Friends of Bakersfield College,

After the dust had settled, classes were in session, and the students were comfortable navigating the brand new 153-acre campus on Panorama Drive - it was time for celebration!

November of 1957 marked the very first annual homecoming festivities, where the Associated Men Students of Bakersfield College crowned the Homecoming Queen on Thursday afternoon. The following day was set aside for designing and building parade floats and Saturday was the main event! Breakfast kicked off open house, choral entertainment, spaghetti dinner, and of course, football... what more could you ask for?

It’s hard to imagine the alumni of BC at the time – coming home to revisit their Alma Mater of BC – on a campus they’d never been to. But what a sight for those eyes to see – the growth, the opportunities, and a sprawling campus up on the hill... I bet they couldn’t have been more proud to be a Renegade at that very moment.

Bakersfield College is one of the oldest continually operating community colleges in the United States, and throughout our rich history, BC has always been dedicated to meeting every student where they are, helping them to achieve their educational goals. Furthermore, we know each of our students go on to make a difference in our world and especially, our community.
Dr. Gregory S. Hageman is a former BC student who went on to become an internationally known professor and eye researcher. Mr. Harvey Hall, once a Renegade, founded Hall Ambulance Service and is our city’s current Mayor. Audrey Chavez established the first AIDS Hospice home in Bakersfield and is a driving force behind the Bakersfield AIDS project. Morris Chain, once a BC football player, became one of the most prominent lawyers in Kern County history. Robert Beltran, also known as Commander Chakotay on Star Trek: Voyager also once strolled the halls of BC to attend class.

Our alumni have achieved great things and are sometimes the unsung heroes of our city. Renegades are your nurses, your law enforcement, fire fighters, architects, teachers, journalists, chefs, and technicians. Our Renegades are your friends, your families, your neighbors, and together we’re Bakersfield – an incredible and diverse community with heart, passion, and dedication.

That’s why community involvement is so important to our campus life and student spirit. This year will mark the 59th Homecoming celebration at 1801 Panorama Drive. Our theme and activities are centered on building the Renegade community for the future, focusing on the next 50 years to come.

We welcome all alumni to come home to Panorama Drive and revisit the campus which has been a stepping stone for so many lives in our city. Homecoming events take place all throughout the week with special events for the community.

On Tuesday, October 18th at 6:00PM in Forum 101 East, we will have Community Movie Night: The Martian. On Saturday, October 22nd at 4:00PM outside the Huddle, we will have the traditional Renegade VIP/Alumni Tailgate: Big Red Spaghetti Feed with the Parade and BC Football vs. Cerritos College to follow!

It’s an exciting time to be on campus and it’s the best chance to reconnect with YOUR Bakersfield College. To learn more about Homecoming 2016, please visit https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/homecoming.

We hope to see you at “the campus up on the hill” for Homecoming 2016!!