BC expands Early College and Community Course Offerings to Shafter

Bakersfield College is proud to be partnering with Kern High School District and the City of Shafter to bring college closer to home for the community. On March 28th, Bakersfield College introduced incoming freshmen and families to the premiere of the Early College program in Shafter.

"We are committed to improving access and opportunities for Shafter High students to reach their academic and career goals, as well as supporting the college going culture in the community of Shafter. Through the Early College program, each student will be on a guided path to earn college credit while in high school," said Kern Community College District Trustee Romeo Agbalog. "These efforts translate directly into time and tuition savings for the student, savings for the taxpayers, and securing a brighter future through the power of education," he added.

As Bakersfield College continues to expand their commitment to serving rural communities, the Early College partnership with Shafter High School will offer various general education and CTE courses to high school students during the school day that will get them started on their path towards a college degree or certificate. The incoming cohort of 9th grade students will also be able to enroll in after school concurrent enrollment courses on the high school campus, allowing them to complete over 30 general education units for CSU or UC transfer by the time their graduate from high school.

Abel Guzman, Bakersfield College's Director of Rural Initiatives said, "The City of Shafter is an incredible partner of BC and is committed to the success of students throughout the community. This partnership has allowed us to expand our educational opportunities and student services in Shafter. The Early College program is the next project that will level the playing field for students. By bringing college closer within grasp for these students, we are giving them a head start towards a college degree and successful career."

Shafter High School will offer dual enrollment pathways next year in the areas of Agriculture, Mechanized Agriculture & Welding, and Woodworking. As the partnership between KHSD and Bakersfield College expands, BC's Early College will extend pathways to include certificate and/or degree completion.

More information on Early College can be found on BC's website at bakersfieldcollege.edu/Earlycollege.