UPCOMING EVENTS

South Kern

- BC ORIENTATION AT THE JOB SPOT
  February 20
- BC ASSESSMENT AT THE JOB SPOT
  February 27
- SAMPLE-A-COURSE
  March 12
- NEW STUDENT WORKSHOP AT THE JOB SPOT
  March 20

UPCOMING EVENTS

North Kern

- SAMPLE-A-COURSE
  March 6
- APPLICATION WORKSHOP IN WASCO
  March 8
- BC ASSESSMENT IN WASCO
  March 14
- APPLICATION WORKSHOP IN MCFARLAND
  March 15
- EXPRESS ENROLLMENT IN DELANO
  March 19
- NEW STUDENT WORKSHOP IN WASCO
  March 20

WHAT IS AEBG?

BY KIM COLLINS

Program Overview

In response to the growing realization that there exists a strong correlation between limited education and high unemployment and poverty and that current strategies are inadequate to equip adult workers, in 2013, the Senate and House of Representatives passed Assembly Bill 86. The bill mandated greater collaboration between community colleges and adult schools and provided funds in the form of The Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG) to expand and improve the provision of adult education via community college consortium. The goal of the Kern Community College Consortia (KCCC) is to eliminate barriers for underserved students by bringing resources directly to them rather than expecting them to seek out and travel to resources. In this effort, the collaboration between AEBG staff and various departments on the main campus—CTE, EMLS, and Outreach—has been vital. The KCCC focus aligns with the rural initiative goals the college has adopted which also seek to serve untapped populations. Currently, the Bakersfield College Adult Education programs in collaboration with local adult schools serve students in North and South Kern County in various locations such Delano, Wasco, and McFarland adult schools, and most recently, the Bakersfield Adult School (BAS).
Adult schools and community colleges have long embraced the same goal—to educate and transform the lives of adult populations—but the heightened collaboration between the two institutions is new, and it is bearing great fruit, as evidenced by the full EMLS B72 course pictured above. This EMLS course offered on the BC Delano Campus was created in response to AEBG staffs’ recognition that the greatest barrier for many residents of surrounding rural communities is lack of English fluency. The fact that the course is offered as credit or non-credit further accommodates students as those who choose the non-credit option do not pay for the course nor the materials. Ultimately, the goal of the AEBG team is to enable residents to earn a livable wage and to enjoy greater life satisfaction but there are many steps along that path. This course is just one step, but it’s a monumental one. The class offers many a welcome glimpse into a brighter future. Hope is a beautiful thing, and it is something we are able to more readily promise as the bond between various institutions and services are strengthened.

AEBG STUDENTS SAMPLE A BC COURSE

BY JESSICA FLORES

Last fall, the AEBG South Kern team invited prospective BC students from the Bakersfield Adult School and from the community to join us for two Sample-a-Course events. Transportation was provided from the Job Spot to the BC main campus where, upon arrival, students first got to mingle with one another over lunch. Then, students were divided into two groups: the first group went on a tour of the campus that was led by the Welcome Center staff while the other group sat in an EMLS course. After about thirty minutes, the groups switched places so that students could experience both components of the event. Afterwards, as we drove back to the Job Spot, students asked questions about BC and excitedly chattered about their potential future as college students. It seemed as if after getting a small taste of life as a BC student, for our AEBG community, going to college wasn’t such a daunting task anymore.