ACCREDITATION STATUS REAFFIRMED FOR BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) has reaffirmed the accreditation status of Bakersfield College for the next seven years – the longest period possible for a community college.

On January 25, 2019, the ACCJC has officially completed the customary and comprehensive review of the College campus, its programs, initiatives, services, and offerings to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards. The report compiled by a team of peer review evaluators, along with the evidentiary materials has earned Bakersfield College three Commendations, signifying the college exceeded standards for exemplary performance and one Commendation for the Kern Community College District.

Steven Holmes, BC’s President of Academic Senate said, “Commendations signify the institution has exceeded standards. I am very proud of this terrific validation from ACCJC on the remarkable work of BC’s faculty and staff, and the highly effective leadership that ensures everything come together with a prioritization on the current students and future generations.”

The College has earned its three Commendations for (1) exceptional leadership and active engagement to advance student learning and achievement, (2) proactive outreach to and support of its students in the rural portions of its service area, including the communities of McFarland, Arvin, Wasco, Shafter, and Delano, and (3) exemplary and multifaceted professional development initiatives to lift all members of the BC Community through shared and inclusive learning. The one District Commendation is to commend the Kern Community College District for its establishment of fiscal stability and financial transparency.

“The seven-year reaffirmation, no recommendations, and several commendations received from the ACCJC, reflect the excellent work at Bakersfield College because of wise investments and great leadership of the President, faculty, staff, and administrators. The reaffirmation of accreditation, reflects that the college has made great strides by investing time, energy, and the right resources in student success, equity, outreach, and programs which directly help students meet their goals,” said Kern Community College District Chancellor, Tom Burke.

Bakersfield College received zero recommendations for compliance and zero recommendations for improvement, a rare feat in higher education. The full accreditation report for Bakersfield College is available to the public and is posted on the College’s website at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/accreditation.
“With over 20 years of experience in higher education, I have seen how excellence in our educational system is preserved through the peer review process. Peer evaluation teams bring to the evaluation process the viewpoints, ideas, and shared goals that are essential to ensuring academic quality.” said BC President, Sonya Christian. “I am proud of and grateful for the Renegade family of faculty and staff, the clarity of their leadership, the quality in all they do for students, and their engagement in the peer review accreditation process.”

Bakersfield College will be up for ACCJC Accreditation re-evaluation in 2026.