The end of the academic year is rapidly approaching, and I certainly feel the pace increasing in our efforts to wrap up loose ends from various campus committees, projects, and initiatives. There is the mission/vision review work, ASEPs, Multiple Measures, development of our CTE plan, transfer plan and precollegiate plan...... And then there is our centennial graduation on May 16th. I ask that all of you attend with friends and family and make it a fun evening at our Memorial Stadium watching history happen. The evening will be sprinkled with entertainment and recognitions with live music from Mento Buru – a local band of proud Bakersfield College alumni. An honor lap of alumni and staff will parade the track before we bring on the 100th graduating class of 2014. We will conclude with a fireworks show. Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime event!

**Student Education Plans (SEPs):**

**Getting our systems ready:** Remember on Spring Opening Day, January 17, 2014, we focused on how the most successful students completed a Student Education Plan (SEP) and that plan included math and English in the first semester. The faculty chairs and leads got to work creating those pathways so that students and staff could access them in DegreeWorks and create a plan. That task was a lot more complicated than we had originally envisioned. It turned out that all of the intricacies of our degrees and certificates were further complicated by varying General Education patterns that differ for UCs, CSUs and BC gen ed resulting in grueling work undertaken by many of you.

Since Opening Day each instructional area has worked on the Student Pathways which were checked and re-checked by curriculum gurus Billie Jo Rice, John Carpenter as well as Sue Granger-Dickson from counseling. For the last 3 months a very special team of people have been loading these Student Education Pathways into DegreeWorks under Matt Jones’ guidance. Cynthia Quintanilla, Dinorah Castro, Pam Gomez, Michelle Pena, Sue Granger-Dixon and Helen Acosta have currently entered all of the transfer degrees, most of the local AA’s and AS’s (a total of 22 degrees) and are beginning to enter the Certificate pathways. Soon students will be able to go online and find the pathway to their own academic goals thanks to this team. And thanks to Janet Fulks for continuing to lead and move this important work by connecting so many different dots.

**Taking the ASEPs out to High Schools:**
The initial education plan given to the majority of high school students, frequently unsure as yet of their major, is an Abbreviated Student Ed Plan (ASEP), which covers the first semester and focuses on getting them into English, reading (if necessary) and math so they can work through the general education and major coursework as efficiently as possible. So while the instructional faculty defined the pathways, Steve Watkin, Director of Outreach of School Relations, and Kathy Rosellini, Chair of the Counseling department orchestrated a major initiative with counselors and advisors to take the ASEP development out to the high schools. I am so pleased to report to you, that we helped 662 students develop their ASEPs in 14 high schools. This is truly groundbreaking and I want to recognize the following individuals: Sandy Sierras, Kathy Rosellini, Marisa Marquez, Angel Vasquez, Barbara Braid, Manuel Rosa, Veronica Lucas, Jessica Garcia, Sue Granger-Dickson, Dominica Rivera, Pearl Urena, Antonio Alfaro, Cynthia Quintanilla, Victor Diaz, Dinorah Castro, Pam Gomez, Evette Lara, Alex Henderson. Steve and Kathy, great job in just making it happen! Also a special shout out to Zav Dadabhoy and the entire Student Affairs Team for aggressively moving the SSSP work on campus.

Institutional Learning Outcomes:

Do you know our Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs)? Currently they are on page 49 of the BC catalog. This term John Gerhold and the ILO team (Janet Fulks, David Neville, Kimberly Van Horne, John Carpenter, Marcus Duarte-Smith, Heidi Forsythe, Shane Jett), have created a portal into the descriptive ILOs by using four key words to help us remember them. See image created by David Koeth to denote that students who complete a degree at BC will (1) think critically (2) communicate effectively (3) demonstrate competency in a field of knowledge and (4) engage productively in all levels of society.

Improving Student Success through Better Placement and Multiple Measures:

This semester, Janet Fulks worked with a large group of faculty, administrators, counselors and advisors to provide better placement for our incoming students with a goal to increase student success. That work began with some assumptions: 1) Research indicates that single big stakes test is
not a good measure of our student’s knowledge and skills yet BC’s placement processes rely primarily on a single placement test score.

2) Testing predicts how well students will do on tests, but course work predicts how successful well students will be in courses.

3) Placing a student too low greatly reduces their probability of achieving a degree, certificate or transfer.

4) Relying upon multiple measures, particularly inclusion of high school transcripts greatly increases the probability of placing students at the correct level.

This work produced a set of multiple measures for reading, math, English, and ESL to use in conjunction with the test scores for placement. This semester when we applied the multiple measures to incoming high school students for fall 2014, the benefits included a more diagnostic placement that directed students to the appropriate compressed and accelerated coursework, as well as bumping students up to higher level courses based upon successful high school coursework. See pie chart.

As part of the effort to fully matriculate a specific cohort of students, placement testing was carried out at the high schools which resulted in an unexpected finding; it appears that students do significantly better when tested where they learn. Therefore students ended up placing higher when the testing location is more familiar. To date this project resulted in 820 student semesters saved as a result of higher level placements. See bar graph. We will track these students over the next two years to see how they perform in their courses in subsequent terms.
Achieving the Dream (ATD):

The ATD team has submitted our ATD implementation plan for year 2. They have identified two priorities for the college:

**Priority 1:** Improved Matriculation Rates among FTITC Students (First Time in This College).
New students will complete each of the four steps/services to become fully-matriculated students (Orientation; Assessment/Placement, Educational Planning, and Accessing Student Support Services/Ongoing Advising)

**Priority 2:** Improve Pre-Collegiate Course Placement, Progression and Completion:
Creating processes that allow students to more accurately place in collegiate or pre-collegiate courses. For students assessing into pre-collegiate level courses, streamline completion timeline and reducing time to entry into college-level courses through accelerated curricula.
Thank you Manny Mourtzanos and the rest of the team for your work on moving BC’s student success agenda through ATD. Team members: Primavera Arvizu, Pam Boyles, Vicky Coffee, Janet Fulks, Connie Gonzales, Sue Granger-Dickson, Brian Hirayama, Manny Mourtzanos (Team Lead), Pat Serpa, Sue Vaughn. ATD website: http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about/achieving-the-dream

**BC’s Educational Master Plan (EMP) and Mission Statement is being reviewed:**

BC is in the process of reviewing and updating our Educational Master Plan (EMP) as well as our Mission statement. There are two teams focused on these two pieces of college-wide work and have set up website so that you can track the work as it progresses:

**EMP Update:** This team’s work is being led by Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, Chief instructional Officer. Check out the website at: http://committees.kccd.edu/bc/educational-master-plan. The website includes our current EMP (2011-2014) which is a 173-page document that focuses on information about demographic and workforce trends as well as space utilization etc. The new updated master plan will focus more on our Educational Programs and their plans for the next three years. We will adopt a bottom-up approach with the creation of a CTE Plan, a Transfer Plan, and a Pre-collegiate Plan which are the three components of our mission. The three plans will then roll up to form the Educational Master Plan for Bakersfield College.

**Mission State Review:** This work is being led by Kate Pluta, co-chair of ASC and a team made up of Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, Zav Dadabhoy, Janet Fulks, John Gerhold, Manny Mourtzanos, Corny Rodriguez, Tine Johnson (or designee). Check out the website at: http://committees.kccd.edu/bc/mission-review-team

The draft revised mission is posted for your review and feedback:

*Bakersfield College provides opportunities for students from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds to attain degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer. Our challenging and supportive learning environment fosters students’ abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills in order to engage productively in their local and global communities.*

**College Committee Calendar**

Last year, Jennifer Marden set up an campus calendar that included all the campus-wide committee meetings. I wanted all of you to know that these are open meetings and each and every one of you might want to attend at least one meeting in a year so you get a sense of how the work at the college moves through our systems. I believe that this
understanding is important to have an engaged community here at BC. [https://committees.kccd.edu/bc/](https://committees.kccd.edu/bc/). Thank you Shannon Musser and Jennifer Marden for keeping this updated. If you have dates that you want to flag for the campus, please send an email to Jennifer or Shannon. We have got to tap more into the power of crowdsourcing here at BC.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

May 8, 2014: Board of Trustees meeting at Cerro Coso College  
May 8, 2014: Chicano Commencement Ceremony in the evening  
May 9, 2014: Honor reception in the evening  
May 16 – Centennial Commencement

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

With Renegade pride and collegiality,

sonya
See all issues of Renegade Roundup online