Friends of Bakersfield College,  

June 16, 2016

In a world full of technology, it’s often said that students are passive and lacking creativity these days… But, at Bakersfield College, our students are as creative and outgoing as they’ve ever been and we’re proud of keeping a rich tradition of talent, passion, and creativity alive at the heart of our campus.

Our choral music programs continue to amaze audiences right here on campus and around the globe.

From humble beginnings touring Europe in 1965…

and again in 2015 to broad acclaim…

all the way to the bright lights of the city at Carnegie Hall in New York.

We never quite know where our Bakersfield College Chamber Singers are headed next, but when the lights dim and the curtains open, we are definitely in for a showcase of true local talent.

Through performing arts, students develop their voice - but they also have the opportunity to create and perform their work in a newly renovated and inspirational space. The Simonsen Performing Arts Center (SPArC) is a beautiful paramount staple that sets the bar high on our campus. If you’d like to learn more, a fantastic article published by the Bakersfield Californian can be found at Bakersfield.com.
Just last week, the Californian also put a spotlight on the newest addition to our music program in an article titled “BC Program Sounds like a Good Idea.” A new member of our music faculty, Josh Ottum, connects students with local and nationwide employment opportunities through the upcoming Applied and Commercial Music courses. We’re thrilled that musically gifted and inventive students will now have this wonderful opportunity to explore and be inspired to follow their dreams in professional music.

It is through the music and art curriculum that students at BC are prepared for a myriad of creative fields, spanning the imagination…. From professional music to drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, architecture, photography, digital media and more.

Another staple facility on campus, the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, offers a wonderful display area in the Jones Gallery. This is used for a rotating display of artists, but also hosts the Panorama Invitational Art Exhibit - a showcase of artwork by local high school juniors and seniors every spring - and the annual BC Student Art Exhibit.

BC often merits great kudos from local businesses for our various career technical education (CTE) subjects such as nursing, welding, and automotive technology, but it’s essential to also recognize the incredible artistic efforts of the BC student body. Our faculty and staff focus on educating the whole person, and strive for students to be employable, productive citizens rounded out by a vast breadth of knowledge. Together, our students have the power to create a center of art and culture for the entire Central Valley.

In 1944, a very wise Winston Churchill said, “We shape our buildings, and afterwards, our buildings shape us.” With this profound statement, he meant that architects create facilities, but those complex creations of rock, and wood, and walls create an environment that will affect each and every person who resides there.

As a community, it is our responsibility to create, maintain, and sometimes reshape the facilities on our campus for the success of our future generations. As excellent as BC’s
programs have been and continue to be, our students reside in classrooms that were built in the 1950’s – classrooms that need renovations, classrooms that need upgrades.

Help us reshape A Better BC, so we can continue an outstanding tradition of excellence - one that continually improves, educates, inspires, and enhances our students’ lives for the next fifty years and beyond. Visit www.ABetterBC.com to learn more.