BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE NAMED AS A 2019
“CHAMPION OF HIGHER EDUCATION” STATEWIDE LEADER
for Exemplary Work to Increase Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT)

This is not the first time Bakersfield College has earned recognition for its innovative statewide work. On Tuesday, the Campaign for College Opportunity announced Bakersfield College a 2019 Champion of Higher Education for its development of high-touch, high-tech, and focused strategies to increase and streamline transfer pathways to address baccalaureate attainment.

According to data from the California Department of Education, Kern County’s baccalaureate attainment rates are of significant concern at roughly half the statewide rate. In rural service areas, fewer than nine in every 100 residents holds a bachelor’s degree or higher. Additionally, the Public Policy Institute of California has estimated the state will fall short by 1 million workers holding a baccalaureate degree by 2030.

To counter these statistics, Bakersfield College developed various, complementary solutions to address the educational attainment shortfall. They include:

1. Increasing Associate Degree for Transfer Completion by 637% in five years through the Finish-in-4 agreement with CSU Bakersfield and the development of increased transfer course offerings at Bakersfield College Southwest
2. Implementation and scale of the nationally acclaimed Program Pathways Mapper tool which aligns curriculum across systems and offers students a visual map towards degree completion
3. Offering Early College across Kern County, allowing over 11,000 high school students annually the opportunity to complete college credit, certificates, or even an Associates Degree before high school graduation

“Faculty and staff at Bakersfield College are paving pathways for increased regional baccalaureate attainment,” said Dr. Sonya Christian, President at Bakersfield College. “It is the result of relentless commitment and outcomes-focused collaboration among educational partners county-wide. Bakersfield College is proud to work with educators like those at CSUB who work with us to put students first while developing a diverse and skilled homegrown workforce, and a healthier Kern County economy for generations to come.”

Continued on page 2
In 2018, Bakersfield College launched the Finish-in-Four initiative, which included 23 fully-transferable, sequenced coursework maps from a BC Associate Degree for Transfer to an aligned CSU Bakersfield baccalaureate degree. The outcomes of this alignment are remarkable. They include:

- Grew ADT pathway offerings by 900%
- Awarded over 1,200 ADTs in 2019
- Average unit attainment for the ADT is 83 compared to 97 for AA/AS general pathways.
- Increased overall transfer rate in the past four years: 57% to the UC and 43% to CSU.
- Increased transfers to CSUB by 36% in the last 5 years, with a total of 78.82% of BC’s CSU transfers choosing CSUB. The majority are Latinx.

Bakersfield College’s students come from a variety of diverse economic backgrounds; however, the majority are first generation with little college knowledge and limited external support to navigate the options and requirements of a college degree. With this in mind, Bakersfield College initiated a partnership with an internationally known software design and development firm, Concentric Sky, to build an interactive visualization of the traditional course catalog. The tool, called the Program Pathways Mapper, features a clean and easy to understand “guidebook” towards degree completion, offering students a deeper understanding of their educational options as they explore college programs.

“The Mapper tool offers today’s students a digital and systems-based solution to the barriers that have plagued both institutions and students as technology has evolved,” said Dr. Craig Hayward, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness at Bakersfield College. “Intentional efforts to clarify the path, start students on the right path, and keep them there will result in the outcomes we seek. I am exceptionally proud of the work being done by faculty and staff to create innovative systems which help our students raise the educational attainment rate for our region.”

Bakersfield College will be present to receive the recognition at The Campaign for College Opportunity’s 15th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, November 15, 2019.

###

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.