For Immediate Release:

Bakersfield College to Celebrate the 104th Commencement on May 11th at 7:00 p.m.
2018 is a record breaking year with the largest group of students eligible to graduate in history, the first graduation of the Industrial Automation Baccalaureate Program, first graduation of the Wonderful Dual Enrollment students, and all living past Presidents in attendance.

Bakersfield College will host its 104th annual commencement ceremony on Friday, May 11, 2018. The program is taking place at Memorial Stadium and begins at 7:00 p.m. A dazzling display of fireworks will immediately follow the recognition of the class of 2018. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Highest Number of Eligible Graduates Ever
Bakersfield College President Sonya Christian says, “This year we have the largest eligible selection of graduates at 1,972 who are invited to walk on the evening May 11, 2018. It’s an exciting night full of student success, celebration, and achievement.”

First graduation of the Industrial Automation four-year Baccalaureate program.
The Baccalaureate Program is designed to prepare individuals for technical management careers in industries that utilize automation, including the petroleum, manufacturing, logistics and agriculture industry sectors, in order to improve the regional economy. Upcoming graduate Richard Van Horne says, “I’ve received offers for internships, been approached by local industries and I’m getting my degree at a fraction of the cost of friends who attend other 4-year institutions.”

First graduation of Wonderful Dual Enrollment Agriculture Business Program high school students. The Wonderful Agriculture Dual Enrollment Program aligns high schools and colleges to create a curriculum that helps high school students earn college credits. The first graduating cohort will graduate from Bakersfield College before they even finish high school.

In addition, all living past Bakersfield College Presidents will be in attendance such as:

Dr. Sonya Christian, President, 2013 - Current
Ms. Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, President, 2013 - 2013
Dr. Greg Chamberlain, President, 2008 - 2012

Ms. Sandra Serrano, President, 1998 - 2004
Dr. Robert Allison, President, 1997 - 1998
Dr. Richard Wright, President, 1983 – 1997

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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