Bakersfield College Selected as Recipient of Innovation Award

Bakersfield College has been selected by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office as one of 11 community colleges to be awarded a share of $20 million to further development and implementation of programs that strengthen student success.

For the innovative design and mapping of transfer pathways through technology and systems integration, Bakersfield College was named the recipient of $2,300,000. The funding aims to advance implementation of high-tech, high-touch guided pathways strategies that ensure all students have access to fully mapped and well-designed transfer pathways no matter the point from which they are accessing the institution.

“Bakersfield College is committed to not only opening our doors to students from all backgrounds, but also to intentionally and systematically support them through a Guided Pathway to degree and certificate completion once they’re here,” said BC President, Sonya Christian. “By securing these award dollars, Bakersfield College can continue the work of efficiently and effectively clarifying the path towards degree and certificate completion which in turn, leads to sustainable jobs regardless of background. The health of our community depends on an educated and well-prepared workforce.”

By engaging in active partnerships with four-year universities, BC is ensuring alignment of curriculum and expected outcomes across educational systems, so students efficiently stay on track to degree completion. The College is integrating multiple technologies and systems to improve usability and data access for the beta-testing of new programs in partnership with CSU Bakersfield and the Kern High School District.

Furthermore, through the proper alignment of curriculum, expanded support, and transfer pathways, BC aims to expand offerings of Associate Degrees to students in rural communities and currently incarcerated students. The advancements made possible by this award will address persistent equity gaps and regional educational attainment by improving employability and efficiency for incoming students and generations of Renegades to come.

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.

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