State of Industrial Technology and Transportation Pathway at Bakersfield College

As noted by the significant growth in the number of first-time students, the State of the Bakersfield College Industrial Technology and Transportation (ITT) Pathway is growing steadily. From Fall 2016 to Fall 2018, the first-time student headcount for the ITT Pathway increased by approximately 32%. This growth was particularly shown in the African American and Asian students and within the 25 and older age range. Over those past two years, we also increased the number of first-time students attempting 15+ units in their first semester by 5% (from 6% in Fall 2016 to 11% in Fall 2018), while the number of first-time students completing transfer-level English and Math in their first year decreased overall by 2% (from 3% in Fall 2016 to 1% in Fall 2018).

Five Year Trend, Disaggregated by Demographics

The growth in the number of first-time students in our pathway from Fall 2016 to Fall 2018 is higher than the growth in our overall campus enrollment (32% and 17%, respectively) (see graph below).

The higher percentage of Latinx/Hispanic students is reflective of BC’s overall student population, while the percentage growth in African American and Asian students is significantly higher compared to BC’s overall student population.
The fastest growing age group in the ITT Pathway includes students 25 or older rather than the 19 or younger age group found in the overall student growth pattern at Bakersfield College.

First-Time Student Headcount for ITT Pathway, by Age Group

Momentum Points

First-time students attempting 15+ units in their first term has almost doubled in the Fall 2018 term, compared to the previous four years.
First-time ITT students attempting 30+ units in their first year has remained relatively stable over the last 5 years.

The ITT Pathway offers numerous certificates of achievement in alignment with industry needs and courses that do not require English and Math as prerequisite courses which may explain the overall low percentage of first-time students completing transfer-level English and Math in their first year.
Actions Taken to Advance the Momentum Points

Members of the Industrial Technology & Transportation Pathway Completion Coaching Community employed several strategies to increase new student enrollment (getting students on the path) and support continued student success (keeping students on the path). These activities included:

- Designating a counselor within the department to serve as the pathway expert for all 11 disciplines within the ITT Pathway to more effectively assist students in completing an educational plan in our area
- Revising curriculum, especially within the Automotive, Electronics, and Welding disciplines, to allow for stackable certificates of achievement to assist industry partners and students interested in promotional job opportunities
- Developing a new HVAC program in Delano to reach out to underserved students in rural areas
- Expanding our area to include Occupational Safety, which also serves other programs within our ITT pathway

Looking Ahead at the Next 3 Years

The Industrial Technology and Transportation Pathway will continue its active support of student learning and preparation for careers in the varied fields offered by continuing and expanding upon the past activities and planning new activities such as:

- Diversifying course offerings to allow for students currently employed while attempting certification and degree completion
- Increasing outreach efforts to students for information about the ITT pathway and the certificates and degrees offered, as well as the potential job offerings and median earnings for the varied positions within each of the disciplines
- Increasing the number of course offerings both on and off the main campus, including Early College, Dual Enrollment, and rural areas
- Expanding MOUs with feeder community colleges for students completing their AS degrees in Industrial Automation to increase the enrollment for students in the Baccalaureate Degree Program
- Focusing efforts in increasing enrollment within the Construction and Occupational Safety programs currently experiencing low overall enrollment by expanding outreach efforts and connecting with industry partners
- Focusing on basic skills/pre-apprenticeship opportunities for students interested in applying at our current apprenticeship programs
- Strengthening our communications and regular attendance at advisory board meetings and offering more opportunities for industry partners to familiarize themselves with our facilities and program offerings to directly connect students to employment opportunities

In addition, the Industrial Technology and Transportation Pathway will continue to focus its efforts upon monitoring and promoting momentum point completion, with a particular focus upon increasing the number of students completing 30 units in the first year.