State of Dreamers Affinity Group at Bakersfield College

With significant gratitude for the dedicated efforts of key campus advocates, the Bakersfield College Dreamer Affinity Group, now the AB 540 Program, has demonstrated student population growth and improved student success. The number of first-time students increased by 20% from 209 in Fall 2017 to 251 in Fall 2018. Likewise, efforts in momentum points also shows improvement in all areas (15 unit attempt, 30 unit attempt, math and English completion). In particular, both students who attempted 15 units in their first term and those completing both math and English demonstrated 50% improvement year over year.

Five Year Trend, Disaggregated by Demographics

After three years of no growth, there was a 20% increase in first-time student headcount in Fall 2018 from the previous year (see graph below).

Nearly all first-time Dreamers are represented by those who identify as Latinx/Hispanic (see graph on the following page). The continued growth of Latinx/Hispanic students reflects similar trends in the overall population.
The increase in Dreamers who are 19 or younger is both consistent with Bakersfield College student population as a whole and a likely outcome of increased outreach efforts at area high schools.

![Graph showing First-Time Student Headcount for Dreamers, by Age Group]

**Momentum Points**

There was substantial growth, nearly 50%, among first time Dreamers attempting 15 units in their first term. This growth can be attributed to the efforts of intrusive advising taking place to inform students of expectations and to provide support for increased academic rigor in course scheduling.

![Graph showing First-Time Dreamers Attempting 15+ Units in Their First Term]

While not as strong of an increase, first-time Dreamers attempting 30 units within their first year also increased by 33% over Fall 2017. This indicates both a need to continue intrusive advising practices and a need to focus on support for continuing students in their spring term.
There was also an increase of 50% from Fall 2017 to Fall 2018 in the percent of first-time Dreamers completing both transfer-level English and Math in their first year (see graph below). This is evidence that the supportive services put into practice are helping students to succeed, and despite substantial barriers, Dreamers are able to achieve academic success upon entry to college.
Events and Actions Taken to Advance the Momentum Points

The Dreamers Affinity group focused on support of those students in determining eligibility for and completion of the California Dream Act application. A close knit team from Outreach, Equity, A&R, EOP&S and Financial Aid formed to review lists, make contacts and provide student support throughout the process.

Working closely with Immigrants Rising, Bakersfield College successfully secured the first year Catalyst grant to support student leadership, capacity and community awareness through outreach, digital resources and direct support services. The college also successfully secured a second year Catalyst grant focused on direct services, legal services and outreach for undocumented students at Bakersfield College.

Capitalizing on the advocacy interests of many staff, faculty and students, numerous outreach and engagement efforts were initiated in the last year. These events included a Dreamer Open House, the Dream Big Conference, the Undocumented Student Week of Action, a dedicated STDV B6 course and leadership opportunities through LUPE (student organization for 1st generation college students). Student leaders joined fellow students from throughout the state at the annual UCLA Immigrant Youth Empowerment Conference. A Dreamers website was created to house the various campus efforts and help direct students to on and off campus resources. In addition to the strong growth evidenced in the milestones above, the demonstrated strength of collaboration across the campus and within the community during a time of substantial political turmoil and heightened tension is to be applauded.

Looking Ahead at the Next 3 Years

Capitalizing on the efforts of the prior year, the Dreamers Affinity Group will now be housed within the EOP&S office under the AB 540 Project. In addition to providing a true home with dedicated advising space and staff to undocumented students and those receiving the non-resident tuition exception, the AB 540/EOP&S office is actively focused on addressing the needs specified in the Dreamers Project report. (Our own EOP&S Adjunct Counselor Pedro Ramirez provided his expertise by serving on the Dreamer Advisory Group to help formulate the report.) These needs include legal services, direct support services, and financial support. Therefore, in progress and future goals include:

- Onboarding a dedicated, full-time AB 540 Program Manager and creating a safe space for advising of and engagement with undocumented students
- Becoming a campus hub to provide immigration legal services
- Ensuring that all AB 540 students who are eligible access EOP&S benefits and seeking out resources for those AB 540 students who are not eligible for EOP&S
- Partnering with local high school counselors in early identification of AB 540 students and accuracy of documentation
- Closely monitoring student progress and academic success
- Supporting student leadership and engagement opportunities
- Partnering with Career Education for entrepreneurship programming to address the employment challenges faced by many students