BC TO RECEIVE THE 2019 DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD FROM THE CALIFORNIA LAW PATHWAY

The California LAW Pathway has announced that Bakersfield College has been selected to receive the 2019 Diversity Champion Award for excellence in building the Community College Pathway Program.

In partnership with the State Bar of California, the Pathway to Law School initiative at Bakersfield College enhances opportunities for education and advancement in the legal profession, especially for diverse and traditionally underrepresented populations. Graduates are effectively prepared for transfer to any CSU, UC, or partnered four-year institution’s law school including:

- Loyola Marymount University
- Santa Clara University
- University of California, Berkeley, School of Law
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- University of San Francisco
- University of Southern California

Bakersfield College Pre-Law Advisory Council Co-Chair and local Attorney, David A. Torres said, “In my years practicing law, I’ve gained a great appreciation and understanding for the importance of diversity and representation within the field. Under the leadership of President Sonya Christian alongside the fantastic staff and faculty at BC and the partnership of the California LAW Pathway program, Bakersfield College is making a difference in our community by preparing qualified and confident pre-law students who will return home to this community to practice law and make a difference in the lives of our local people.”

In 2018, Bakersfield College graduated 14 certified Pre-Law Pathway Scholars. Currently there are 39 students in the program and the college estimates that 13 more will graduate this upcoming spring.

“We are beyond appreciative of this recognition,” said Dean of Instruction at Bakersfield College, Cornelio Rodriguez. “I’ve seen our students, some of whom are first generation College students, work hard, engage in the studies, and excel in the Pre-law Pathway. I hope that by receiving this award, more BC students will be inspired to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help them achieve their goals within the professional legal field.”

Bakersfield College provides opportunities for students from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds to attain Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer. Our rigorous and supportive learning environment fosters students’ abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills in order to engage productively in their communities and the world.

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