Almost one year ago, the Job Spot opened its doors to the Kern County Community. The Job Spot is a partnership between Bakersfield College (BC), the Bakersfield Adult School (BAS), and America’s Job Center that offers education and employment resources to students and community members. The Bakersfield Adult School offers GED, ESL, and citizenship classes as well as independent studies for students working towards a GED or a high school diploma. One of the main goals of the partnership between BAS and BC is for students who complete their GED or high school diploma or the ESL classes offered by BAS to continue their education at BC, and the Job Spot is a one-stop shop that ensures a smooth transition from BAS to BC. With the help of our BC staff, students can complete all steps of the matriculation process on site without having to make the trip to the main campus. The Job Spot hosts several enrollment events year-round to provide one-on-one assistance with the enrollment process. Once enrolled, students can take one of the multiple sections of English for Multilingual Students (EMLS) or Business Administration courses that BC currently offers at the Job Spot to provide an option for students who reside in the South side of Kern. Our Academic Liaison is also available on site to provide reading and writing support for students and community members on a variety of writing assignments from homework for their classes to resumes for their job searches. Similarly, a representative from America’s Job Center is available on site twice a week to meet with students and community members to offer assistance with their job searches. The Job Spot also has a brand new computer lab and individual study areas for currently enrolled students, and the space is also available to host community events. Though BAS students often feel hesitant or out of place when considering attending college after earning their GED or high school diploma, the collaboration among the teams at the Job Spot encourages and inspires students to see that it is never too late to continue their journey.
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN NORTH KERN
BY KIM COLLINS

It is a joy at the close of the first year of the collaboration between Bakersfield College and the Delano and Wasco Adult Schools to reflect and celebrate the genuine progress that has been made toward the worthy AEBG aim of advancing the goals of adult residents in rural communities surrounding the BC Delano campus. The campus has been buzzing these hot summer evenings with 50+ students attending various courses. Student testimonials say it all. When asked about what she has gained through attendance in the EMLS B71 course, Saba Alshami quickly rattled off a list: “First, of course, I have improved my reading skills, but that is not all. I am doing better in my adult school classes and am better able to help my siblings with their homework. I understand spoken English much better and can hold more fluid conversations.” Saba quickly added that her experience is not unique but rather is common to her fellow students and friends, Anwar (her sister), Nadia, and Maha. These four young ladies, who aspire to become dentists and nurse practitioners respectively, are mastering the language that will be central to their future success. Students in the B72 course offer equally glowing commendations. Cristina Guerrero didn’t hesitate before responding that she is more confident and fluid in her speech and less nervous and better prepared when expected to respond to spoken English. Although much attention has been given to the very visible and trackable EMLS programs, they are not the only, nor perhaps the most important, measurable progress the team has achieved. We have continued to work closely with the Delano and Waqso Adult Schools’ faculty and students and have offered tutoring in a variety of subjects. According to staff, this support has been key in enabling students to pass required GED subject tests. The barriers they have often encountered would have precluded attendance if consistent support was not provided. Throughout the year, student have wanted to discuss career options, receive assistance finding a job or creating a resume, learn to read and write English, or discover means to utilize their foreign degree in the US. Whatever the need, we have been able to either directly help them or direct them to someone who can help. As I ponder, the word that encapsulates our effectiveness is relationships. This personal, intimate relational approach is unique and special and only possible because of AEBG funds for which we are grateful. The challenge moving forward will be to maintain that small town, personal vibe as we expand into new, deserving areas. In the fall, we will begin offering language support in Lost Hills. These new endeavors are exciting and we are hopeful that in a year we will be able to look back with the same amazement and gratitude that we feel right now.

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE SERVICE DATA

The generous Adult Education Block Grant funds have allowed us to service a multitude of students across Kern County over the last school year. We are both excited and grateful that the success of the Adult Education program has granted us the opportunity to not only increase the number of courses offered at our current locations but to expand our services across new locations in Kern County throughout the upcoming 2018-19 school year.

OUR SUMMER IN PHOTOS

Above: The first Summer Bridge to BC held exclusively for adult learners welcomes a new cohort of Renegades to the BC main campus.

Above: The BC Rural Initiatives team visits the Job Spot for the annual summer retreat.

Above: EMLS B72 students complete their summer session at the BC’s Delano campus.

Above: EMLS B72 students complete their summer session at the Job Spot.

Above: EMLS B72 student Alberto holds his class project outside the Job Spot.