BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE AWARDED 2018 CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR’S STUDENT SUCCESS AWARD

Bakersfield College received the 2018 state Chancellor’s Student Success Award on Friday, November 16, 2018 in recognition of the college’s intensive focus on strengthening curricular alignment throughout the k-16 educational pipeline. The state Chancellor’s Office describes the annual award as one which “honors college and/or district programs that demonstrate a commitment and significant progress toward achieving success and equity goals for all students.”

“This award is a testimony to the close partnership between California State University Bakersfield and Bakersfield College,” said Dr. Sonya Christian, President of Bakersfield College. “Faculty from both institutions and across disciplines worked closely together to create a detailed sequencing of curricular highways that allow starting freshmen at BC to zoom through baccalaureate completion at CSUB in 4 years with 120 credits. This phenomenal body of work is a model of quality education, delivered with efficiency, that should be replicated throughout the state,” she added.

In a recent study of 98 of the 100 largest metro regions in the country, researchers at the non-profit Measure of America found that Kern County has the largest rate of disengaged youth in the country. With 21.2% of those aged 16-24 neither in school nor working, over 26,000 young people in Kern County are completely disengaged. By developing various student success initiatives, BC has united programs and resources to improve outcomes and support the Chancellor’s Vision for Success.

In 2016, BC developed a county-wide college promise, The Kern Promise, which focused on Associate Degree for Transfer Pathways. To advance the work specifically focused on issues of transfer misalignment, BC established a transfer task force allowing faculty from both BC and CSU Bakersfield to jointly clarify the pathways so students can progress through the college system, locally, unabridged, and efficiently.

“Increasing transfer and completion rates in our community was vital,” said Matthew Garrett, History Faculty and member of the Workgroup for the Advancement of Baccalaureate Attainment at Bakersfield College. “The Finish in Four pathways reflect nearly two years of collaboration to develop clear pathways for students who seek a four-year degree beginning at BC. This combined with the campus-wide attention to high-tech and high-touch support will help Renegades and people throughout Kern County accomplish their educational and professional goals.”
Bakersfield College has recognized the utility of the momentum points as well. They include:

- Attempting 15+ units in the first term
- Completion of transfer-level math and English in the first year
- Attempting 30+ units in the first year
- Completion of 9 core pathway units in the first year

These momentum points, along with high-tech, high-touch innovations such as the Program Pathways Mapper, Completion Coaching Communities, and with the Finish in 4 initiative, students are gaining the clarity to efficiently complete their degree or certificate.

“The Program Pathways Mapper helps students visualize their degree progress on a roadmap or path,” says BC’s Dean of Instruction Billie Jo Rice. “We are committed to making higher education consumable for first generation college students so they understand where they are, what they still need, and can pace their completion. It was important that we made the college catalog more digital and relevant to the student’s needs.”

For more information on the Program Pathways Mapper or the Finish in 4 program, visit the Bakersfield College website at [www.bakersfieldcollege.edu](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu).
Event: 2018 California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Student Success Award
Day: For Immediate Release:
Contact: Marlene Heise, 661-978-8594

(Left to Right) Marisa Marquez, Khushnur Dadabhoy, Eleonora Hicks, Erica Menchaca, Karen Stout President and CEO of Achieving the Dream, Billie Jo Rice, Jennifer Johnson, Teresa McAllister, and Isabel Castaneda.
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Close up photo of the 2018 Student Success Award given to Bakersfield College.
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Bakersfield College President, Sonya Christian, and former California State University Bakersfield President, Horace Mitchell, at the Kern Promise’s Finish in 4 Signing Event | May 8, 2018 Photo: Manuel de los Santos

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.