The Kern Promise Commitment for Higher Education Attainment is a huge Success!
A shared responsibility between education, industry, and community to benefit students

On Friday, April 28, 2017 over 1,000 students from the Kern High School District were at the Bakersfield College Panorama Campus for an open house to consider their future and enroll at Bakersfield College.

At 10:00 a.m. at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Outdoor Theatre), educational, political, industry, and community leaders all enthusiastically committed to a shared responsibility to make a public promise to Kern County. Dignitaries that were present and signed The Kern Promise pledge were:

- Tom Burke
- Bryon Shaefer
- Sonya Christian
- Horace Mitchell
- Bill Thomas
- Mary Barlow
- Karen Goh
- Leticia Perez
- Michael Turnipseed
- Nick Ortiz
- Jay Tamsi
- Arleana Waller
- Jose Gurrola
- Rebecca Farley
- Adam Alvidrez
- Kristen Barnes
- Richard Chapman
- Congressman Kevin McCarthy's Office, Field Representative Keenan Hochschild
- Senator Andy Vidak’s Office, Field Representative Michael Bowers
- Senator Jean Fuller’s Office, Field Representative Michael Herrera
- Assembly Member Rudy Salas’ Office, Field Representative Amanda Sampson
- Assembly Member Vince Fong’s Office, District Director Lauren Skidmore
Mayor Karen Goh was present and stated, “Education has transformational power. It enables ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Education transforms and advances regional economic development. Education transforms and advances communities”.

Former Congressman and current Trustee of the Kern Community College District, Bill Thomas assured the students that, “If you follow the Kern Promise, everyone here will deliver.” Other establishing educational partners included Kern High School District Superintendent, Bryon Schaefer; Bakersfield College President, Sonya Christian who emceed the event stated that, “Our communities will grow stronger, one degree at a time.”; and CSUB President, Horace Mitchell wanted all in attendance to know that, “Every promise student will have a guaranteed place at CSUB. Go Runners!”

This commitment is called The Kern Promise.

Support from Private and Public Organizations
The Kern Promise has received support from various private and public organizations in Kern County, including those in education, government, industry, and business. Each sees the value of increasing the technical and educational accomplishments offered by The Kern Promise, as well as the benefit of reducing achievement gaps for students from underrepresented groups. Letters of support can be found here: https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/sssp/letters-of-support

To view the full grant document, please visit:
https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/sites/bakersfieldcollege.edu/files/CollegePromiseInnovationGrant_FINAL.pdf.

Photos of the event can be accessed at President Christian’s blog:
https://sonyachristianblog.com/

The Kern Promise Brochure:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/ahtdk344snn2z1u/Kern%20Promise%20Brochure-2.pdf?dl=0

Bakersfield College offers a rigorous and supportive learning environment that fosters students’ abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills in order to engage productively in their communities and the world, while simultaneously contributing to the intellectual, cultural, and economic vitality of the communities it serves.

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