IN TOUCH, IN TUNE
Providing Educational & Career Pathway Opportunities

UPCOMING EVENTS

ENROLLMENT EVENTS:

JOB SPOT
Monday, March 18th 3-7pm
Monday, April 8th 3-7pm
Monday, May 13th 3-7pm

ARVIN
Thursday, April 10th 3-7pm
Thursday, May 15th 3-7pm
Thursday, June 13th 3-7pm

Delano
Tuesday, March 12th 3-7pm

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:

ARVIN LIBRARY
Last Thursday of the Month
From 11-2pm

LAMONT LIBRARY
Third Wednesday of the Month
From 12-3pm

Job Spot
M-TH, 8-5PM

Shafter Counseling Appts.
Contact: 661-746-5055

Wasco Counseling/Advising Appts.
Contact: 661-758-7414

PROMISING PROGRESS

BY KIM COLLINS

EMLS programs in rural communities are exploding and the ripples are being felt by many. Enrollment in EMLS courses on all sites, including inaugural classes in Arvin and Wasco, totaling approximately 180 students, and, though these numbers are impressive, their impact truly excites. A handful of our students have transitioned into tradition coursework or certification programs such as Public Health, HVAC, Mechanized Agriculture, Public Policy and Nursing while others are ready to transfer credits from foreign degrees and explore options to use their degrees in the US. This may seem trivial as relatively few have been ready to take that step, but let’s remember that concentrated outreach to rural communities is in its fledgling stage and that learning sufficient English language skills to navigate traditional coursework is extremely difficult. What’s exciting is that the ball is rolling and inertia is on our side. Student success is bound to grow exponentially.

Professors in the EMLS department note other, less tangible areas of growth. Michael Westwood, Delano EMLS professor, has worked with the same cohort for three semesters. When asked of students’ progress, he rather matter-of-factly noted areas of improvement and of lack, but then became animated when he spoke of the unintended consequences student testimonies reveal. He spoke of students loving the social interaction element, the fact that they have an opportunity to converse among themselves on any number of topics that hitherto were mute to them, and of the increased ability to interact in English with their children. This thrilled me. Expanding horizons are foundational to education. Susan Abassi, an instructor at the Job Spot, added, “Students’ growth and commitment to learning is good for BC, but it’s good for the community as well.” Her observation reinforces Michael’s enthusiasm. Students are expanding and that effect is being felt beyond the confines of BC campus.

Students have much work ahead of them but the rural initiatives team is prepared to strategically help them continue to grow. This will include expanding offerings to include multiple levels of reading and writing courses at times when students are available and to continue to rely on the help and support of our community, campus, and adult school partner. Thanks to all.

Above & Right: Adult Ed EMLS students attending class in Delano and at the Job Spot
SPOTLIGHT ON ENROLLMENT EVENTS  
BY SAMANTHA GUILLORY & KIM COLLINS

It’s been an engaging time of growth for Bakersfield College’s Adult Education Program (AEP). BC’s Adult Ed. team has offered Enrollment Express Events at various locations throughout Kern County: the Arvin High Library, Shafter Learning Center, BC Main Campus, BC Delano Campus, the Job Spot in South Bakersfield. The idea behind the Enrollment Express Events is to assist all of our potential and current students with the college application process, making this oft times daunting task as seamless as possible. The events are bustling with returning and newly incoming students. Several were high school students interested in establishing a head start on college; many were brand new to the college application process in general. We greet incoming students, establish their needs, and begin the application, enrollment and registration process. This allows students to walk out of the building with the process completed, holds cleared, and schedules situated!

The Express Enrollment on the Delano Campus hosted over 55 individuals, the majority of who were returning to school after a long absence. Attendees at the event loved that a comprehensive and diverse staff was available late into the evening and that they were able to deal on the spot with a host of issues: residency holds, prerequisite issues, loss of essential college information, counseling questions, and many other problems that frequently arise when serving rural communities. The Wasco Express Enrollment, which served a different demographic, was equally successful. Many high school students were able to concurrently enroll in college courses offered at Independence High School and the new Wasco Adult Education Site. During several Express Enrollments at Arvin High Library, more than 40 students were served with at least a fourth of high school students enrolled concurrently at Arvin High and BC. The Spring 2019 Course Schedule in Arvin offers a breadth of choices that include: EMLS, Statistics, Communication, and Art. This provides students ample opportunity to explore and relish in the vigor of college level courses taught by dedicated instructors. BC’s presence in the community—especially in rural areas—helps tremendously. By accommodating to the needs of our community members, we impact their futures for the better.

DREAM COME TRUE
By Kim Collins

Representatives from Bakersfield College, Wasco High School and Adult Education, Kern Community District office, and Wasco city government, along with approximately 50 community members, gathered on February 8, 2019, to celebrate the grand opening of the Wasco Adult Education Center. The universal theme of the several guest speakers for the event was gratitude: gratitude for the many who caught the vision of providing affordable, quality education close to home, gratitude for the incredible speed at which contractors completed the project, and gratitude for the deepening ties among collaborators that promises growth and effectiveness in the coming months and years. Mayor Alex Garcia cut the ribbon and then attendees toured the spacious, inviting, and functional facilities. Visionaries foresee that this space will be bustling, providing diverse information, support, classes, and services for Wasco and surrounding residents. The ever-cheerful Martin Lonza, Wasco Adult School principal, seemed especially joyous and proud on this momentous day. It was the birth of a dream and he knows it will mature into something beautiful.

Above: Members of the Adult Ed South Kern Team with Exec. Dir. of Rural Initiatives, Abel Guzman.