**BC and Assemblymember Rudy Salas Discuss $2 Million to Advance Workforce Development (page 1)**

**Day:** For Immediate Release:

**Contact:** Marlene Heise, 661-323-8594, marlene@heisemedia.com

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**Bakersfield College and Assemblymember Rudy Salas discuss the recent appropriation expansion of $2 million to advance workforce development in Kern County**

A crowd of approximately 200 packed the gallery inside Bakersfield College’s Library for a press event on Monday morning. With standing room only, the crowd erupted in applause to thank Assembly Member Rudy Salas for his support and dedication to workforce development programs.

Assembly Member Rudy Salas has once again secured $1 million for the second consecutive year, in funding from the 2019-2020 state budget, signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom. This funding will be set aside specifically for Bakersfield College and its Rural Initiatives programs to advance workforce development in Kern County.

“Assembly Member Rudy Salas has for two years in a row made significant resources available to grow a skilled workforce in our rural economies,” said Dr. Sonya Christian, President of Bakersfield College. “These investments benefit not just our students, but their families and communities, providing benefits that will continue to multiply. With the skillful program planning of our BC faculty and staff, this funding will have a profound economic impact on our region for years to come.”

Assemblymember Rudy Salas of the 32nd District represents part of the City of Bakersfield, as well as the rural cities of Arvin, Delano, Hanford, Shafter, McFarland, Wasco, championed for Central Valley representation in last year’s California budget under Governor Brown, and has continued his support with the newest budget under Governor Newsom. He has been a consistent ally of educational initiatives, especially those affecting the more rural areas of Kern County.

“Bakersfield College’s commitment towards driving student success in Career Technical Education is to be commended. I am proud to once again partner with BC for another investment of $1 million dollars for our local students. Last year’s $1 million dollar investment provided hundreds of students the opportunities to gain the Career Technical Education skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century,” said Assemblymember Rudy Salas. “Under Dr. Christian’s leadership we have seen BC continue to create opportunities for students with the expansion and development of new projects like the Rural Initiatives program. I look forward to seeing a new generation of students succeed at BC and acquire the skills that will help the Valley’s economy thrive,” he added.

“Through its Early College Program, Bakersfield College is developing college pathways for high school students in McFarland, Delano, Wasco, and Shafter so that students can complete a college certificate or degree at the same time as earning a high school diploma,” said Kern Community College District Trustee Romeo Agbalog. “I appreciate the hard work of all the bold and innovative partners working to reengineer education and strengthen our local workforce, along with Assemblyman Salas for his continued support of this work to advance Career Technical Education programs in rural Kern County.”

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BC President Sonya Christian with Assembly Member Rudy Salas

Group photo of BC students and cheer team with dignitaries in the front row (L-R): Chancellor Tom Burke, Trustee Romeo Agbalog, Trustee Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, Assemblyman Rudy Salas, BC President Sonya Christian, Justin Derrick, Rob Cob, Abel Guzman, and Felix Dominguez

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BC President Sonya Christian with Assembly Member Rudy Salas posing with BC students

Students, supporters, and community leaders fill the room to standing room only at the Bakersfield College Press Event on Monday morning

BC’s Director of Communication and Community Relations, Norma Rojas-Mora, Director of Rural Initiatives, Abel Guzman, and BC President Sonya Christian pose with $1 million check secured by Assembly Member Rudy Salas

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