Dear Colleagues:

Let me start by introducing you to Mike Giacomini, BC’s new Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services at Bakersfield College.

Mike earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Chico, and his Executive Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Colorado Technical University. Mike brings with him vast knowledge in the business field with 23 years of experience working in audit and finance, with 12 of those years working in education. He was the Vice President of Finance at Western Culinary Institute in Portland Oregon and then Campus President at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Seattle and his recent position was as Campus President at Platt College in Alhambra, California.

Please join me in extending a warm Renegade welcome to Mike. You can reach him at mike.giacomini@bakersfieldcollege.edu

**The Bakersfield College Vernon Valenzuela Veteran Resource Center**

Thursday, October 11th, was a historic day for Bakersfield College as The Kern Community College District Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the naming of The Bakersfield College Vernon Valenzuela Veteran Resource Center. I am proud of Board’s decision to name the center after a local veteran advocate, inspirational leader, and Renegade.

The Board meeting was well attended by supporters from the campus and community. I had the honor of introducing Jenny Frank of the Bakersfield Veterans Center, Tom Corson of the Kern County Network for Children, Randy Dickow of the Veteran Justice Program, and BC’s Paul Beckworth to speak in support at the meeting. The Board voted unanimously and President of the Board, Kay Meek presented the rendering of the new Vernon Valenzuela Veterans Resource Center to Vernon’s widow, Lise Valenzuela. Both the audience and the trustees were elated and gave a standing ovation.
For more details on the meeting, plz check out last week’s blog at https://sonyachristianblog.com/

Our community’s support for Bakersfield College has given us a unique opportunity to give back to our veterans by establishing a supportive and welcoming environment for all student veterans. We also must remember that this dedication would not even be possible without the sacrifices of those who have served our nation through military service. Moments like these are a reminder of our responsibility to ensure steadfast commitment for our veterans. They are a reminder of our personal and collective responsibility to build a future that positively impacts veterans, and supports their education and their dreams.

Vernon Valenzuela left a lasting legacy for the Home of the Renegades and for his extended community. His life’s work to benefit the lives of veterans lives on today through those he inspires and the Renegades he transformed.

A website is being developed where the history and progress of the Vernon Valenzuela Veterans Resource Center will be archived. You can visit it at https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/veterans-resource-center

I would like to recognize Paul Beckworth and Olivia Garcia for developing the document that was considered by the Board for this naming. Take a moment to read it on the website above.

Also, please mark your calendars for the official groundbreaking ceremony on November 5th at 10AM in the open crossroads area near the forums.
HVAC Tech Program Unveiled at BC Delano Campus

On Monday, our Delano Campus unveiled its first HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) Technology Certificate of Achievement Program alongside Assemblymember Rudy Salas and Trustee Romeo Agbalog. We had a great turnout from BC colleagues, Delano community members, as well as those from Bakersfield.

The funding for this program comes from the monies secured by Assemblyman Rudy Salas in the 2018-2019 state budget. Without Assemblyman Salas’ commitment to Bakersfield College’s Rural Initiatives, this program and its future facility would not have been possible. His support truly does make us Valley Strong!
Thank you to the MPR department that was out in Delano in full force. Norma Rojas Mora, Tamara Baker, Dylan Wang, Chris Blakemore and Suyen. Here are two of the team who worked behind the scenes – Tamara and Norma.

**Building a Better BC through Measure J**

Measure J projects aren’t just moving forward; they’re in full force! As mentioned above, our first major building groundbreaking using Measure J funds will be for the newly named Bakersfield College Vernon Valenzuela Veterans Resource Center on November 5 at 10:00am. Please come join us for the first day of Vet Week to celebrate not only the new building, but also our veterans.
Departments in the Campus Center have been moving over the past week to clear the way for construction, and will continue to do so throughout the remainder of the month. Student Life moved to LEV last week, with Veterans moving the week of October 22, and Health moving the week of October 29. The cafeteria will remain open until Winter Recess, when it will be moved to the Huddle and across the street the new Mount Vernon Commissary (MVC). The new Food Services food trailer named “Gades Grub” will be up and running in time for the Spring 2019 semester as well.

All of the staff parking lots have been completed, with striping being completed on the student parking lot on University this week. The temporary parking lot will remain open until this lost is completed, most likely by the end of this week.

If you check out the A Better BC site, there is a link to the Measure J Project Schedule which will be continually updated as projects evolve. You can see the schedule as of September 30 at this link: https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/facilities/construction/measure-j-project-schedule-as-of-september-30-2018

Data Snippet: Fall Course Success Rate
AIQ has reviewed our fall course success rate data and is recommending some modifications to our institution-set standards (ISS). These recommendations will go to
Academic Senate and College Council for their review and input. Notably, online course success rates and, to a lesser extent, CTE course success rates have been showing steady improvement over the past four years, as shown in the red and grey trend lines in the figure below. We’ll revisit this story when the process of review and decision-making has completed later in the semester.

### Homecoming Week

Homecoming is a time to celebrate Renegade pride. Our week of activities will culminate with the **Homecoming Football Game on Saturday, October 27th**. Together, we will honor our institutional history with both traditional and new events like the homecoming parade, student organization competitions, talent show, office decoration party, pep rally, TailGade, and more. Learn more about Homecoming at [www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/homecoming](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/homecoming)

Hope to see out and about at the various Homecoming activities.

That’s all for now. Until next time....

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

Sonya

[See all issues of Renegade Roundup online](http://www.renegaderoundup.com)