Friends of Bakersfield College,

A lot has changed over the past 105 years. Before moving to the Panorama Campus in 1955, BC’s Commencement ceremonies were held in conjunction with Kern County Union High School. A program from the 1943 Commencement Ceremony held at Griffith Field can viewed on the BC Archives website.

After moving to the Panorama campus, Commencement ceremonies were held in the Outdoor Theater, but as BC continued to grow exponentially over the decades, Commencement had to be moved to Memorial Stadium to accommodate the thousands of graduates, their families, and friends.
This year on May 11, 2018, Memorial Stadium was filled to the brim as the entire community is excited to attend BC's Commencements to celebrate with graduates as they move on to a career or further education. With the support of our community in Measure J to transform Bakersfield College, our facilities, classrooms, and iconic community spaces will be transformed to advanced, cutting edge learning environments that will take our students and growing community into the next sixty years.

A majority of the projects are now slated to take place over the next six years. Throughout this time, we will see major projects taking place on the main Panorama campus, Delano campus, Arvin campus, and a Public Safety Education facility being developed at an off campus site. One completed, these projects will have an immediate impact on our student success by meeting the needs of our students today and tomorrow.
This year's 104th Commencement was one of many firsts. With more than 2,000 students eligible for graduation and nearly half of them walking the stage, Memorial Stadium was packed. We celebrated the first Dual Enrollment class from the Wonderful Academy, graduating with their Associates Degrees before they even complete high school; and we celebrated the first graduating cohort of the Kern Promise, a select group of students who piloted a Guided Pathways model of shared responsibility and support to complete their degree within 2 years. And, this year Bakersfield College became the first community college in the State of California to award a four-year baccalaureate degree to seven graduates of the Industrial Automation program.
Bakersfield College's tradition of excellence, growth, and a year of history in the making continues with summer enrollment at an all time high. This year, students continue to be our inspiration as they show dedication and commitment to their education.

**Record number of students enroll in BC for summer classes**

**BY SAM MORGAN**

Summer is in full swing, but for some in Bakersfield, class is still in session. Every weekday at Bakersfield College, more than 1,100 students can be found, with heavy backpacks hanging from their shoulders and white earbuds plugged into their ears.

A record number of students signed up for summer courses this year at the college, following steady increases in enrollment over the last five years.

"As a community college, the fact that we have been able to sustain growth upon growth upon growth is really astounding," said Tannenbaum, dean of instruction at Bakersfield College. "What makes that number even more staggering is the general trend in community colleges across California of declining enrollment."

This summer, 11,859 students signed up for at least one summer course at the college, compared with 10,261 last summer, a 15 percent increase.

Mountanos credited the growth to the college’s move toward more flexible learning environments, which he said were attracting more learners to the college.

"We have an agile structure that has allowed us to keep up with the changing and evolutionary need of our community," he said. "Because of that, we’ve been able to, first of all, listen to the needs of our constituents, as far as what courses they need. And we have been able..."
With increasing numbers, Bakersfield College has rapidly scaled our high-touch, integrated strategies to serve our increasingly large numbers of students with a specific focus on historically marginalized students. BC now serves over 33,000 students and still growing. To support our growing number of students, BC is proud to have faculty, staff, and administration who care about creating the best learning environment for our students. We follow the Guided Pathways model to ensure learning and promote student progress and involvement in career pathways.

The college has made it a priority to intentionally connect with our community, listen, and learn what is needed of the next generation workforce so that the college can better implement and prepare our graduates for successful futures. I am happy to share that Norma Rojas-Mora has joined the Bakersfield College team as Director of Communications and Community Relations.

Ms. Rojas-Mora has a profound understanding of community needs and brings with her a heartfelt investment in education as the primary tool of transformation. Bringing with her heart and dedication, Norma has over 19 years’ experience in public and non-profit sector positions and strong connections throughout Bakersfield and our surrounding communities.

With the visionary leadership of our founding men and women over 105 years ago still serving as inspiration for what we do today, Bakersfield College continues to thrive.

It is the leadership and engagement of our faculty and staff...
It is the strong intentional work of the Guided Pathways system...
It is the support of our community through Measure J...
And, it is our students who serve as the inspiration to make it all happen.
Our graduates continue to make our communities better, stronger, and healthier with each student transformed, each degree earned, and families changed forever.

It's an exciting time to be at BC.

That's all for now.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,
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