Event: Finish In 4 - Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield collaborate to increase 4-year college completion
Day: For Immediate Release:
Contact: Marlene Heise, 661-323-8594, marlene@heisemedia.com

Finish In 4
Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield collaborate to increase 4-year college completion

A collaborative unveiling event will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 to introduce The Kern Promise’s Finish in 4, a new program to boost college transfers and increase 4-year college completion. The event to be held in the Fireside Room at Bakersfield College, Panorama Campus is free and open to the public. Speakers will include both Sonya Christian, President of Bakersfield College and Horace Mitchell, President of California State University, Bakersfield.

The Finish in 4 project is an expansion of The Kern Promise, an unprecedented partnership between higher education institutions and focuses on benefits to the students and ultimately the community. The Finish in 4 efforts will guarantee students complete their transfer degree in the first 2 years at Bakersfield College and baccalaureate degree in the following 2 years at CSUB. Together, the goal and aim is to move students through and to the next stage of their educational and career goals in a more efficient and impactful way.

With just 22% of Kern County residents 25 years of age and older holding an Associate’s Degree or higher, compared with California’s average of 39%, there is pivotal work ahead. BC has adopted a guided pathways framework and by partnering with high schools to increase the number of dual enrolled students, we are intervening to clarify pathways before a student gets lost, decreasing time to completion, and closing attainment gaps. Finish in 4 is the next best thing aiding in student success.

“The Finish in 4 program creates direct baccalaureate completion transfer pathways from Bakersfield College to CSUB, saving both the student and the tax payer time and money while providing a rigorous quality education” said Bakersfield College President, Sonya Christian. “This program will quickly increase baccalaureate completion rates in Kern County thereby advancing its economic competitiveness within the state,” she added.

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Bakersfield College introduced The Kern Promise, a partnership with Kern High School District to inspire a new college going culture through shared responsibility following the $1.5 million award from the California State Chancellor’s office in April, 2016. Eligibility to participate required each student test into college level English and math giving current high school students an incentive to come prepared, ready to excel. Now, Bakersfield College and CSUB has aligned their educational pathways with focused clarity so all students can progress through the college system locally, unabridged, and efficiently.

By working together, the Kern Promise’s Finish in 4 will not only give students a clear defined direction, it will ensure their success at an efficient pace. “Every milestone of progress towards a bachelor’s degree is a win for all. Quality and efficient education is the best way to contribute to the future of our students, the future of our state, the future of our city, and community. CSUB looks forward to continuing our work with Bakersfield College to promote academic transfers and success for all students in Kern County,” said CSUB President, Horace Mitchell.

Bakersfield College offers a rigorous and supportive learning environment that fosters students’ abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills 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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