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

As Academic Senate president, I am proud to highlight that one of our distinguished faculty members, Professor Dr. Rangel Zarate, has had his proposal, Framing the Future: Empowering Filipino/a/x Americans in Higher Education Through Photovoice, accepted for presentation at the 37th Annual National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE 2025) in New York City from May 27–31, 2025. This achievement represents an important opportunity for SBVC to be represented on a national stage and contribute to critical conversations surrounding diversity and equity in higher education.

I want to extend sincere appreciation to the SBVC President, Dr. Contreras and Board of Trustees for their consistent support of our faculty's scholarly pursuits that advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism. Their commitment to backing initiatives like this demonstrates a shared vision for creating an educational environment where all voices are valued and amplified. Such institutional support is essential for empowering our faculty to engage in work that ultimately enriches our campus community and enhances our service to students.



BE A LEADER AND PARTNER IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES

San Bernardino Valley College's Academic Senate proudly hosted the ASCCC 2025 Spring Curriculum Regional Meeting last Friday, B-100. The room was filled and the excellent food provided by Erik Morden and team received many compliments. Thank you to all who supported and attended this important event.

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The meeting brought together a diverse group of participants including faculty (SBVC Bethany Tasaka), academic senate leaders, department chairs (SBVC Maria Notarangelo), curriculum specialists (SBVC Thomas Berry), and articulation officers (SBVC Janice Wilkins), to discuss core concepts, helpful practices, and updates on legislation affecting the California community colleges system.

Special thanks to our student workers who helped make this event a success and to all attendees who contributed to the valuable conversations. We look forward to implementing many of the ideas shared during this collaborative session as we continue to strengthen our role as a regional leader in academic excellence.



ENSURE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY/STABILITY

Rising Scholars Project Update

The Rising Scholars Project (formerly Incarcerated/Justice Impacted) demonstrates our commitment to strategic resource allocation for high-impact community initiatives.

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Frank Dunn, our dedicated counselor in General Counseling who also serves as the Rising Scholars counselor, recently participated in a substantial outreach event reaching approximately 150 at-risk students from group homes, foster care, or those with juvenile justice system contact.

This targeted outreach represents an efficient use of resources to connect with vulnerable populations who can benefit significantly from our educational pathways. By investing in these early intervention efforts, we potentially reduce long-term social service costs while increasing future enrollment and student success metrics.

Documentation from this outreach will be incorporated into next year's Rising Scholars budget request, ensuring proper assessment of program outcomes and return on investment.

How the Board Can Assist:

1. Review and support appropriate funding levels for the Rising Scholars Project in the upcoming budget cycle
2. Help identify potential grant opportunities to supplement existing program funding and enhance fiscal sustainability



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