MDRC’S SCALING UP COMMUNITY COLLEGE EFFORTS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (SUCCESS) COMING TO BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Bakersfield College has been selected as one of nine colleges from four states to develop new, financially sustainable student support programs as part of MDRC’s Scaling Up Community College Efforts for Student Success (SUCCESS) initiative with support from Arnold Ventures. MDRC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that designs and evaluates education policy and programs.

The SUCCESS initiative seeks to improve graduation rates for traditionally underserved students at community colleges, by aligning state and college resources with evidence-driven practices. SUCCESS combines components from multiple programs that have proven effective at helping students succeed in college.

SUCCESS programs will be built around elements derived from more than 15 years of postsecondary research conducted by MDRC and others. These program components include: frequent proactive advising; financial incentives tied to service usage; strategies focused on increasing academic momentum (like requiring full-time enrollment or encouraging summer/winter enrollment); and the use of real-time data to support student progress.

President of Bakersfield College, Sonya Christian, is proud that BC will be a part of the program. She said, “The SUCCESS initiative will continue to build upon the college’s guided pathways framework by integrating myriad student-focused support efforts led by dedicated coaching staff to ensure transfer students have access to the supports they need to efficiently complete their pathways from Bakersfield College to a baccalaureate degree program.”

In addition to Bakersfield College, MDRC will provide in-depth technical assistance to eight other colleges from four states to develop new, financially sustainable student support programs beginning in fall 2019. So far, participating states and institutions include:

- **California**: Bakersfield College and Chaffey College
- **Indiana**: Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington, Ivy Tech Community College Indianapolis, and Ivy Tech Community College Kokomo Service Areas
- **New Jersey**: Essex County College and Passaic County Community College
- **Ohio**: Stark State College

Through participation in MDRC’s SUCCESS project, Bakersfield College will align its work with existing statewide student success initiatives to leverage resources, reducing time to completion and saving both students and taxpayer dollars.

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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