Introducing the video of the Women’s Business Conference
Sonya Christian. April 25, 2019

The year was 1989. Anyone born after 1989?

Imagine a group of women, twenty-something and thirty-something, coming together at the Home of the Renegades, talking about what it was like to be a women working in our community..... talking about work environments that may or may not have been supportive of women and mothers, talking about gaps in opportunities for women, about behaviors that were considered unacceptable only because you were a woman....talking about general societal issues of the time.

Imagine these women...exceptional professionals, wanting to transform our community by empowering all women, but particularly those who were young and just getting started in their professional career.....unleashing the power that is a woman - helping women Believe in the Power of You.

Phyllis Hullett of Bakersfield College came up with the idea of a conference for women. She was known to move with conviction, and once she started on a path no obstacle, however large, however daunting could deter her from reaching her destination. But Phyllis was certainly not alone. She recruited co-conspirators, Lynn Hall, Kay Meek, Cindy Pollard, Sheryl Barbich, Cynthia Icardo, Judy Salamacha, and Mary Jo Pasek. These women became the co-leaders, the Mothers of the first Women’s Business Conference here in Bakersfield. The title – “Options Unlimited.”

Before I conclude, I want to recognize this year’s Chair of the Conference, Norma Rojas-Mora, for all of her leadership and hard work. It was her idea to capture the history of this conference - how it was born. Norma has always been a community powerhouse and she joined the Bakersfield College family last year. It must have been written in the heavenly books that Norma was meant to be at BC during this 30th year anniversary of the conference, chairing the conference that started in the Fireside Room of Bakersfield College in 1989.

Now for the unveiling of the video.

To honor this 30-year anniversary and the founding mothers, we have a short video. Let’s quiet our minds, breathe in and out, and immerse ourselves in our history as told by some of the 7 visionary women leaders from our community, who first made it happen.