Q&A Discussion

1. Do any of you know whether the $15M in the Governor's budget for the Community College System still includes the Faculty Diversity Initiative? Something that here at BC could be used to fund a Faculty Intern Program to use PhD candidates in the UC system to help teach our overly impacted science courses.
   a. I can tell you that BC has secured a small grant to work on this specifically in STEM in partnership with UC Merced. @Maria Wright and @Stephen Waller are working on this.

2. Mr. Fong, how do you see the community college playing a role in addressing unemployment?
   a. Fong: Bakersfield College can play a huge part locally. Those who are laid off may be looking for a career change or to learn a new skill. We saw a huge jump in unemployment applications statewide. We can provide a bridge with a sustainable path to a career, either one that they already had, or a new career. Bakersfield College will be key in that.

3. Mr. Agbalog, what pathways specifically would you envision as a good fit to meet the needs of our rural communities?
   a. Agbalog: Let’s imagine you’re a member of our rural community and you've just been let go. Now you have to figure out how to navigate the bureaucracy of unemployment benefits. That’s where I think this Back to College program will be a huge help. Because we can invite people back into a school environment, apply for financial aid, take advantage of their unemployment benefits, and use those funds to not only help support their education, but sustain themselves and their family.

   In terms of the types of skills, I would really rely on industry to help us figure out what skills the future workforce will need. I don’t know how long this will take, or how long people will take to get back to work. But I think by giving people skills that are relevant, even in a new career, will help people get back into the workforce. We have to rely on our experience, our partnerships and intellectual capital, to provide a framework for what the job of the future will look like. Hence the reason why the Back to College initiative is so important.

   b. Fong: As individuals are looking to gain new skills, Bakersfield College can start training the medical professionals that we need to stay in the community. That challenge existed pre-COVID-19, but now it’s even more of an issue. We’re asking for the 69 nursing students to become externs to join the frontlines and for people to come out of retirement. Going forward we’re going to need people, especially in the rural areas, to go into healthcare careers.
4. Mr. Chapman, what do you see as the need for our economic growth? What careers or jobs should we prepare for?
   a. Chapman: That’s why I mentioned industrial automation. We are one of the most exposed in terms of jobs that can be converted into AI. The great news is that these jobs are not requiring PhD’s, they require two and four year degrees. All of our industry sectors are demanding these skills in automation. These are incredibly important “light blue collar” jobs. We have higher-level STEM jobs that are unfilled; 10% of our STEM jobs are unfilled. Food processing is one of the fastest growing in our area. We’re the place in California where $51,000 income can get you qualified for a home - where else in the state can you say that? I think we’re the solution to many of the coastal woes, with companies being pushed into the valley. And, also the onshoring opportunities. We’re hearing a lot about how manufacturing is going to come back and we’re perfectly positioned. That would be my advice, these jobs in CAD/CAM and automation are ones with really great opportunity and upward mobility.

5. Dr. Fuller, as a former K-12 Superintendent and with your current role supporting early college, what do you see as a silver lining of this move to a virtual environment all the way from kindergarten to university? What are the benefits you think we will see in the long term?
   a. Fuller: Moving everyone in society at the same rate to a new place with technological tools is in many ways a gift, even though the pandemic is not. Bakersfield College has taken the lead in figuring out engagement for all students in the community, and shortening the time span it takes while keeping up the rigor in programs across every spectrum. That’s the way of the future. BC has it and we’re running with it. We just have to tell the story, and President Christian and Romeo Agbalog and Vince are the perfect team to do that in Sacramento.

I think society has changed forever in America - I don’t think we could go back. I know I’m an older person, and if you told me this environment would be something I could master and enjoy, I probably wouldn’t have been very excited about it. Now that I’ve been locked in my home for weeks, I’m so excited about the new technology and so appreciative of those of you who pushed forward to make it operational for all of us. We just have to get the tools out there to the people that can’t afford them. BC has the way, they’re leading the way, and they can write the path for others – especially in rural areas.

6. Assemblymember Fong, you know BC has been working to address homelessness. What are your concerns and suggested solutions for homelessness at this time to ensure the safety and health of our community?
   a. Fong: The homelessness crisis was our top priority as a state before COVID-19. It’s still related to our efforts to stop the spread. You’ll notice that the governor has spent a lot of time attempting to protect the vulnerable. We have 15 FEMA trailers set up at the Kern County Fairgrounds so there is a place to isolate for the homeless population who are showing symptoms or who are COVID-19 positive. Certainly, we’ve approved of millions of dollars in the state of California to flow to counties and cities for resources for sanitation and ways to protect them from this virus. Moving forward beyond this, I think it’s a wakeup call that we still have to address
the homelessness situation in our community. That still has to focus on shelter, wrap-around services and education & skills, to allow individuals a sustainable path out of homelessness. I think we still need to deal with homelessness, but now there's an added urgency due to this pandemic.

**Online/Zoom Recommendations**

1. When logging into Zoom, it is best to log on via a computer and then use the “phone call” option to improve audio connection. Joining audio by phone in addition to joining the video by web will give you the clearest audio and ensure poor internet connections do not interrupt the content. You will be given a phone number to call and a meeting ID (see example below).

2. If you are not the host of the meeting, upon entering Zoom, you may be able to “mute” yourself from the group by clicking the “mute” button on the lower left-hand screen (see below).

3. To participate in the chat room, click on the “chat” tab towards the bottom of the screen and a chat box will appear.

4. A sample message for a syllabus from a professor:
   a. Rules for Communicating with CCB:
      - Please refrain from sending texts past 9pm at night or before 5am in the morning.
• If your text message is longer than 20 characters (or 8 words) please send an email message. If it is urgent, send me a text message asking that I check my email.
• Please indicate your class time when you text for exam "Mon 11".
• During the week (Mon-Thur) all messages received through email or text will be responded to within 24 hours. During the weekend please allow for up to 72 hours for reply.
• CCB will respond to all email questions regarding assignments until 7pm on the evening before the assignment is due.
• Assignments submitted by required deadline will be graded within one week of submission.
• CCB is available for online office hours via Zoom. See announcements in Canvas for weekly scheduled office hours and links.

5. Recommendation about textbooks:
   a. Some publishers are allowing free access for students to online content until the end of the semester. Check with your textbook publisher.

6. Recommendation about recording lectures:
   a. Record your live lectures for the benefit of students who are unable to attend the class, or who would like to review content at a later date.