BC named the recipient of the 2019 Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award

For Immediate Release:

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

Bakersfield College named the recipient of the 2019 Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office.

Bakersfield College (BC) was the recipient of the 2019 Dr. John Rice Diversity and Equity Award at the Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award Ceremony held at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, California on Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

The Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award was established in 2001 to honor a community college staff member, district, college, or program that has made the greatest contribution towards faculty and staff diversity or student equity.

“This award is a testament to Bakersfield College’s bold vision, courageous leadership, and unwavering commitment to educating Kern County’s students,” Kern Community College District Chancellor Thomas J. Burke said, “Through education, Bakersfield College is strengthening the health of our community while leading the way statewide.”

The California Community College Chancellor’s Office honored Bakersfield College for its implementation of the Guided Pathways framework. Since beginning its implementation in 2014, BC has seen universal growth and improvement across virtually every metric at the college. To get more students to complete and/or transfer – on time and without excess units – BC has intentionally designed an innovative, formal structure through which cross-functional teams of faculty and staff are responsible for advancing student success along defined momentum points. These teams, called Completion Coaching Communities, include BC faculty, staff and administrators responsible for ensuring each student is actively helped to pursue the most direct path to his or her educational goal while facilitating a swift and at-scale response to remove barriers.

“Bakersfield College’s Guided Pathways implementation has required a whole college effort to redesign existing structures in order to advance equitable access for students and their success,” said President Sonya Christian, “I am proud that our faculty and staff are deeply rooted in a culture of innovation and excellence, and I stand in awe of their relentless focus on student performance.”

Notably, BC has made significant progress in advancing student outcomes using the Guided Pathways framework:

- Closed transfer-level English completion gap for African American Students: from 14% to 44%. African American now students exceed overall rate of 39% for this metric.
- Closed Hispanic/Latinx gap in Associate Degree for Transfer attainment: from 61.6% to 67.4% of all ADT earners in two years
- Improved completion rates for Hispanic/Latinx students from 26.8% to 38.6%
- Improved completion rates for African American students from 32% to 39.8%
Event: BC named the recipient of the 2019 Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award
Day: For Immediate Release:
Contact: Marlene Heise, 661-323-8594, marlene@heisemedia.com

Samantha Pulido, Bakersfield College Student Government Association President said, “I chose Bakersfield College because I knew I would find an affordable education, small class sizes, direct communication with my faculty, and high-quality support services. This award shows how much each and every faculty and staff member cares about student success.”

Steven Holmes, Bakersfield College Academic Senate President emphasized the faculty’s commitment to student success, “I am proud to represent BC faculty who work tirelessly in partnership with staff and administrators to ensure student progression and success both in and outside the classroom.”

This award is named in honor of former Board of Governors member Dr. John W. Rice who served on the board from 1992-2000. Dr. Rice was a leader, innovator, and spokesperson for equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination in the California Community Colleges. This award is a tribute to his strong commitment to faculty and staff diversity, student equity, and his strong support for a multicultural learning experience for all students.

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.

###

See photos on pg. 3
Event: BC named the recipient of the 2019 Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award
Day: For Immediate Release:
Contact: Marlene Heise, 661-323-8594, marlene@heisemedia.com

Photographed from Left to Right:

BC’s Outreach Director Steve Watkin, Director of Student Life Nicky Damania, BC’s Student Government President Samantha Pulido, BC President Sonya Christian, California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Oakley, Kern Community College District Trustee Romeo Agbalog, California Community Colleges Board President Tom Epstein, English Professor and Umoja Lead Paula Parks

The 2019 Dr. John W. Rice Award presented to Bakersfield College for Student Success Completion Coaching Communities