Dear Friends of Bakersfield College,

July 10, 2017

So much has happened since the last Letter from BC, such as celebrating our 103rd Commencement, adding new degrees, launching new programs, and continually upgrading and improving our treasured campus.

The Kern Community College District (KCCD) is moving along enthusiastically with the schedule of maintenance and improvements to our campus and facilities. Currently, we are focused on the Veterans Resource Center which provides support for our many (and growing!) number of student veterans. We are grateful to be leveraging funds from Prop 51 for the Math Science building and we are moving on the expansion of the Delano campus. Plans for an Arvin facility are actively being worked on by the KCCD Board of Trustees and the Arvin City Council, so stay tuned for more great news in future letters.

The 2016-2017 academic year ended on a wonderfully high note culminating with the 103rd Commencement celebration on May 12th. In 1913, we had a class of 13 students and this year we had over 1,400 graduates who completed their course of study for an Associates degree. The class of 2017 came from Bakersfield and surrounding communities including Delano, Arvin, McFarland, Shafter, Tehachapi, Wasco, and more. Regardless of where they came from, one thing is for sure. The class of 2017 is bound by more than a century of excellence and tradition, and as proud Renegade graduates, they will continue to make our communities stronger.
Strong communities are healthy communities and one of the ways we're building a better BC is by adding new programs and degrees, such as the Public Health Science Associate of Science for Transfer Degree. Public health is the science and art of creating healthy communities through education, research and promotion of healthy lifestyles. Upcoming classes include an introduction to public health and will build upon science, statistics and general education classes. Stay tuned to our website for more info coming soon on this incredible program.

Matt Constantine, director of Kern County Public Health Services visiting a BC Public Health class. Photo by Henry A. Barrios/The Californian.
Programs and services that enhance student success are integral to what we do at Bakersfield College so announcing The Kern Promise has been one of our highlights so far this year. On Friday, April 28th, BC was honored to unveil a new partnership between the Kern High School District, Cal State Bakersfield and some of our county’s top legislators and job creators to achieve that dream. The Kern Promise is a pledge by some of our most powerful representatives in the public and private sector to commit to providing a timely, simplistic, intuitive pathway for every student to aid them in their journey to educational success and upward mobility.

We are so grateful to have the support of our community partners in the planning and implementation of The Kern Promise. CSUB President Dr. Horace Mitchell announced that any student who goes through The Kern Promise program at BC would be given guaranteed acceptance into CSUB, while KHSD Superintendent Bryon Schaefer said he would work toward making sure every Kern County high school student is college ready.

Over the next ten years, The Kern Promise program aims to increase the education rate by providing opportunities for applied learning through internships with business and industry partners, embedded academic support services, and clear course pathways for attaining the degrees and certificates needed to become a member of the post-industrial economy we all live in.
That's all for now.

Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

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Learn More about The Kern Promise

See the Official Promise Site

Read the Blog!

Missed a past newsletter?

See them here!

Bakersfield College Website