...on Student Success, Governance, and the Centennial Gala

September 26, 2013

Colleagues:

Let me start by recognizing Becki Whitson for an incredible Alumni barbecue on September 18, 2013.

A few updates:

College Council

Please take a moment to check out the College Council website at https://committees.kccd.edu/bc/committee/collegecouncil

College Council has been deliberate in identifying the items that we “should do” rather than “could do” in the development of its 2013-2014 work plan. The members of College Council are being attentive to engaging the different constituent groups to ensure that we have diverse voices shaping the direction of the work. To that end, College Council has reviewed and revised its charge to include guiding the work of the institutional initiatives on campus with the focus on making progress on the six goals. The Strategic Focus was presented at Opening Day in August, and you can read it online. The College Council charge is:

"College Council is a collegial, consultative, and oversight body designed to serve the good of the College. The group facilitates timely, factual, and clear communication between constituents and the President. It provides recommendations to the President on college wide matters. The Council oversees implementation of the Strategic Plan and ensures the institution uses ongoing and systematic planning and evaluation to refine its key processes and improve student learning."
The major effort of College Council has been to develop a work plan which guides the group’s efforts. The new work plan includes:

- Investing in Professional Development of College Council members as well as of all employees.
- Allowing time for reflection and discussion of key issues facing the college.
- Tracking progress and evaluating the work of the college as it relates to the Strategic Goals and making recommendations for increased integration, convergence, effectiveness, efficiency, and reduced duplication where appropriate.
- Engaging the campus community through active participation and sharing successes.

**Calendars with key dates**

In order to flag key dates for the campus, the students, and the community, we now have an institutional master calendar in addition to the academic calendar and the events calendar. Bookmark this master calendar so you can note, in advance, key meetings/conversations that are scheduled and can plan to participate in those events.

Academic Calendar: [http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about/academic_calendar/](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about/academic_calendar/)

Events Calendar: [http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about/calendar/](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about/calendar/)

Master Calendar: [http://tinyurl.com/ms2dnyv](http://tinyurl.com/ms2dnyv)

**Student Success Update**

The work of the college related to student success is moving at a fast and furious pace with a plethora of small and large projects and initiatives. Amber and Shannon are working on two websites (student success and data) to continue to make visible the work that is happening across the campus. In addition, College Council supported my proposal to create a Student Success Stewardship Team (SSST) to connect the work of student success across the campus and bring cohesiveness to and convergence of the various initiatives on campus. Specifically the work is tied to the strategic goal #1: Student Success and the three strategic initiatives that are tied to this goal—Student learning, Student Progression and Completion, and Institutional Capacity building. The strategy map for this goal describes the initiatives and the data strands associated with tracking progress on the work.
In October of last year, when I accepted the position of President, there were several vacancies in administrative positions, many of them filled by interim administrators who were retired from other institutions. I knew that what I needed during my initial months at BC was to work with an administrative team of individuals who were committed to the college and were here for the long haul; a transitional team for 18 months to give us the time and stability to consider the organization structure based on the priorities of the college, its values, and the creation of a working and learning environment that supports our diverse student and staff population. The idea of having the Bakersfield College Administrative Transition Team (BCATT) was formed and 29 individuals responded to the email with a statement of interest to serve the college in this capacity. As a result of the surge of respondents and the enthusiasm and commitment each showed for the college, we had several take on leadership responsibilities, either in a paid capacity or as part of “other duties as assigned”. Here is a list which is not comprehensive—Liz Rozell, Leah Carter, Janet Fulks, Andrea Garrison, Kate Pluta, Jennifer Marden, Vicki Coffee.

This fall College Council is launching the administrative reorganization work which will conclude on October 31st. The taskforce is chaired by three college council members (Pam Boyles, Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, Jennifer Marden) and have representatives appointed by the Academic Senate and CSEA.
1. Classified: Bernadette Martinez (Counseling); Heather Skibinski (Financial Aid), Connie Gonzales (MESA)
2. Faculty: Ann Tatum (English), Brent Damron (HPE), Alice Desilagua (Counseling), John Giertz (Communication),
3. Management: Todd Coston (IT, Admin Services, Professional Development), Leah Carter (CTE), Sue Vaughn (Student Affairs)
4. Students: TBD
5. Budget Analyst: Laura Lorigo

Here is the website with some preliminary information. Materials will be added as the work progresses. [https://committees.kccd.edu/bc/reorganization-task-force](https://committees.kccd.edu/bc/reorganization-task-force)

**Centennial Gala**
Have you purchased your tickets to the Centennial Gala yet? Why not?!

The Gala will be on Friday, October 25 in the Gil Bishop Sports Center, and our planning team promises a night like no other! We will enjoy a delicious dinner from Bakersfield College’s outstanding Culinary Arts and Food Services teams, live music, dancing, a live auction, and extraordinary company. Tickets are $150 per person, and you can still use payroll deduction through the Foundation!

The following evening (October 26) is Homecoming, so encourage your friends and family to make a weekend of it. Sponsorships, including free tickets to the Gala, are available. Remember, no general fund money will be spent on Centennial events. It is important events like the Gala are well attended. If you know of a business or individual who might
want to sponsor the Centennial, please contact Mike Stepanovich.

That’s all for now…. Until next time.

With Renegade pride and collegiality,
Sonya