State of Pre-Law at Bakersfield College

The Bakersfield College (BC) Pre-Law Pathway Program prepares our students for careers in law. It is part of the California LAW, Inc. Project, aimed at “Building A Diverse Pipeline Into the LAW.”

On May 1, 2014, BC, along with 23 qualifying California Community Colleges, was approved by the State Bar of California to begin offering a specified series of 7 courses that comprise the Pre-Law pathway. BC students who meet the eligibility requirements, regardless of major, are invited to participate. Pathway graduates are given priority consideration for transfer and entry to the following 7 select institutions:

- Loyola Marymount University
- Santa Clara University
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of San Francisco
- University of Southern California

The Pre-Law Program at BC has had a successful year. In the 2018-19 academic year, 11 students graduated/completed the Pre-Law Pathway. Students transferred to California State University Bakersfield, California State University East Bay, University of California Davis and Washington State University. The Bakersfield College Pre-Law Program was honored with the 2019 Diversity Champion Award from the California Law Pathway for its excellence in building the Community College Pre-Law Pathway Program.

Events and Actions Taken

Several events took place during the 2018-19 academic year:

- Law School Campus Tours
- Workshops on:
  - Applying to Law School
  - Careers in LAW
  - Guest speakers, including lawyers and judges
- Tracking and follow up with program students
- Scholarships for successful Pre-Law Pathway completion

Looking Ahead at the Next 3 Years

For the next academic year, the Pre-Law Pathway Program plans on increasing the number of program participants from 40 to 60 students by partnering with Guided Pathways and utilizing successful practices to ensure completion for our program students. In addition, we hope to continue to grow the number of student participants and graduates.