POVERTY AND HEALTH EQUITY SUMMIT BRINGS OVER 80 CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTHCARE, POLICY, AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS TO DISCUSS AND PROBLEM SOLVE HEALTH CRISIS
November 22, 2019 | Bakersfield College Delano Campus, 1450 Timmons Ave

DELANO, CA – Bakersfield College’s Delano campus hosted over 80 healthcare, policy, and educational leaders from across the central valley for the Rural Poverty and Health Equity Summit. The sold-out event served as a catalyst and kick off gathering to inspire community-engaged research, discussion, and solutions in regards to issues impacting health, social, and economic vitality in our rural areas.

“What are we going to do?” was a recurring question that kept arising from panelists as topics such as air pollution, tobacco and vaping, substance use, low educational attainment, the nursing shortage, student debt and more took the stage.

“The Central Valley is vital to California and brimming with talented, creative individuals who are now connected through the HEAL Collaborative. By partnering together, our efforts to generate change and a healthier future will be strengthened and amplified by the unified work of HEAL’s leaders and organizations,” said Bakersfield College President, Dr. Sonya Christian. “It’s been amazing to work with individuals such as Congressman TJ Cox, Dr. Kathy Murphy, Dr. Nancy Burke and more in pulling this together.”

The Rural HEAL collaborative represents over 20 collaborative partners working to improve the lives of rural residents. Partners include UC Merced, UC San Francisco at Fresno, Central Valley Health Policy Institute, Central Valley medical professionals, and Bakersfield College Health and Workforce training programs.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Julianne McCall, Science Officer from California Governor Newsom’s Office of Planning and Research, shared her excitement for the HEAL community effort and the “activated infrastructure” that HEAL offers.

The next HEAL event is being planned for March, 2020 and information will be available through Bakersfield College’s website.

Details and agenda are available on the Bakersfield College webpage for the event at: https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/president/heal/rural-poverty-and-health-equity-summit

See photos on page 2-3
HEAL Summit Brings Over 80 Central Valley Leaders (page 2)

For Immediate Release:

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Dr. Sonya Christian, President at BC offers opening remarks to the sold-out event.

Panelists Russell Judd, Dr. Nancy Burke, and Dr. Sonya Christian share the power of collaborations.

Nora Dominguez, Dr. Julianne McCall, Dr. David Rohac, and Dr. Sonya Christian
Event: HEAL Summit Brings Over 80 Central Valley Leaders (page 3)
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Congressman TJ Cox speaks at the event.

(L-R) Norma Rojas-Mora, BC’s Director of Communications and Community Relations; Emanuel Alcala, Co-Assistant Director Central Valley Health Policy Inst.; Congressman TJ Cox; Dr. Sonya Christian, BC President; Dr. Nancy Burke, Public Health Professor UC Merced

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.