



Log In

Apply

[Admission & Aid](#) [Academic & Career Programs](#) [Students](#) [About SBVC](#)[Home](#) / [SBVC News](#) / [Creator of Kwanzaa Speaks to Campus](#)

Creator of Kwanzaa Speaks to Campus



Dr. Maulana Karenga, creator of Kwanzaa, was welcomed to the San Bernardino Valley College campus in celebration of Black History Month. The professor, author, and activist gave his lecture, "Message and Mission in Black History: Forging a Future and World of Inclusive Good," in the historic Auditorium in an exciting event that was free and open to the public. Campus and community members in the audience, adorned in traditional African attire or colorful patterns, watched Dr. Karenga and his wife Tiamoyo Karenga open the event with an ancient water pouring ceremony honoring our ancestors.

Among the topics addressed were ways to embrace one's culture and how to take advantages of the opportunities presented to people of color today. Karenga insisted that he must speak the truth like Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, because he did not want to "betray that history". He stated that we all must respect our diversity, and said one of the most important parts of American history is "insisting all of multicultural education."

During the civil rights movement in the 1960s, Dr. Karenga was instrumental in the creation of Kwanzaa and the pan-Africanist Kawaida philosophy, a topic that was prominent in his speech, as various guests expressed their gratitude to Karenga for creating a holiday in which African Americans can celebrate their culture. Audience member Singing Bird of the Apache Nation thanked Dr. Karenga for acknowledging the struggle of other minorities, in particular Native Americans, and said, "I see your people and my people as one..We are no longer victims, but survivors."