

Chancellor Oakley & Board of Governors Visit BC

On Monday, October 26, Chancellor Eloy Oakley, administrators from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and members of the Board of Governors made a virtual visit to BC to meet with students, faculty, staff, and members of the community. Over 500 members of the BC family participated.



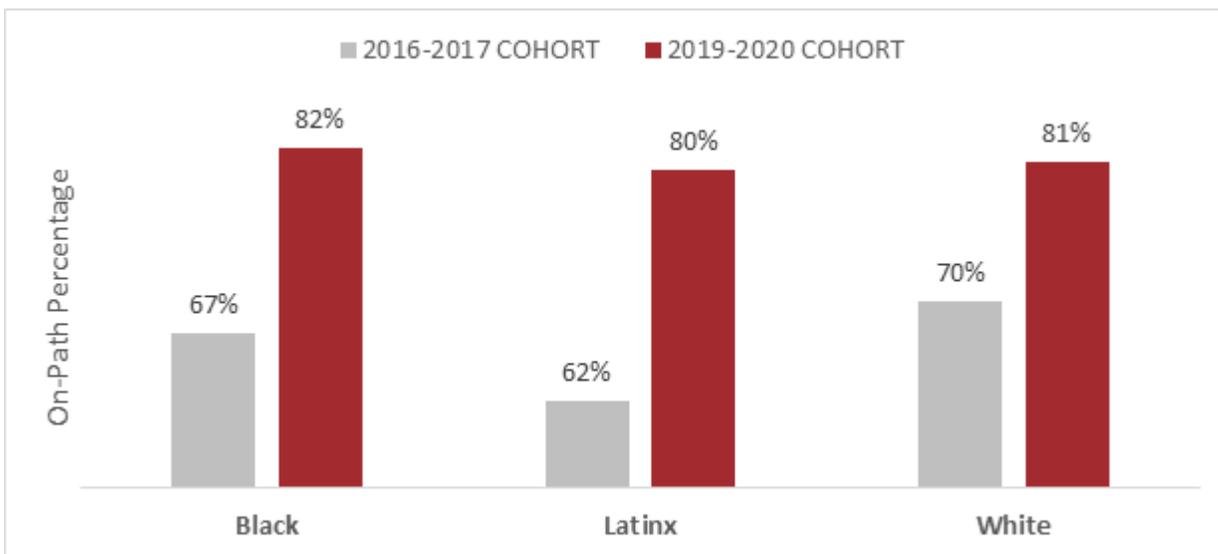
The event started with an internal meeting highlighting BC students in Umoja, MESA, Early College, and more. [Visit the CCCC Virtual Listening Tour page](#) for more details about the Chancellor's Office meeting and the presentation team.

The Chancellor's Office concluded their visit with a virtual town hall featuring. Chancellor Oakley shared about the statewide Vision for Success, outlining the goals designed to ensure accountability for student equity and completion. Chancellor Oakley answered questions about the budget, adult education, his personal history as an administrator at Long Beach City College, technology infrastructure at community colleges, and more. Chancellor Oakley presented BC with a Certificate of Recognition and a \$5,000 donation to the food pantry.



Data Snippet: Improving Equity in “On-Path” Percentage

Since introducing the Program Pathways Mapper, BC has improved students’ “on-path” percentage, indicating improved access to program maps combined with improved advising supports like the introduction of Starfish has advanced our equity agenda. Among students pursuing an ADT, white students increased their on-path percentage by 11 percentage points while Black students increased by 15 percentage points and Latinx students increased by 18 percentage points.



Finish Line Scholars

Before Chancellor Oakley’s visit, the Chancellor’s Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges announced that BC was one of the recipients of the Finish Line Scholars fund, a \$100 million pledge distributed to 34 community colleges over 20 years.



The Finish Line Scholars program provides scholarships to students who are halfway through their education plan of completing a degree or transferring to a 4-year university. Funding for the program was provided through a gift from the Jay Pritzker Foundation.

Tribute to Justice RBG

The Women’s History and More Committee and the BC Pre-Law Club compiled a tribute to the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg that premiered on Thursday, October 29, live at 5:30 p.m. on [BC’s YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook live](#). The video features Kern County Superior Court Judges Robert Tafoya and Susan Gill, Commissioner Cynthia Loo, and District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer.



#ABetterBC Update: BC SouthWest

Development is moving along at BC SouthWest, a 61,000 square foot facility on Cal State Bakersfield's University Office Center development. SC Anderson is the contractor overseeing the project, and we anticipate being able to begin our lease on the building in May or June of 2021.

The new BC SouthWest building will have a bookstore, student study and lounge space, as well as the classrooms, student services and labs needed to deliver a full Associate Degree for Transfer to CSUB, who are our partners on this colocation. There will also be dedicated spaces for CSUB advisors to help BC students transfer to becoming Roadrunners. Some of the degree options at BC SouthWest include Psychology, Early Childhood Education, Business Administration, and Administration of Justice.



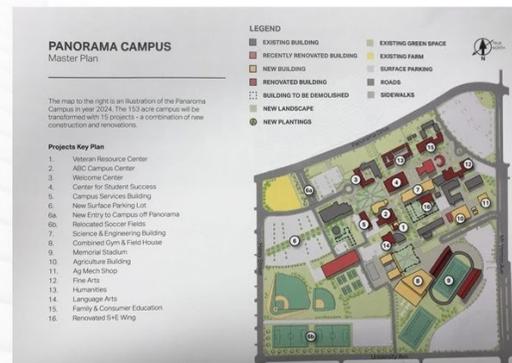
Farm Bureau Presentation

BC faculty and administrators spoke at the Kern County Farm Bureau about the Agriculture Department and the new agriculture building. Agriculture Department chair Heather Baltis, associate professor Matthew Riley, and Vice President of Finance & Administrative Services Mike Giacomini presented the innovative new features of the ag facility, which is currently in the design phase.



Project Management Institute

On behalf of BC, Vice President of Finance & Administrative Services, Mike Giacomini presented at the Project Management Institute about how BC coordinates the complex network of faculty, staff, students, architects and builders who all have a hand in making our Measure J projects a reality. VP Giacomini emphasized building partnerships, shared vision, and timely communication.



From Homeless to a Job: Project HireUp

A 2019 survey of nearly 40,000 students from 57 California community colleges, co-sponsored by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, found that 60% of student respondents identified as housing insecure in the previous year. As a result of the growing homelessness crisis in Kern County, combined with devastating data about community college student housing insecurity, Bakersfield College formed a task-force to develop and facilitate the Bakersfield College Homeless Initiative. Through community collaboration and participation, implementation of the initiative's pilot project launched in Spring 2020.

The project's three key components: life, education, and career development aim to create pathways to self-sufficiency. By utilizing this design as its framework, Bakersfield College has since onboarded and graduated two cohorts of HireUp participants.

Following a [video premiere](#) of Project HireUp: A Community Collaborative to End Homelessness on Thursday, October 15, 14 students graduated with a certificate of achievement from Project HireUp's Homeless to a Job program on Friday, October 16.



Highlights of Project HireUp's success so far:

Cohort #1

24 students completed a certificate
6 students gained employment with Adventist Health

Cohort #2

14 students completed a certificate
8 students have gained employment so far

Peace Garden Groundbreaking

For the groundbreaking for the Peace Garden in front of the library on Friday, October 2, speakers include BC SGA President Gian Gayatao, BC Professor of Anthropology Krista Moreland, and BC Professor of Horticulture Lindsay Ono sharing the faculty and student-driven plans to expand the gardens over the next few years.

Members of the Gandhi Committee on Truth and Nonviolence, including Dr. Naina Patel, Dr. Bharati Shah, and Dr. Anjali Soman attended the groundbreaking. Dr. Bharati Shah spoke on behalf of the committee.

