Press Invitation: The Kern Promise Commitment for Higher Education Attainment

A shared responsibility between education, industry, and community to benefit students

Bakersfield, CA— Over 1,000 students from the Kern High School District will be at the Bakersfield College Panorama Campus on Friday, April 28, 2017 for an open house as they consider their future and enroll at Bakersfield College.

At 10:00 a.m. at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Outdoor Theatre, see map attached) educational, political, industry, and community leaders will commit to a shared responsibility to make a public promise to Kern County. The establishing educational partners include Bakersfield City School District Superintendent, Doc Ervin; Kern High School District Superintendent, Bryon Schaefer; Bakersfield College President, Sonya Christian; and CSUB President, Horace Mitchell.

This commitment is called The Kern Promise.

The Kern Promise addresses the transition from high school to community college and from community college to CSU Bakersfield to increase baccalaureate degree attainment. Through the Promise, Bakersfield College commits to students who enter college-ready. These students will be able to complete an Associate Degree for Transfer in 60 units through this shared responsibility model. Financial assistance through the Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver, Federal financial aid, and local assistance through the Bakersfield College Foundation and its partners, will be provided to qualifying students.

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.

The public is encouraged and welcome to attend.

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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