Overview:

In recent years, the work of the Delano Campus has expanded its reach to other communities throughout Kern County. As a result, the Delano Campus team has evolved into the Rural Initiatives team. With courses and services in various locations throughout the county, Bakersfield College is accomplishing its mission of providing students from socially and ethnically diverse backgrounds the educational opportunities that they need to succeed.

The Rural Initiatives work encompasses traditional courses and services offered in Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, Arvin, and South Bakersfield. Additionally, the Rural Initiatives team leads various efforts in Early College and Adult Education for Bakersfield College, which extend to other additional communities like Lamont and Lost Hills. By leveraging our partnerships with K-12 schools, adult schools, city governments, private industry partners, and non-profit organizations, the Rural Initiatives team is bringing opportunities to people in communities with low-degree attainment rates and high unemployment numbers.

The State of Bakersfield College’s Rural Initiatives is strong. This report will layout the enrollment numbers in our service regions, as well as provide updates on projects happening throughout Kern County.

Mission:

The mission of Bakersfield College’s Rural Initiatives is to provide ready access to the high quality education necessary for our socially and ethnically diverse students--whether they be vocational, transfer-oriented, developmental, or some combination of these--to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The Rural Initiatives staff is responsible for quality instruction and services that include the unit’s strategic initiatives throughout rural communities in Kern County:

- Improve Kern County Rural area student access, retention, and success
- Provide effective learning and earning pathways for students in rural communities
- Support student learning through appropriate technology
- Support student learning through streamlined systems and processes
Strategic Directions:

- **Student Learning:** A commitment to provide a holistic education that develops curiosity, inquiry, and empowered learners.
  - With a focus on Guided Pathways, it is important that the Rural Initiatives team strategically schedules the appropriate courses and number of sections throughout Rural Kern County to provide access for more students closer to their homes.
  - **Delano:** FTES increased from 1,310 to 1,448 (2016-2017 to 2017-2018). Total enrollments increased from 10,996 to 11,996. The number of sections increased from 415 to 492. A part of this growth is due in part to expansion in Dual Enrollment opportunities. There are dedicated staff members on the Rural Initiatives team working on the dual enrollment expansion in rural communities. We expect to see a growing trend in the coming year.
  - **Other Rural Sites:** Between the cities of Arvin, McFarland, Wasco, and Shafter FTES jumped from 261.1 in 2016-2017 to 338.9 in 2017-2018. There was a small decline in Arvin from 123.5 to 115.1. The numbers increased at all other sites: McFarland 23.6 to 53.2; Wasco 74.4 to 120.2; Shafter 39.6 to 50.4.

- **Student Progression and Completion:** A commitment to eliminate barriers that cause students difficulties in completing their educational goals.
  - Students in Rural communities face many barriers in their educational journeys. One of the most common barriers is that of a lack of transportation to Bakersfield College’s main campus. This barrier is not only one that prevents students from completing more of their required courses in a timely manner, but also places them at a disadvantage when it comes to student and academic support services.
  - In the last year, the Rural Initiatives team has established “Extended Support Services” throughout Rural Kern County. Additionally, the team has provided similar support to other student populations.
    - **Traditional Support:**
      - Scheduled regular evening and weekend sessions in the communities of Wasco, Shafter, and Arvin to provide educational advising/counseling support for students in those communities. Students are able to receive the same quality advising services that they would receive on the main campus or at the Delano center.
    - **Adult Education:**
      - Embedded tutoring support at adult school centers in Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Lost Hills, Bakersfield (Job
Spot). This provides seamless transitions to the college to ensure that students are set up for success.

- **Early College:**
  - The college provides tutoring support to students in the Ag pathway at Wasco HS and Wonderful College Prep Academy.
  - Embedded counselor and professional expert support students in Early College programs at Arvin HS, Shafter HS, McFarland HS, and DJUHSD.

- **Facilities - A commitment to improve the maintenance of, and secure funding for college facilities, technology, and infrastructure for the next thirty years.**
  - Bakersfield College has been able to successfully leverage its partnerships in various cities throughout Kern County to be able to offer courses and services.
    - **Current:**
      - **Co-Location/Lease**
        - Job Spot (Bakersfield Adult School)
        - Robert F. Kennedy HS
        - Delano Adult School
        - McFarland HS
        - McFarland Learning Center
        - Wasco Independence HS
        - Wasco Public Library
        - Shafter High School
        - Shafter Learning Center
        - Arvin High School
        - Arvin Public Library
      - **Upcoming Facility Projects:**
        - **Measure J projects in Delano and Arvin.**
          - Working with design team to ensure adequate space for students, faculty, and staff.
        - **Adult Education Co-Location Facilities in Wasco.**
          - Adult Education Program funds will support the establishment of two classrooms and office space in the City of Wasco (Starting January 2019)
        - **BC Shafter Location**
          - Collaborating with the City of Shafter to identify location for potential BC Shafter facility.
        - **HVAC Lab (Delano Campus)**
          - Construction of HVAC lab is set to be completed by Fall 2019.
• Randolph Campus
  o In discussions with internal and external stakeholders to determine the future use of the campus.

• Leadership and Engagement- A commitment to build leadership within the College and engagement with community.
  o The Rural Initiatives team is fully engaged with the main campus. Various team members participate in committees on the main campus. Additionally, those staff members whose work is guided by a department on the main campus are encouraged to engage with meetings, trainings, and conference opportunities to ensure that they have the most updated information to students in rural communities.
  o In order to best serve the rural communities, the Rural Initiatives staff continues to participate in community based organizations and events. Bakersfield College is represented in:
    ▪ Delano Community Alliance Board
    ▪ Delano Chamber of Commerce Board
    ▪ Delano School Safety Committee
    ▪ Wasco Coalition
    ▪ Building Healthy Communities-South Kern

Focus Projects:

Early College

In Fall 2017, the Early College Project pilot was launched in an effort to provide high school students at Arvin High school an additional pathway towards higher education attainment. Since then, a cohort of over 40 freshmen students have had access to over nine college units before the start of their sophomore year. By leveraging the dual enrollment opportunities during the school day, and strategically scheduling classes after school in which they could concurrently enroll, Bakersfield College has built a pathway for students to earn a substantial amount of college credits prior to high school graduation.

• Early College has merged with the work of the Game Changer project at Arvin High School.
  o Provide professional expert case management support for students, parents, and faculty. (Professional Expert is Arvin HS alumni).
  o Pathways now include Ag, Communication, and Public Health.
  o Students have had access to extra-curricular/co-curricular opportunities.
    ▪ Field trip to County Public Health agencies.
    ▪ Field trip to BC musical performance.
    ▪ Field trip to social justice event featuring artist, “Common.”
  o Dr. Christine Cruz-Boone (Communication Faculty), Jesse Oropeza (Counselor), Abel Guzman (Rural Initiatives Interim Director), and Destiny Ramos (Early College
student), presented at the “Strengthening Student Success” Conference in October 2018.

- The Early College model now a proven approach with the Wonderful College Prep Academy (graduated cohort in May 2018), Wasco High School, and Arvin High School will be expanding to other rural high schools in the coming year.
- Will leverage the Rural Initiatives Distance Education (RIDE) technology to stream public health class between various sites in spring 2019.

**Adult Education**

As part of a statewide effort to assist underserved populations to obtain employment and earn a livable wage, Bakersfield College has partnered with rural adult schools to provide additional services to adult learners. The goal is to identify students’ career aspirations and provide targeted services aimed at eliminating barriers into entrance into their respective fields.

Adult Education has incorporated the Bakersfield College Mission in its day to day practices, through seamless transitions and various learning platforms such EMLS, CTE and Career Development course offerings within multiple site locations through-out north and South Kern. The Adult Education Block Grant stands to impact the lives of adult learners throughout the state, helping individuals meet life-changing personal and career goals while supporting California’s economy by giving them the academic, language and career skills they need to advance into new jobs, new positions or higher levels of education.

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