Happy Thanksgiving, Renegades!

Even in the midst of such a turbulent year, we still have so much to be grateful for. I know I’m thankful for the way our faculty and staff have persisted in helping our students achieve their goals, and I’m thankful for the students who are continuing with their education through the shift to online instruction, as well as personal and economic hardships, because they realize how important it is for their families and their community.

#WeAreBC Always #InItTogether

This past Sunday, I did an in-depth Roundup on COVID with the intention of not including it in my communication today. But then I woke up to Stacey Shepard’s article from Tuesday’s Bakersfield Californian, with the header on the front page “Kern County reports 918 new COVID-19 cases.” The article explains that the daily count is closer to 400 new cases as the numbers reported were spread out over the course of the weekend, but it indicates that the county is returning to its July peak, when Kern County averaged 500-600 new cases per day.

The COVID response team wants to make sure that everyone in the campus community is educated about the details on how this virus spreads. We encourage faculty, staff, students and their families to enroll in the non-credit contact tracing courses developed by Dr, Charles Daramola, lead faculty in our Public Health department. There are nine sections available between November 30 and January 4 for anyone to enroll in the course. Here is the list compiled by Vice President Billie Jo Rice.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PBHS B99NC</td>
<td>76310</td>
<td>11/30 – 12/13</td>
<td>Charles Daramola</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBHS B99NC</td>
<td>76311</td>
<td>11/30 – 12/13</td>
<td>Charles Daramola</td>
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At the end of this online 18-hour contact tracing course, you will have a grasp of how COVID-19 and other infectious diseases work, and you will have a better understanding on how to adjust behaviors during this surge of the coronavirus.

**Spring 2021 Enrollment**

Enrollment for Spring 2021 is now in full session! As we wind down the semester, please take a moment to ask your students to visit the Class Schedule page and see all of our offerings for the spring semester. If they don't have everything ready to register for the next semester, make sure they visit the Student Information Desk or contact a completion coach to help them stay on the path toward finishing their education.

**ACCJC 8-hour Seminar Series, 2 hours each day – Dec 2nd, Dec 3rd, Dec 7th, Dec 8th.**

Please calendar these dates and times and register at this link. There is no registration fee.
As I've been preparing for the upcoming ACCJC Seminar Series starting on December 2, I've been reading the speakers' books and articles, which has reminded me how much I value community and working together.

Take a moment to sink into the words of our core value and read through it a few times.

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**Community:**

We commit to the wellbeing of all members of our community; we maintain strong ties with the surrounding community, and we respond to their needs by serving as an open institution which engages all students, faculty, and staff; in our college, we have built and continue to build an environment in which all members participate as a community through democratic engagement.

**BC's Core Value of Community**

As I reflected on our core value of community, I revisited my remarks from opening day. They read, in part:

*Yet, through this unrelenting stream of change, our faculty, staff, and students have persisted. Just as the steady movement of river water polishes the jagged edges of the rocks on its bank, weathering this change has made us a better, more refined Bakersfield College. Our collective spirit has transcended the exhaustion that plagues our bodies and clouds our minds, giving rise to an even more vibrant Renegade Family.*

*As president, I have never been prouder than I am today as I have witnessed your bold innovation, stunning ingenuity, and fearless commitment to serving students each of you have embodied as our virtual campus has taken shape.*

*We are BC!*
While navigating this term has certainly been challenging for students, faculty, and staff, I am reminded of the goodness inherent in our BC community. Together, we live daily our commitment to helping our students develop into critical thinkers and engaged citizens.

This is the crux of the upcoming learning seminar series. Take out your calendars now to reserve time for a conversation on “The Future of Learning” taking place on December 2, 3, 7, 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m PST each day. We’re spreading out these eight hours of conversation on the future of learning over the course of four days.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the 8 featured speakers who will be leading the conversations throughout the series. Maybe you can get some of these books for your Thanksgiving holiday reading.

**Wednesday, December 2**
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (PST)

Tia Brown McNair  
Author of “From Equity Talk to Equity Walk”

David French  
Author of “Divided We Fall”

**Thursday, December 3**
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (PST)

Natasha Jankowski  
Author of “Degrees That Matter”

Cecilia Rios-Aguilar  
Author of “Funds of Knowledge in Higher Education”
Let me recognize the BC team who worked side-by-side with me to pull this extensive event together.

Lesley Bonds, Todd Coston, Craig Hayward, Erica Menchaca, Bill Moseley, Manny Mourtzanos, Earl Parsons, Norma Rojas-Mora, Jennifer Serratt, Nick Strobel, Dylan Wang, Jessica Wojtysiak.

You can register at this link. There is no registration fee.

Join the CCC Women’s Caucus
Last week, a group led by KCCD Trustee Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, Pasadena City College President Erika Andrijonas, Pasadena City College Trustee Linda Wah, and Deputy Chancellor Daisy Gonzales launched the California Community Colleges Women’s Caucus. Anyone can have their information added to the directory by filling out the directory registration form on the website. To find out more about how to become an official member of the CCC Women’s Caucus, visit the Caucus Membership page.

The caucus is holding their next event on December 7th from 12:00 noon to 1:15 p.m. The featured speakers are Lande Ajose, Sr. Policy Advisor to the Governor and Eleni Kounalakis, Lt. Governor of California.
Champion of Higher Education Award
California Secretary of State Alex Padilla recognized Bakersfield College with the 2020 Champion of Higher Education Award for our work on improving transfer rates for our students. The award was part of a virtual event celebrating the tenth anniversary of SB 1440, the law that created the first Associate Degrees for Transfer and paved the way for 280,000 community college students in California to smoothly transition to four-year universities.

BC’s improved transfer rates would not be possible without the help of our Kern Promise Team, who helped create a pipeline from BC to guaranteed admission at a four-year university. Let’s recognize everyone on the Kern Promise team for all their hard work.

- Isabel Castaneda, Program Manager
- Abraham Castillo, Educational Advisor
- Jeff LaForce, Educational Advisor
- Stephanie Vega, Department Assistant III
- Maria Wright, Adjunct Faculty
- Lesley Bonds, Director of Student Success and Equity
Panorama Creative Music Summit

Drummer Nate Wood is performing on November 25 at 4 p.m. on the BC Jazz Studies Facebook page.

There are only two more shows left in the 2020 Panorama Creative Music festival. Drummer and multi-instrumentalist Nate Wood will be live on the BC Jazz Studies Facebook page today at 4:30 p.m. He’s performed with Dave Grohl, Sting, Chaka Khan and members of Queen, Yes, and The Cars. On December 2, the festival closes out with Jamaaladeen Tacuma, a jazz and funk bassist from Ornette Coleman’s Prime Time who has performed with Jeff Beck, Carlos Santana, and more.

BC Choir Presents “Becoming Us”
On November 30, Bakersfield College Performing Arts will premiere a virtual concert on YouTube directed by Jennifer Garrett and collaborative pianist Patrick Bender. The performance features the BC Choir, Chamber Singers, Renegade Chorus. Guests artists include BC voice instructors Caley Mayhall, Christina Parnell, and Ken Burdick, as well as BC flute instructor Tracy Harris.

The message of "Becoming Us" is about how adversity can help bring the world together, so we hope you'll join us at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 30 to support our talented students and faculty.

I will be there. Will you?

Happy Thanksgiving my dear colleagues.

Stay safe, stay healthy, wear a mask, keep the 6ft distance separation, wash your hands to slow down the spread and reduce the strain on our healthcare systems and providers.

That's all for now.

Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

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See all issues of Renegade Roundup online