State of the Bakersfield College Pathway for the Student Life Initiative

**BC Office of Student Life Mission**
Through innovative experiences in a co-curricular classroom, the Office of Student Life engages students in meaningful interactions and hands-on skill development that fosters academic progress, student success, social justice, and citizenship while serving the diverse breadth and scope of the Bakersfield College’s student community through recruitment, persistence, retention, and graduation efforts.

**Program Overview**
The Office of Student Life works collaboratively with the Bakersfield College Student Government Association (BCSGA) and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs to engage, educate, and empower students to take action in the best interest of the student body and the college community. The Office of Student Life provides learning, leadership, and serve opportunities outside the classroom (the co-curricular classroom environment). Research indicates and student engagement theory suggests that students involved in an activity on campus, any activity outside of the classroom, are more likely to persist and graduate. The Office of Student Life provides it’s participating students the opportunities to develop and hone their leadership skills, ultimately supporting student learning by providing a plethora of programs and services in which students can be engaged.

**Learning Outcomes**
1. The Office of Student Life supports students' Academic Progress in the academic and social integrations by extending support to an individual's educational experiences while satisfying the basic needs.
2. The Office of Student Life aids in Student Success by developing transferable skills through workshops and activities while interacting with others.
3. The Office of Student Life advocates Social Justice by accessing resources and expanding an individual's awareness through interactions and education with similar and dissent groups.
4. The Office of Student Life encourages Citizenship as a reciprocal partnership where contributions from an individual invest into the community to instill one's civic responsibility.

**Alignment with BC’s Mission**
"Bakersfield College provides opportunities for students from diverse economic, cultural, and education backgrounds to attain Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer. Our rigorous and supportive learning environment fosters students' abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills in order to engage productively in their communities and the world.”

The Office of Student Life recognizes that its mission, in cooperation with the learning mission of Bakersfield College, is accomplished through cultivating a personal standard of ethics and values while providing opportunities that enhance a sense of community between students, the campus, and the local community. Therefore, the Office of Student Life supports Bakersfield College’s mission and core values by contributing to student access, fosters students’ abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills.
Alignment with BC’s Strategic Directions

BC’s five Strategic Directions include:

● Student Learning – A commitment to provide a holistic education that develops curiosity, inquiry, and empowered learners.
● Student Progression and Completion – A commitment to eliminate barriers that cause students difficulties in completing their educational goals.
● Facilities – A commitment to improve the maintenance of, and secure funding for, college facilities, technology, and infrastructure for the next thirty years.
● Oversight and Accountability – A commitment to improve oversight, accountability, sustainability, and transparency in all college processes.
● Leadership and Engagement – A commitment to build leadership within the College and engagement with community.

The Office of Student Life nurtures a culture that fosters learning outside of the academic classroom by creating an educational environment that connects the campus community to the importance of processes that lead to student self-governance. The Office of Student Life fosters the development of student's civic responsibility, community engagement, leadership, and personal growth. The meaningful interactions are the root for our student advocacy that contributes to effective pathways via the leadership and service opportunities provided.

Alignment with BC’s Institutional Learning Outcomes

The Office of Student Life provides advising to BCSGA’s appointed and elected officers, all student organizations, and its entities. Additionally, the Office of Student Life provides learning opportunities for the student body to enhance their overall educational experience through their involvement with the programs and services funded by BCSGA, the College, and the community. The Office of Student makes a concerted effort to recruit, educate, inform, and retain students through student organizations, the student government, and the assorted student activities and workshops hosted. To that end, the Office of Student Life supports student development whose focus is to build community through groups focused on academics, culture, campus-life, specific-interests, community service, and social bonding.

Programs and Services with Student Life

Along with supporting and collaborating with other BC departments and offices, the Office of Student Life directly oversees ten student initiatives to advance the work of the college.

1. Bakersfield College Student Government Association
2. Campus Center Services
3. Renegade Mobile App
4. Student Organizations
5. Student and Campus Activities
6. Student Assistance Programs and Services
7. Off-Campus Housing Services
8. Renegade Mascot
9. Safe Space program
10. Student Conduct

Area One: Bakersfield College Student Government Association
Bakersfield College Student Government Association (BCSGA) is the official student governance organization. The Association presents the student body opinions, needs and concerns to such groups as the College Council, the State Student California Community College (SSCCC) and many campus-wide and district-wide committees.

BCSGA allocates the Campus Center fees to programs and services that directly benefit students in the Campus Center and uses the funds received from the Student Representation Fee to voice the student body at a local, regional, and state levels. BCSGA is composed of twelve senators and eighteen officers.

The BCSGA is the student governing organization and has the responsibilities for campus student initiatives. BCSGA regulates itself and student organizations to ensure they are operating equitably and following BCSGA By-laws, Constitution, and College policy. BCSGA is also responsible for allocating funds to student organizations for events and activities that can be enjoyed by the student body.

Area Two: Campus Center Services
The Center was opened on June 15, 1956. The building was renamed the John Collins Campus Center on September 10, 2003 in honor of Dr. John J. Collins, former Bakersfield College President from 1972 – 1983.

The Campus Center offers a wide range of services and programs and is a place of relaxation and recreation for students. It is the students "home away from home," the community center of the college. The Campus Center is located in the middle of campus, and many Campus Center programs and events are funded by Campus Center fee.

Area Three: Renegades Mobile App
At a school like Bakersfield College that puts on hundreds of events each semester, you need more than flyers and emails to keep up with what's happening on campus. This is why the Office of Student Life initiated the BCRenegades mobile app. Students and community members can browse through the calendar, get all the info on events they would like to attend, and even set reminders before certain events start! Hear the latest campus news, receive notifications for important dates, and connect with your fellow renegades.

BCRenegades app users can expect to find:
- Feed Write posts to interact with others using the app. Ask us questions about the app or about an event, or engage with peers. Also use the feed to check for upcoming and featured events.
- Events Calendar Keep up with activities on campus, from festivals and exhibits to lectures and workshops. Add events you're interested in to your schedule, and the app will remind you before the event starts
- Student Dashboard Important links for students like Inside BC, the BC Bookstore, FAFSA, etc.
- Service Requests Fill out the request forms for the Daily Bread Service, the Monthly Distribution, Hygiene Kits, and the Renegade Closet.
- Notifications Receive important BC Messages.
- News Get local, state, and national news from a variety of sources.
- Renegade Athletics View news, schedules, and scores for your favorite teams. Apply Easy one, two, three steps to becoming a Renegade.
- Matriculation Get the dates for orientation and registration workshops & help with assessment and counseling/advising.
Directory Get the contact information for most BC staff and faculty.
Explore BC Search important areas of BC’s website for more information.
Maps Search and identify campus buildings.
Social Media Connect with your school online.
BC Email Connect to your BC Gmail account
Notifications Receive important BC Messages
Networking You will be able to check into the event, see who else is there, and have private conversations with each other through the app.
To-do Lists Personal to-do lists and keep yourself on track.
Feedback Give feedback to BC while you are on campus, thinking about the event or a specific session.
Handbook and forms Access the student handbook and all other relative information fast.
Safety Keep yourself safe on campus with all access to the campus safety information.
Photo Album Check out pictures or upload your known pictures of all the events on campus.
Student Organizations Find out what organizations are on campus and see where they meet.

Area Four: Student Organizations
Student Organizations (StudOrgs) serve a valuable and educational function offering students the opportunity to join in academic or professional, honor, political, service, social, cultural and/or spiritual groups, and societies. The students involved assume various leadership roles that provide insight to further the mission of the group and contribute to the personal development and enjoyment of members within the context of the broader teaching, research, and service missions of BC. These opportunities offer students a chance to become more involved with their campus community, adding an experiential component to their educational experience.

A StudOrg is an entity that is initiated and directed by a group of current Bakersfield College students who share a common vision in promoting a co-curricular mission that enriches campus or community life and personal development. StudOrgs must be registered with the Office of Student Life in accordance with the StudOrg Conditions and Procedures.

Active membership in registered StudOrgs shall be limited to registered students from the BC campuses (this includes the Delano campus). Active members may participate at all levels in the organization’s activities (beyond membership registration and payment of financial obligations) as determined by the organization. Membership shall be on a completely volunteer basis and shall not be the basis of academic credits nor shall any coercion be used forcefully to maintain membership. The designated Advisor of the StudOrg are considered a part of the StudOrg membership.

Area Five: Student and Campus Activities
Office of Student Life not only advises the BCSGA Department of Student Activities, but also hosts and co-sponsors programs, activities, and events. Over 300 initiatives are completed by the Office of Student Life each year. Some of the annual traditional events that are hosted by the Office of Student Life are:

1. New Student Convocation
2. Week of Renegade Welcome
3. Student Involvement Festival
4. Running of the Renegades
5. Constitution Day
6. Homecoming Week
7. Veterans Day
8. Finals Week Stress Break
9. Welcome Back Week
10. Spring Fling
11. Diversity Monthly Activities
12. Student Leadership and Involvement Awards

**Area Six: Student Assistance Program and Services**
The Renegade Pantry, a program offered by the Office of Student Life, focuses on alleviating food insecurity, hunger, and poverty among current Bakersfield College students. We provide food to students regardless of their race, religion, sex, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability. The student assistance program exists to help maintain the health and welfare of Bakersfield College students through organized college, community sponsorship, and donations of nonperishable food, clothing and hygiene items.

**Area Seven: Off-Campus Housing Services**
Student Housing Services helps and supports BC students in a magnitude of ways. Some students may prefer to live with families, rent a room, apartment, or a house. Whatever the option a student chooses, the goal of Student Housing Services is to place any interested BC student in contact with some potential living possibilities. Student Housing Services is a program offered by the Office of Student Life to assist students in meeting their housing needs in the college neighborhood. The program formalizes a listing service already being offered by the department. Student Housing Services will augment this with support, guidance, and educational services. The Office of Student Life understands that in order for students to be academically successful, their basic needs must be met (Maslow, 1943). Student Housing Services is designed to help students meet this need, and to provide opportunities to develop life skills through workshops, financial management, connections to resources, and hands-on practical tips and advice.

**Area Eight: Renegade Mascot**
The Office of Student Life oversees the Renegade Mascot and the upholds the campus pride to the best. The Renegade Mascot is a vital part to engaging campus spirit at the Home of the Renegades.

**Area Nine: Safe Space Program**
The Bakersfield College Safe Space program was created by the BCSGA as a way for or campus to create a supportive environment for the LGBTQ community. Safe Spaces are places on our campuses where representatives have decided to publicly identify themselves as making an effort to understand and support the needs of the LGBTQ community. The Safe Space Project at BC promotes awareness of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and Allied (LGBTQA) individuals. Workshops can provide education concerning related issues and seeks to improve the environment for sexual and gender minorities. Safe Space Goals:

- To increase awareness of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) individuals and issues.
- To build a visible support network of LGBT allies on BC’s campus.
- To improve the climate for LGBT people at BC.
- To make allies visible to and involved with LGBT students, faculty, and staff.
Area Ten: Student Conduct
The Board of Trustees of the Kern Community College District, in support of public education and the exercise of general supervision of the campuses of the district, believes that student conduct must reflect the standards of good behavior expected by society. Since public education is furnished by the people of the district, it becomes a privilege for students to have this opportunity to further their education.

When working with student complaints, sexual harassment, discrimination, students with reported behaviors, academic integrity, or students of concern, the Office of Student Life at Bakersfield College reviews, investigates, and works with each student case carefully while integrating several student development theories that model after the restorative justice practices. The fundamental premise of restorative justice practices is to engage with the student to lead to a helpful outlook, more cooperative and productive interactions, and more likely to make positive changes when the Office of Student Life and the Bakersfield community interact with them. It has a greater impact on student learning and success than the typical punitive models. The Office of Student Life approaches restorative justice with five objectives in mind to assist the student through their development.

1. Reflecting with the student in question about their purpose through self-authorship giving them constructive instruction that allows for self-reflection and clear understandings of self-beliefs
2. Aiding the students to self-acknowledge their responsibility and willing to gear their situation to a positive outcome.
3. Providing and connecting students to various on and off campus resources in hopes to achieve positive student success.
4. Assisting the students to connect their energies and interests with meaningful activities.
5. Finding closure while supporting the students through facing their consequences, learning from their situation, and moving past it for future success.

Taking a restorative justice approach requires a philosophical shift and a personable professional to interact with the students, parents, faculty, and the community to repair the balance back into the students’ life, rather than simply following protocol and penalizing. Students are expected to observe a proper standard of conduct, showing such respect for order, morality, personal honor and the rights of others as demanded of good citizens.

Scholarships within Student Life
Grace Van Dyke Bird Award: Emerging Leader of the Year Award
Candidates for this award are first year students who exhibit leadership skills by engaging in the Bakersfield College community and have sought out opportunities to get involved. Given annually to one freshman student attaining the highest standards of leadership, citizenship, service and overall accomplishments while a student attending Bakersfield College.

Alumni Association Honor Trophy: Emerging Leader of the Year Award
Candidates for this award are second year students who exhibit leadership skills by engaging in the Bakersfield College community and have sought out opportunities to get involved. Given annually to one sophomore student attaining the highest standards of leadership, citizenship, service, and overall accomplishments while a student attending Bakersfield College.

Jack Brigham Scholarship
The Jack Brigham Scholarship is awarded annually to one student attaining the highest standards of leadership, citizenship, service, and overall accomplishments while a student attending Bakersfield College.

**Leadership Team**
The Office of Student Life is comprised of staff and students who work collaborate to deliver cohesive learning opportunities.

1. Program Manager for Campus Center Services and Co-Curricular Programs, Vacant
2. Department Assistant III, Danyel Owens
3. Department Assistant III, Arisve Pimentel
4. Director, Dr. Nicky Damania

**Additional Program Information:**
More information about Bakersfield College’s Office of Student Life (including biographical information and photos of staff and BCSGA Officers) is available online at www.BakersfieldCollege.edu/studentlife