President’s Remarks
Closing Day 2018
May 11, 2018

Opening Remarks
What an incredible year for Bakersfield College.

A year when we’ve brought college closer to home by adding programs and classes in Arvin, Shafter, Lost Hills, BC Southwest, and online!

A year when we unveiled our first plans made possible by Measure J and revealed the design of our Veterans Resource Center!

A year when we had celebrated student success with Strong Workforce Gold Star Recognition, an incredible year of Renegade Athletics, and creative talented students in our arts and music programs performing across the state, such as our Drumline in Dayton, OH.

If I spent the morning recapping in detail all that YOU have accomplished, we would be here all day ... and today is one where we have SO MUCH to celebrate.

I would like to personally invite you to celebrate this evening with us. It will be one to remember:

- Largest group of eligible candidates
- First Baccalaureate
- First Wonderful
- First Kern Promise
- Many former Presidents

There are many individuals who must be recognized for today’s closing day:

- Interpreters: Morning Miller and Jarris Wright
- Ushers: Stephanie Vega, Luz Maria Mendoza, Jahnea Palfrey, Danyel Ritter, Wendy Lawson
- Photographers: Earl Parsons and Eric Carrillo
- Theater and Media: Kevin Ganger, Kristin Rabe, Manny De Los Santos
- Planning Team: Chris Glaser, Monika Scott, Jennifer Serratt

As is the tradition at BC, at Closing Day, the president recognizes individuals and groups who have played a leadership role the preceding year. When I sit down every spring to finalize this recognition, I start with a long list signifying that leadership, courage and a call to action are part of the fabric and culture of Bakersfield College. It takes a great deal of effort on my part to narrow the list that will be recognized today.
In 2013: (1) Facilities (2) FCDC (3) Accreditation Steering Committee (4) Registration Rocks Team (5) C6 Grant (6) Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg

In 2014: (1) FCDC (2) Centennial Celebration Steering Committee (3) Conference Planning Team (4) Billie Jo Rice and John Carpenter (5) David Koeth (6) Shannon, Manny, Kristin (7) Cindy Collier (8) Nick Strobel

In 2015: (1) BAS Team (2) Making it Happen Team (3) Outreach (4) Equity Tv (5) Human Resources (6) Rural Initiative Team (7) Kate Pluta (8) Bryan Hirayama

In 2016: (1) Athletics and Athletics coaches (2) Agriculture Department (3) CHAP (4) Nicky Damania and Lesley Bonds (5) Budget Committee (6) Academic Senate (7) Ramon Puga (8) Executive Office

Last year, we recognized (1) Writers Bureau (2) Measure J Campus Leaders (3) Financial Aid (4) Public Safety (5) Inmate Education (6) Dual Enrollment (7) Summer Bridge (8) MESA and STEM (9) Jerry Ludeke, Bob Allison, and Jack Hernandez, and (10) MJ Pasek.

This year I’d like to begin with the....

2018 Guided Pathways Leads

Higher education is a pursuit; one that follows hopes and visions to create systems and programs that fast track dreams into realities. The 2018 Guided Pathways Leads continue to do incredible work surrounding the Momentum Points, Coaching Communities, and engagement campus-wide.

The leads, Nick Strobel, Jessica Wojtysiak, Jennifer Johnson, Grace Commiso, and Lesley Bonds are the first recipients this year of the President’s Leadership Award.

Nick Strobel has amplified the Guided Pathways work by authoring the trailblazers newsletter, reaching thousands of readers throughout the state to ensure the guided pathways framework reaches those at every level of implementation. The Guided Pathways Implementation Team leaned heavily on Nick’s analytical skills in their review and analysis of new legislation, BC’s data along the momentum points, and the development of certain key documents.
Jessica Wojtysiak has driven the CA guided pathways action plan through all of the constituent groups and frequently represented BC at conferences and workshops throughout the state. She always lends a hand to any project, consistently taking on the task of communicating out the Guided Pathways Implementation Team's work to Academic Senate, College Council, AIQ, and Strategic Directions. In fact, you can see Jessica's keen sense of connecting the dots and integrating various initiatives represented in the Strategic Directions document.

As the faculty lead, Jennifer Johnson played a major role in the development of the summer and winter institutes to engage faculty across campus. She always brings with her an eye on curriculum, joining the Leading from the Middle team to develop the Program Pathways Mapper, a visual display of our curriculum to clarify the path for all students. She has also played a key role on the eLumen project in line with our focus on ensuring students are learning (pillar 4). Jennifer has traveled many miles across the state presenting at colleges and conferences on various pieces of work done at Bakersfield College. And I constantly hear from colleagues across the state how lucky we are to have Jennifer Johnson at BC.

As the co-lead of the Guided Pathways Implementation Team for our meta-major Learning & Career Pathways, Grace Commiso led the dissemination of the GPIT's communication plan to faculty leads and helped them develop work plans to reach students. Grace has focused on high-tech solutions for our GP work, serving as the lead administrator of the Starfish implementation, spending hundreds – if not thousands – of hours working to build the system in a way that will facilitate communication with students through our Completion Coaching Community structure.

And Lesley Bonds, Co-lead of the Guided Pathways Implementation Team for affinity groups, played the primary role in the development of the CCCC Institutional Capacity Self-Assessment report, GP Action Plan, and the submission of multiple grants and awards related to guided pathways. Through her leadership on a recent CCCC Innovation Award, BC has been awarded $2.3 million over the next three years to advance our guided pathways work.

**African American Initiatives**

At Bakersfield College, we operate from a strong philosophical foundation that we must intentionally design systems which intentionally support our students where they're at, keeping them from slipping through the cracks or gaps in pursuit of their educational goals.

This year, the African American Initiatives team including Steve Watkin, Jennifer Achan, Paula Parks, Jonathan Ward, Julian West, Debra Strong, Tommy Tunson, June Charles, Valerie Robinson, and Ishmael Kimbrough has:

- Doubled African American student enrollment in Summer Bridge
- Increased completion in both college-Level English and/or math by nearly 10%
- Grew transfer degree course completion from 21% to 35%
- Grew enrollment of African American students to approximately 800 students in 2017-18
- Maintained retention rate of up to 95% among Umoja participants
- Increase success rates for Umoja participants by up to four times the rate of non-Umoja, African American students

The measurable impact has created trust not only with the students, but also with the community. Our AAI serve approximately 800 students currently enrolled and reach thousands of others.
through our community outreach work. Our measurable impact on student and community culture is evidenced by multiple community awards for our AAI:

- 2018: Corporate Partner of the Year, Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce
- 2018: Julian West, Innovation of the Year, by The League for Innovation
  If you haven’t watched his Renegade Talk - YOU MUST
- 2018: Steven Watkin, Administrative Lead of BC African American Initiatives, served as the emcee for the MLK Prayer Breakfast - a high honor.
- 2017: Paula Parks, Umoja Lead, named Bakersfield’s NAACP Chapter Educator of the Year

Your work is passionate, committed, and lasting. It's making a positive difference in our campus, our community, and our world.

**African American Initiatives**

- Steven Watkin
- Jennifer Achan
- Paula Parks
- Jonathan Ward
- Julian West
- Debra Strong
- Tommy Tunson
- June Charles
- Valerie Robinson
- Ishmael Kimbrough

**Tina Chamberlain**

When it comes to going the extra mile for BC, Tina Chamberlain has walked a thousand miles. You may have been received an email from her, always diplomatic and always polite, offering a solution to a problem that you probably did not know you had.

You may have benefited from her expertise and training whether you were a Department Assistant III, new faculty chair or dean. But, what you probably have not seen are times she has come into work when everyone else was on vacation to make sure that courses are scheduled and students are served.
For example, last winter break, Tina came up to campus to make sure our dual enrollment courses were opened up so that all timelines were met and students could be registered. It is this undeniable commitment and passion to serve our students which is why I’m honored to name Tina Chamberlain, recipient of the Presidents Leadership Award.

**WARBA LEADERSHIP**

At Bakersfield College, we’re paving the pathways and opening the gateway for increased regional baccalaureate attainment for our current and future generations.

The Workgroup to Advance Regional Baccalaureate Attainment (WARBA), chaired by Matthew Garrett and Janet Fulks has been on a roll this year providing leadership and direction for new institutional pathways supporting students earning a baccalaureate degree.

They have diligently collaborated with the California Academic Partnership Program (CAPP) and they’ve been working hard to align our curriculum and pathways. Matthew Garrett has been a champion of Baccalaureate attainment and he knows that a college like BC with excellent faculty and a supportive learning environment, that we should be able to offer many more baccalaureate degrees.

Janet Fulks has dedicated her passion and heart to opening the gateways for this community to obtain higher education. The WARBA Leaders, Matthew Garrett, Janet Fulks, Elenora Hicks, Marisa Marquez, Grace Commiso, Khushnur Dadabhoy, and Stephen Waller are the next recipients of the Presidents Leadership Award.

With successful events like Transfer Day, celebrated in September with over 53 colleges and universities represented, it’s clear to all that Marisa Marquez loves to see students succeed. She never stops cheering for our students and her abundance of energy has fueled this project.

With a deep understanding of how our students are impacted, Elenora Hicks, Grace Commiso, and Steve Waller dedicated countless hours to aligning pathways, creating the right support system, digging into the data, and making sure our students can be successful.

Just this week, we celebrated the launch of Finish in 4, an efficient and impactful program to help students achieve their educational goals so they can join the workforce in the careers of their choice. Thank you to a special group of dedicated individuals who are revolutionizing higher education for the current and future generations of Renegades.

**2018 ISER Finish Line Team**

Over the past year, we have all contributed to the story of Bakersfield College, but a select group of leaders have dedicated hundreds upon hundreds of hours late into the evening, early in the morning, and every single weekend to pull together our ISER.

This beautiful document is extensive and thorough because of this team, including the fabulous Nick Strobel, Sondra Keckley, Liz Rozell, Jason Stratton, and Lesley Bonds. These incredible individuals emailed around the clock to stay connected and drive the project home.

Our Editor of the ISER, Nick Strobel spent countless hours (honestly friends, countless...) and I’m sure some of you received emails from him late at night or really early because of his detailed
analyses and research. College Council will tell you, he can recite all 145 pages of our self-evaluation by heart. Not only did Nick read every single word, he wrote and re-wrote thousands more, seamlessly threading BC’s story throughout the entire document. When you read the ISER, you’ll hear Nick’s voice embedded into the very fabric of the document, and I couldn’t think of someone better to have served as the lead editor for our 2018 Institutional Self-Evaluation.

**Sondra Keckley** indexed nearly 2,000 individual pieces of evidence assigning them descriptive names and clocking 300 hours outside her regular day to contribute. If you think we have a lot of acronyms on campus, you should check out her 6-page acronym and abbreviation index. She read every word, caught every typo, analyzed every piece of evidence, and gave the document the fundamental element of substance through meaningful supporting evidence made easily accessible to the reader.

**Liz Rozell and Jason Stratton** kept things fun, guided the communication team to ensure broad communication and engagement throughout the development of the ISER and pulled together in the end to support the final stretch. Liz served as our ALO and primarily liaison with the district to ensure a quality document with consistent messaging across our multi-college district. Jason helped pull together the campus-wide forums.

And **Lesley Bonds** was my designee throughout the entire ISER project, focusing her early mornings, evenings, and weekends over the past 4 months on this project. She used her project management skills to ensure the team developed every element of the report. She set internal deadlines to ensure BC shined in our Board Subcommittee reviews and at monthly board meetings. Nick also assigned her the unofficial title: The Condenser, as her task was to ensure we told BC’s story beautifully – but concisely. She reviewed every section, often reducing or reorganizing content graphically and into charts and graphs to take the document to 226 total pages – less than half the length of our last report – without sacrificing quality.

Please join me in congratulating the 2018 ISER Finish Line Team.

**2018 ISER Finish Line Team**

![Nick Strobel](image1)
![Lesley Bonds](image2)
![Sondra Keckley](image3)
![Liz Rozell](image4)
![Jason Stratton](image5)
![Jessica Wojtylak](image6)
Michelle Pena
Bakersfield College has focused on helping students enter the collegiate environment, so they can excel on their clarified pathway from the very beginning.

And anyone who knows Michelle Pena, knows that she works relentlessly in the small corner of A&R supporting our students at each pivotal point in their journey towards graduation.

Whether it is ensuring that we have the tools to support incoming Renegades through the admissions process, or verifying their transferred credits, to rolling grades over at the end of each semester, Michelle is a true champion for effective systems which make our lives easier and get the students the support they need.

Not only creating positive change here at BC but representing BC well state-wide through the development of CCCApply, and recently being elected as the vice president of the California Association of Community College Registrars and Admissions Officers, I hear her name from colleagues across the state repeatedly that she is brilliant and can see how large systems can fix solutions. Zav will attest to this when I say, that in numerous conversations with him I always say, plz take this to Michele, she will find a solution. And ...she does!

Winning Coaches
Well friends, have you been following the flurry of activity around Renegade softball on Facebook, Twitter, and social media?

Coach Casey Goodman in her first year as head coach won the WSC conference with a 31 – 9 win/loss record, they went on to take round 1 of Regional play and will be competing today at 2pm in round 2 v. Cypress College.

Kylee Fahy, Freshman pitcher of the year in the WSC North Division, led the stat in strike outs and wins. Coach Goodman and Assistant Coach, Megan Rowe were named WSC Conference Coaches of the year and Southern California Coaches of the Year!

Speaking of Coaches of the year – Coach Brett Clark and Marcos Austin also earned the title after BC wrestling won conference for the second year in a row! What an amazing year for BC wrestling – under their coaching and leadership, Bakersfield College had 5 individual conference titles and one state champion – Adrian Gonzales.

Our athletes were getting it done in the class room as well. At the end of the fall semester, 390 student athletes were competing with an average Cumulative GPA of 2.85

Total average Units Attempted Per Semester = 15.2 (239 of 390 attempted more than 15 units)

Total average Units Earned = 12.5
Let’s give it up for our winning coaches Coach Casey Goodman, Coach Brett Clark, Coach Marcos Austin.

M&O
Can you imagine the amount of work it takes to care for over 150 acres, 20 buildings, the landscaping, the plumbing, and the infrastructure that keeps us comfortable in every classroom and in every office on campus?

This ongoing work is a huge undertaking with unexpected challenges arising when least expected, but our Maintenance and Operations crew is always reliable and works quickly to ensure disruptions are minimized.

These dedicated men and women work tirelessly behind the scene to prepare your event space, make sure your classroom, buildings, and grounds are clean and safe, and they are enthusiastic about preventative maintenance so that our academic environment is the best it can be.

This year, the M&O crew has:
- Made office moves for 52 faculty and staff
- Completed 5,320 work orders
- Setup for over 2,000 meetings or events held on campus

THANK YOU TO:

Aaron Kidwell   Albert Castillo   Andy Wilcut
Angel Salmeron   Antero Medina   Bill Antongiovanni
Bill Garrett     Bill Potter    Carlos Barbaran
Caroline Walth   Christopher Thompson  Corey Garcia
Dalia Garcia     Daniel Gutierrez  David Branson
Derek Munnelly   Diana Montoya   Felipe Carrillo
Frank Tinoco     Greg Davis    Irma Benitez
Jason Brown      Jessie Morales  Jim Coggins
Josephine Garcia Josh Villalpanodo  Landon Webb
Leo Avalos       Martha Gonzalez  Martin Ramierz
Matt Foster      Michael Vera   Mitchell Barter
Ofelia Hernandez Patricia Ramos  Patrick Harrison
Rachell Morehouse Ramon Puga    Reyna Valle
Richard Osborn   Ronald Beldo   Ruben Rosales
Manny De Los Santos and Monika Scott

When it comes to sharing the story of BC through beautiful photos, videos, and words, the brilliant M’s that come to mind are Manny De Los Santos and Monika Scott.

How many videos have you seen in the last few years from BC? Anyone remember Fall Opening Day with the State of the College videos? Or Spring Opening Day with Bill Potter as Measure J Man? From Star Wars to Superheroes, Manny De Los Santos can do it all. Manny has an excellent eye, attention to detail, and a creative spark which always keeps us smiling. In fact, often when I’m recording with Manny and stumble my words and ask for a retake, Manny responds with enthusiastic positivity and says “That was gold! But let’s go for platinum!”

And two years ago, Monika came to BC thinking her job duties would involve web content editing and then her supervisor, who was playing an interim role went on maternity leave. Here was Monika, reporting directly to the President, dealing with everything from calls from KERO and KUZZ, to sensitive issues like Clery notifications, or needing last minute remarks – I could count on Monika to do what it took. And beyond just having a willing spirit and a soft personality, Monika has given me beautiful words as she drafts speeches and presentations for me….. well actually she drafts speeches for almost all presenters who speak at all of our formal events.

Today, I’m happy to celebrate two talented young professionals, two dedicated Renegades, two absolute superstars – M&M – Manny De Los Santos and Monika Scott.

Steven Holmes

The responsibility of the academic senate president and the academic senate is to uphold the integrity of the academic enterprise. And at Bakersfield College, the senate is a very mature organization. The current academic senate president, however, has taken it one step further…..he has truly been a protector of the institution of Bakersfield College, our students, and our faculty. Steven Holmes has done due diligence as he serves on the District Consultation Council and various other committees. He reviews material in detail and when it came to policy review, I think everyone across the district will agree that he was the most knowledgeable of the details of every change that was happening. And he always engages with these complex discussions with a spirit of
collegiality and a spirit of seriousness. Today, I would like to recognize Steven for his notable work related to funding and budgets.

The funding formula for the colleges from the district has, as far as I remember, the language of delayed “growth” funding....growth this year and you will be funded next year. All of us accepted this norm over the years until Steven Holmes took his place on the Budget Allocation Model. In studying the model and the growth in districtwide reserves, Steven delineated, quite simply for us that growth was received in a one-time funding allocation in the year it was generated. In addition, the following year, that growth was funding in ongoing base allocation. By grabbing a marker in my office and walking over to the board he flow charted the model and bingo, I got it.

Without getting into the technical details, I want to celebrate the intelligence Steven Holmes brought to the funding model analysis that would make any CFO, CPA, or VP of Finance proud. In his diligent, detailed work, he recognized the fundamental flaw in how we’ve understood and applied the rules and regulations that govern our funding. The result of him uncovering these details? Well, friends, how does close to $10 million to Bakersfield College needs sound?

Now, I’m not saying that Steve is going to get a salary increase. What I am going to say is that many of you are already seeing and will continue to see some of your all-time needs like the outdated planetarium technology, being taken care of. What you’re seeing is a windfall of activity as the direct result of the leadership of a single individual, Academic Senate President, Steven Holmes.