It’s Time for a Renegade Roundup!

Week of January 14-18, 2013

Welcome back, everyone! I don’t know how the week went for you, but for me it was a crazy week of meetings and learning new things about Bakersfield College.

Bakersfield College Enrollment
This week’s Renegade Roundup starts with enrollment news. Reports as of the first day of classes continued to show a significant decrease in headcount for Bakersfield College, with 15,454 students registered, a decline of 7.1% over last spring. Further, waitlisted enrollments are down by nearly 16%, and the number of active sections this semester is down about 6% to 1,510.

Governor’s Budget
News of Governor Brown’s budget for community colleges spread quickly last week. I am happy to report that community colleges will receive an increase in state appropriation of $197 million. Although this is better than no additional funding, remember that over the last two years California Community Colleges took a total of $575M cut in state appropriations. In addition to the $197M, there is an allocation of $49.5M to support energy efficiency career technical educational training and on-the-job work experience as well as $16.9M to enhance online education efforts so students can find online courses and access 24/7 support through a common portal.

Strategic Focus
At opening day I mentioned the work completed by Kate Pluta and Jennifer Marden synthesizing the key institutional documents into one document titled Bakersfield College Strategic Focus 2013-14. This is our roadmap for the next 18 months – all leading to the ultimate goal of student success for all Bakersfield College students. One of the results of this work was the organization of the metrics and key performance measures identified in the different documents into four data strands – Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment, the Accountability Reporting for Community Colleges (ARCC), Operational Metrics, and Perception Data.

I will attempt to regularly include a data snippet from one of these data strands in my communications to keep visible our institutional indicators of achievement. The data below is an excerpt from the College in Review Report that Lisa Fitzgerald publishes. It gives us a historic glimpse at the success rate for the last four years of students in all courses, in online courses, in basic skills, and in vocational education courses.

Data Snippet:
That’s all for now…..

With Renegade pride and collegiality,

Sonya