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Subject: 💡 **Trustee Weekly Roundup: Week of Dec. 15**

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SAN BERNARDINO  COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



Economic Development
& Corporate Training

Trustee Weekly Roundup

By Chancellor Diana Z. Rodriguez, EdD ● Dec 20, 2025

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...747 words

Happy Saturday! Here's what happening at the San Bernardino Community College District.

A New Scholarship For Future Firefighters at Crafton Hills College



Goal 1

Eliminate Barriers to
Student Access & Success



Danny Ward, Matt Swenson, Ryan Harold, Dustin Whitaker

Crafton Hills College (CHC) celebrated a significant partnership milestone recently, as the Redlands Professional Firefighters Association gifted a \$12,500 endowment to the CHC Foundation.

Why it matters: This endowment establishes a permanent scholarship fund for Fire Academy cadets, supporting future generations of firefighters.

- The Redlands Professional Firefighters Association’s gift will remain with the foundation in perpetuity, funding \$500 annual scholarships starting in 2026.
- This initiative ensures cadets have access to essential training and resources.

What they’re saying: Dustin Whitaker, a CHC Fire Academy alumnus, expressed the personal significance of this gesture.

- “Crafton shaped who I am as a firefighter and as a person,” Whitaker said. “It means everything to support the next generation of cadets.”

The bottom line: With this investment, the association is helping future firefighters pursue their education and serve their communities effectively.

SBVC’s New Black-Serving Institution Designation



Goal 2

Be a Diverse, Equitable,
Inclusive and Anti-Racist
Institution



Members of SBVC's Black-Serving Institution (BSI) Task Force gather during the college's centennial year to celebrate SBVC's official designation as a Black-Serving Institution.

San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) has achieved a significant milestone by being officially designated as a Black-Serving Institution (BSI) by the Black-Serving Institution Governing Board.

Why it matters: This designation underscores SBVC's commitment to advancing Black student success, equity, and belonging, and highlights its leadership in statewide equity efforts.

- Interim executive director BJ Snowden praised SBVC's leadership in a letter to President Gilbert J. Contreras, PhD.

New Statewide Designation: The BSI designation identifies colleges that enroll significant numbers of Black students and show measurable commitment to their success.

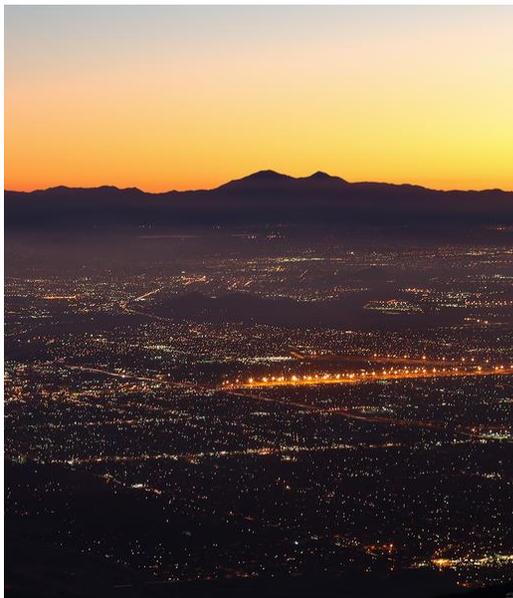
- SBVC is among the first community colleges in California to earn this recognition.

Campuswide Leadership and Collaboration: The designation was made possible by the Black-Serving Institution Task Force, created in Fall 2024, which led research and equity-centered strategies.

What's next: In January, SBVC will receive a comprehensive information packet outlining expectations and resources related to the BSI designation.

A milestone in SBVC's centennial year: Celebrating its centennial, SBVC marks the BSI designation as a testament to its mission of fostering excellence, equity, and opportunity for all students.

SBCCD Engages County Supervisor to Build Support for Legacy Village



Goal 3

Be a Leader and Partner in Addressing Regional Issues

What happened: On December 17, Executive Vice Chancellor Torres and I met with Supervisor **Joe Baca Jr.** to advance advocacy for the SBVC Legacy Village project.

Why it matters: We outlined the project's vision and the remaining \$50 million funding gap needed to deliver affordable housing for students and our local community workforce.

What's next: Supervisor Joe Baca Jr. committed to helping build support among key partners, including the County Chief Executive Office, the Housing Authority, and the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, to move the project forward.



SBCCD Hosts Senator Reyes' Women's Mentorship Luncheon

This week, I was proud to welcome Senator **Eloise Gómez Reyes** and regional leaders to the SBCCD Boardroom for her Women's Mentorship Luncheon.

- The event brought together leaders from business, education, and the community to share perspectives and support the growth of women in leadership.
- Hosting this convening strengthened SBCCD's connections with local leaders, including many alumni of Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College, and helped reengage them in our mission and impact.

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New \$849K State Grant to Boost Workforce Training



Goal 4

Ensure Fiscal Accountability
And Sustainability

New funding for SBCCD training: SBCCD's Economic Development and Corporate Training Center secured a state-funded Employment Training Panel contract worth **\$849,736**.

- **Timeline:** The contract spans from **December 15, 2025, to December 14, 2027** and is managed by the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.
- **Impact:** As one of the largest ETP providers in California, SBCCD/EDCT will enhance professional development and skills training for local business employees.
- **Why it matters:** This investment ensures regional employers have the skilled workforce needed to remain competitive in the Inland Empire and across the state.

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 Mark Your Calendar



You're Invited

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- **December 24 to January 2:** SBCCD Winter Break (Offices Closed)
- **January 8:** IEEP Annual Dinner - Chancellor Rodriguez to receive Educator of the Year Award (DoubleTree Hotel in Ontario)
- **January 22:** SBCCD Board Retreat from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- **January 23-24:** CCLC Trusteeship Workshop & Board Chair Workshop (Sacramento)
- **January 25-26:** CCLC Legislative Summit & SBCCD Advocacy Day in Sacramento
- **February 8-11:** 2026 ACCT Community College National Legislative Summit (Washington, D.C.)

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 Stay In The Know



Higher Ed News

Top Headlines

- [Ella Film Festival Brings Inland Empire's First Women-Centered Film Fest to KVCR \(Inland Empire Community News\)](#)
- [FAFSA completion on pace to reach record high this year \(KVCR\)](#)
- [2026 New California Laws | Automatic admission into California state universities \(CBS 8\)](#)
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