Renegade family,

Kern County Public Health has reported 1,750 new COVID-19 cases today. There are currently 323 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19.

The difference in case rates between vaccinated and unvaccinated is staggering. Over the last two weeks, the daily case rate:
  • for vaccinated individuals is 1.01 new cases per 100,000 residents
  • for unvaccinated individuals, the case rate goes up to 64.81.

Meanwhile, hospitalizations and test positivity rates continue to show increases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitalized</th>
<th>Test positivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>14-DAY CHANGE</strong></td>
<td><strong>14-DAY AVG.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+19%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hospitalizations overall are projected to remain high, as trends tend to trail new cases by about two to three weeks. Please remember to stay safe and help stop the spread by wearing a mask indoors and social distancing when possible.

Testing Resources are in Short Supply Across the County

As schools and the economy remain open at the tail end of a surge driven by the delta variant, a high demand for COVID tests is creating a shortage across the county. Testing mandates at health care, corrections, and other congregate facilities are the main forces driving the testing shortage, coupled with contact tracing efforts at local schools and testing requirements for travel. Kern County Public Health is working with a state-funded vendor called OptumServe to offer
increased availability at its testing sites, as well as adding testing resources to its mobile vaccination clinics.

**Testing and Vaccination Available at BC**

As a reminder, BC's Student Health and Wellness Center provides free COVID-19 testing services by call-ahead appointments (661) 395-4663. For SHWC staff safety, do not physically come to SHWC to make an appointment. Same-day appointments are often available but are not guaranteed. Visit the SHWC's [webpage](#) for more information on our provided COVID-19 testing.

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**BC Prepares Auto Technicians for Electric Vehicle Repair and Maintenance**

As electric vehicle ownership increases nationwide, Bakersfield College is developing the region's first career training and education program to meet the emerging demand for next-generation auto technicians. Building on its existing automotive technology program—which has earned the esteemed master accreditation from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence—BC will soon begin offering courses in electric vehicle maintenance and repair. The first course, Introduction to Electric Vehicles, became available to students this summer.

Not only is BC leading the way in developing the EV curriculum for its own students, but the curriculum will be deployed to four other San Joaquin Valley community colleges – Fresno City, Reedley, Merced and San Joaquin Delta colleges – which will all offer the introductory course this fall. Eventually stackable certificate programs will be offered that can enhance the labor market.

[Read More on KBAK](#)

**Football Wins in Return to Memorial Stadium**

Thirty-seven years after playing his last game as a member of the Bakersfield Renegades football team, R. Todd Littlejohn led our Renegades into BC's Memorial Stadium on Saturday evening, this time as our head coach, just the 11th in BC's history.
After the 2020 season was cancelled due to the pandemic, BC's first home game in 665 days was a success, as the Renegades defeated El Camino College 24-13. Renegade, Zack Hawkins, Running Back, is photographed running the ball during the game.

Soccer: This week, Men's soccer will also be playing at home. Tuesday's match is against East LA and Friday's game is against Santa Barbara.

Volleyball: Our 7th ranked CCCWVCA state women’s volleyball will be taking on the 4th ranked Moorpark Raiders at home on Friday. Fans are welcome but must wear a mask. The game will also be livestreamed on gogades.com.

Renegade Star: A Spotlight on Kris Tiner

Bakersfield College's Director of Jazz Studies and Music Professor, Kris Tiner, has released his fifth album with guitarist Mike Baggetta, an LP titled “Evening Hawks.” The duo will perform in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and on the west coast this fall.

Let's show Kris some Renegade family support by listening, supporting, or learning more by visiting Evening Hawks | TIN/BAG (bandcamp.com)

Renegade Star: A Spotlight on Michele Bresso

Communication Professor, Dr. Michele Bresso, has created two online public speaking trainings for groups with exacting needs.

The first program addressed nonprofit managers who work with native peoples and tribes in Kern and Tulare counties. They wanted to be better able to share information of importance to our native communities.

The second was a three-workshop series providing online presentation skills for philatelists (stamp collectors). Michele is a philatelist and found that her fellow collectors were navigating the virtual sphere for the first time and tended to be technology averse. As a result, Michele proposed to a national philatelic organization, the American Topical...
Association, that she provide training under their auspices. They loved the idea and have announced the program through their vast membership and through the philatelic press. Workshop audiences included people from several countries and across the United States.

**Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning**

A new teaching method that encourages student participation called [Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning](#) has captured the attention of BC's STEM faculty.

Since 2019, over 50 STEM faculty have gone through basic training in this teaching technique and three faculty have attended an intense multi-day training to learn how to write these exercises. They are:

- Joshua Lewis, Mathematics
- Debra Rosenthal, Physical Science
- Kathleen Rush, Mathematics

This semester, some of these lessons are being used in chemistry courses to support work on a grant entitled "California Challenges in STEM Energy Education," which is a collaborative effort with CSU Bakersfield and UC Merced.

Hats off to our STEM faculty for their continued focus on improving the quality of learning in science and math.

**Renegade Innovation Fund Awards**

The Art Department and Performing Arts Department are grateful to the Bakersfield College Foundation Board of Directors for the award of three Renegade Innovation Fund grants this fall. These awards will help to promote innovative student experiences, such as:

- Trip to Getty Center and Broad Museum for Art students
- Commissioned composition for BC Choirs
- Robotic stage lighting

**Board of Trustees Recognize Emeritus Faculty**

The Board of Trustees recently recognized retired Renegades Rebecca Head and Sandi Taylor with emeritus status in honor of their decades of work in our district. The term “emeritus” is Latin for “completing one’s service”, and it has been used as an honorary title in academia since at least the early 17th Century to denote a retired professor who has admirably contributed to the educational well-being of their community. Thank you to Rebecca Head (who was a math professor at BC for 25 years) and to Sandi Taylor (whose career at BC started in 1990 as a softball coach who helped win 500 games and four conference titles for the Renegades before becoming Athletic Director in 2014.)
Showcasing BC's Humanizing Online STEM Academy Alumni

This summer, seven CI STEM faculty and two learning designers participated in the Humanizing Online STEM Academy, an intensive equity-focused online professional development program that prepares faculty to teach more equitable online courses. The six-week STEM Academy is part of a 3-year, cross-system grant project funded by the California Education Learning Lab and administered by the Foothill DeAnza Community College District to eliminate equity gaps in online STEM courses.

Through the Academy, participants acquired knowledge about the essential role that positive instructor-student relationships play in creating a sense of belonging for all students in STEM, particularly those who are Black, Hispanic, other people of color and women. Faculty mastered the ability to create warm, supportive, and brief videos with their smartphone and embed them in Canvas; record 2-3 minute bumper videos set to music and concise micro lectures; create a welcoming and supportive first impression with a liquid syllabus and a humanized course homepage; and foster growth-mindset and self-efficacy in students through the use of asynchronous video discussion tools. Together, these skills empower faculty to build trust with students at a distance, challenge learners, and build community in their online courses.

Let's take a moment to celebrate the following participants' commitment to serving our diverse students through more equitable online courses. The links below will take you to each participant's humanizing showcase, which is a digital portfolio of their humanized online teaching elements, shared as an open educational resource to foster sharing and innovation.
Welding Students Construct Fence for CityServe

This past summer, BC's welding students had the opportunity to participate in a work experience/internship project through free courses offered by BC. These students constructed a metal fence enclosing the back end of the CityServe facility entirely from scratch as the first phase of an outdoor welding lab housed at CityServe.

BC Foundation Newsletter

The BC Foundation has published its quarterly newsletter, PANORAMA, and it includes information about BC and some of the great things we are able to do thanks to our donors and community partners. One of my favorite sections is where BC alums tell their "BC Story." If you know of an alum that should be featured, let the foundation team know at foundation@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Read the Newsletter
We Are BC T-Shirts at The Office of Student Life

The Office of Student Life is distributing “We Are BC” shirts this week. Anyone who attended the virtual New Student Convocation is eligible to receive a free BC t-shirt at the Office of Student Life throughout the week.

Don’t forget to follow OSL on TikTok @bcsga and let’s get them to go viral!

Photos from Cal-SOAP Training

The California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) team have been hard at work training at Bakersfield College. In preparation for the College Success Coaches (CSCs) high school placement, the team received 3 week intensive training in all systems of higher education requirements, college applications, financial aid applications, and support programs available to students. Cal-SOAP looks forward to a great year assisting high school students navigate their senior year and beyond!
Last Saturday, Chancellor Christian shared in her blog that good news, inspiring stories, and people coming together to help one another are all around us. This week, let's continue to support students through the fall semester.

I look forward to communicating with you soon.

Zav

Zav Dadabhoy,  
President, Bakersfield College