

# COMMUNITY NEWS

San Bernardino Valley College • Crafton Hills College • Economic Development & Corporate Training • KVCR TV-FM

## “Enhancing Your Life With Quality Education”

### From Carleton W. Lockwood, Jr., President, SBCCD Board of Trustees



Welcome to an inside look at how we are using creativity to better educate our students at the San Bernardino Community College District.

Innovation generates powerful ideas that enable people to work smarter rather than harder, to learn new skills in more effective ways, and to communicate with individuals and groups worldwide. Such concepts may also save money or help the budget

by improving efficiency and productivity. Truly ingenious ideas, like the printing press or the Internet, transform the way we live.

Colleges are fitting sites for the application of revolutionary designs that evolve from groundbreaking, creative thinking: in the subjects being taught, in the methods used to stimulate student learning, and in the delivery of that instruction.

Both San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) and Crafton Hills College (CHC) are redesigning teaching and learning – revisiting their academic programs and student services with an eye towards implementing best practices and new technologies that will enhance the student experience. They are aided in those pursuits by the Distributed Education and Technology Services (DETS) division of the District, which supplies support for alternate learning modalities like online classes, manages the core technology infrastructure of the District and the Student Information System, and the Graphics and Printing Services office which produces excellent publications and texts.

Examples abound within our college district. Both institutions' textbook rental programs help cut students' costs. Both are using vastly more life-like simulation models of crisis victims for training in nursing and emergency medicine to better prepare students for real-life experiences they will face in demanding health-care environments.

Other ideas include the use of Wiley, a program that helps SBVC Spanish 101 online students with exact phrasing and provides immediate feedback on grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction; the 24/7 Chat Reference at SBVC, an online resource that connects a student to an academic librarian for assistance with their research needs; and the use of Clickers (a Classroom Response System) at CHC that allows an instructor to ask questions, gather students' responses during a lecture, facilitate discussions and assess critical thinking.

Join me, please, in reading about our state-of-the-art programs at the SBCCD. We appreciate your interest and continued support.

### From Bruce Baron, Interim Chancellor



Even in these challenging times, the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) is where individuals come to “enhance their lives with quality education”. We continue, in each of our divisions, to enrich the personal and professional lives of our students, viewers and training participants. The budget situation for education is uncertain, but we remain dedicated to providing those we serve with the best in academic programs and services and to cultivating a scholastic environment that stimulates and challenges the learner.

Our two Colleges provide certificates in more than 100 areas, including Human Services, nursing, emergency medicine, fire and respiratory care. We offer associate's degrees in more than 60 areas and transfer support to numerous four-year schools.

The SBCCD is home to two other divisions that enrich the lives of our citizens: the KVCR Public Broadcast System and our Economic Development and Corporate Training (EDCT) division.

KVCR brings our community together, serving as the cultural, educational, informational, and communication center of the Inland Empire. Their cutting-edge facility located on the SBVC campus will enable them to better serve both their radio and their television audiences. Visit KVCR.org for up-to-the-minute tweets on state and national news.

The EDCT provides customized training programs for employers and individuals in dozens of fields - skills they may need now, or that they will need for burgeoning future employment areas. For example, the EDCT provides one of the nation's best training programs in Nanotechnology and then brings in speakers to help those interested in starting businesses in that field. One program, the Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies, assists industry workers in such areas as machining, hazardous waste and industrial maintenance. Ed2Go allows participants to supplement their skills from their home or work computers.

Our philosophy is that education is the key to better jobs, to a better economy regionally and state-wide, and to a better quality of life. It is our charge to make available instruction that best serves our students and our community. Given our limited resources, we can do that only through transforming how we approach education. I hope you will read further to learn more about some of those best practices.

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## Learning Communities: Far More than Study Groups

The use of Learning Communities (LC) is a national movement where the educational experience for students is enhanced through linking two or more courses, providing a deeper understanding of the material, building student-faculty relationships, and encouraging participants to learn together outside the classroom. A LC may pair courses under a theme, such as *Problems in Democracy*, offered at Crafton Hills College (CHC), which ties *Intro to Library Research* with *U.S. History 1865 to the Present*, or it may focus on a specific group of students who, for instance, are leaving campus without a degree or certificate at an alarmingly low rate (compared to the general population) as do two programs at San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC).

LCs have been tracked and assessed to verify their success. Studies show that students in an English, math or reading course LC are statistically more likely to earn higher grades and have lower drop-out rates, have greater success in future college courses, maintain deeper connections to faculty and fellow students, and report a higher satisfaction rate with their college experience than those enrolled in a stand-alone course at a similar level.

At SBVC, the *Tumaini Program* focuses on students who are interested in learning about African-American history, literature, and culture while supporting the success of African-American students. This semester, enrollees have served as student ambassadors in the Martin Luther King, Jr. event at SBVC, participated in the SBVC Black History Month events and planned a "Speak Your Soul" poetry event. The *Puente Project* similarly addresses the low rate of academic achievement among Latino students.

Actively aiming to keep students in school to complete an associate's degree or a certificate and to increase transfer to four-year institutions, students enrolled in LCs usually work with a counselor and a mentor.



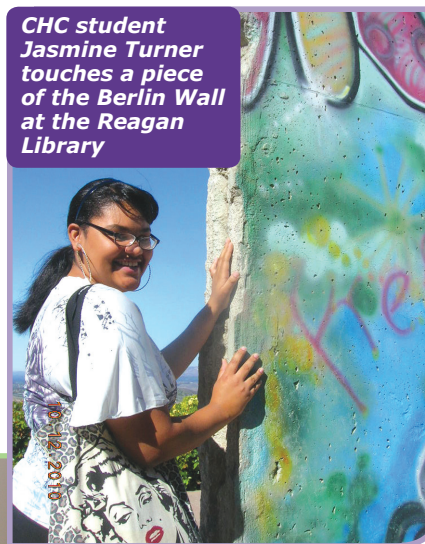
**Willene Nelson**



**SBVC's Tumaini Coordinator Willene Nelson addresses the group of mentors and mentees**



**CHC Professor Damaris Matthews' class boarding the bus to go to the Reagan Library in Simi Valley**



**CHC student Jasmine Turner touches a piece of the Berlin Wall at the Reagan Library**

The counseling component of both *Tumaini* and *Puente* includes an assigned counselor who works closely with this specific group of students to help them identify career goals while developing short- and long-term education plans. The counselor also arranges visits to college campuses, educational field trips and special events.

Mentoring is an important aspect of the program, as many of the students have parents without any college education. Volunteer mentors

serve as role models, offering the students ongoing encouragement and guidance, and providing a vital link between the local community and the college campus, exposing them to diverse professional and cultural community environments while endorsing the importance of college.

Five LCs are offered this semester at CHC. One, *Telling Our Stories*, provides students in Basic English and Intermediate Reading the opportunity to explore family history and write personal narratives. The classes travel to the L.A. City Library by Metro (often a first), use the Library's genealogy resources, and explore Olvera Street and Chinatown. Another, *Living in the I.E.*, shows students in the *Preparation for College Writing* and *Advanced Reading* courses a multicultural perspective of the Inland Empire, including familiar people and places as well as some hidden treasures. Using sites like local museums, the missions, and the Reagan Library expands the students' knowledge and understanding of their environs and their history, making them part of the community.

As one student noted, "I really like the structural support of the learning community and how the classes go together hand-in-hand. It makes the learning experience much easier and less stressful."



## Innovative Valley-Bound Commitment Program Honored As Top Student Success Program in California Community Colleges

At an awards reception on November 20th, 2010, SBVC's Valley-Bound Commitment was honored as the unanimous recipient of the California Community Colleges 2010 Chancellor's Student Success Award. The award recognizes a college that has demonstrated significant progress toward achieving student equity goals and success for all students. The Valley-Bound Commitment was singled out as a program that has instituted a creative approach proven effective in achieving student equity and student success in the areas of access, retention, course completion, degree and certificate completion, and transfer.

Launched by SBVC President Dr. Debra Daniels with 36 students as a pilot program in 2008, the Valley-Bound Commitment is a student success program that is

increasing the college-going rate within the Inland Empire one family at a time. Recognizing that student equity goals and success can't be achieved without first addressing access, the Valley-Bound Commitment effectively eliminates all economic barriers for graduating high school seniors to begin pursuing their educational dreams by covering all enrollment fees, textbook costs and a variety of ancillary expenses for the first year of college.

Results from the first two years of the program are revealing how Valley-Bound Commitment students are performing at a higher level of success, reaching their goals of transfer and graduation more rapidly, and helping improve their community, creating a new trajectory for their future and the economic future of the region as a whole.



*Colton High School graduates and siblings Angel and Brenda Orozco attended their first year of college for free as part of the Valley-Bound Commitment. Brenda is currently enrolled in the program while Angel nears graduation and is on the verge of transferring with a 3.3 GPA. Read their full story online at [valleycollege.edu](http://valleycollege.edu) or hear the actual stories of other Valley-Bound Commitment students in their own voices at [www.youtube.com/sbvcwolverines](http://www.youtube.com/sbvcwolverines).*



San Bernardino  
Valley College

Interested in a free first year of college in California's top student success program? High school graduates from the Class of 2011 are invited to apply in March/April for one of the limited slots in the 2011-2012 Valley-Bound Commitment program. Call 909.384.4414 for more information.

## Crafton's First Year Experience Program Includes Answering Lots of Questions

Don't know where your next class is? Not sure who to ask about adding a class? Where should a student with a disability go for assistance?

The first few days of each semester can be very confusing. A new schedule means new classrooms and different buildings to locate and challenges regarding adding and dropping classes, applying for financial aid, picking up checks, buying books, paying fees, and finding your instructors' offices.

Answer Centers assist students during that bewildering first week. The booths are staffed by more than 100 members of the Crafton Hills College community each year, including students, and placed strategically across the campus in the Bookstore, LADM Breezeway, Cafeteria and Library

areas. First opening in January 2007, they have served over 38,000 students. The spring 2011 Answer Centers responded to more than 3,477 individual questions.

The Centers are part of the First Year Experience program funded by a Title V grant awarded to CHC in 2005. Designed to strengthen academic and support services, the ambitious array of strategies included a new orientation process, the creation of a College Experience course, outreach programs, a more accessible, intuitive website, a study of the validity of ACCUPLACER (used to place students into developmental education courses), and the creation of several learning communities.

Title V grants are awarded through the U.S. Department of Education program for Strengthening Hispanic Serving Institutions (those with Hispanic enrollment over 25%). All students benefit from the programs instituted through

these grants. CHC was awarded another Title V grant of \$3.1 million (over five years) in October 2010 to enhance their transfer and graduation success rates.



**Anatomy Lab Tech Rosemarie Hansen-Barnes answers a student question on opening day of spring 2011**



Crafton Hills  
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*The San Bernardino Community College District has an 85 year history of providing its community and students with quality and affordable vocational certificates, associate's degrees, and preparation for transfer to a four-year college or university through San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College. In addition, the Economic Development and Corporate Training Division and KVCR TV-FM provide professional development and cultural and educational information to the community at large.*



## Online Tutoring Eases Student Stress

It is 3:00 a.m. and a student is stuck on a challenging math problem. What to do and where to go at that hour? The campus learning centers are closed; tutors and teachers are asleep. Both campuses recognized the long-standing problem and so the Distributed Education and Technology Services (DETS) division of the District Office stepped in and addressed the situation, creating the new Web-based Tutoring Project in summer 2010.

The Project has two components: access to a live tutoring session by an off-campus student, and access to archived tutoring sessions for a student who needs assistance when no live tutoring session is taking place.

The pilot courses were Math 090 (Elementary Algebra) and Math 095 (Intermediate Algebra) taught by Crafton Hills faculty. The project has been met with enthusiasm from participants. Students log in through an online portal, view the live tutoring session, and can also ask questions of the tutor, who responds in real time. Students may also e-mail their questions in ahead of time, and the instructor will answer them in the next live session. Each math course has one two-hour tutoring session per week, during which the teacher responds to an average of three to seven off-site questions.

The tutoring sessions are also archived and are available for viewing at the student's convenience.

This semester, the offerings remain the same but are using SBVC math faculty. The same two math courses are offered by both colleges.

By the end of February, the archived files will start being captioned for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and students will be able to select from over 60 languages in which to view those captions. The plan is to expand the tutoring offerings to include Chemistry and Physics classes, perhaps as soon as next fall.

Student learning issues must be approached in a manner that meets the students' unique needs, which may be nontraditional. One said, in response to an instructor who provided guidance in solving three equation problems, "Awesome! Thank you! I love this whole online tutoring thing; it's a huge help!"

