Hard to believe that the Fall semester is almost over - two more weeks. Going into this Thanksgiving long weekend, I feel exhausted yet content and full as I reflect on all we have done over the last four months....actually over the last 11 months. In re-reading our Core Values (thank you Wesley for giving us the words and David for giving us the design) I felt we have lived our Core Values in our work lives and as we engaged with each other and with our students. Here is our Core Value on Community.

**Community**

We commit to the wellbeing of all members of our community; we maintain strong ties with the surrounding community, and we respond to their needs by serving as an open institution which engages all students, faculty, and staff; in our college, we have built and continue to build an environment in which all members participate as a community through democratic engagement.

I am so thankful to be back at Bakersfield College. I am thankful to work side-by-side with you on so many projects. Projects like the Strategic Focus, Accreditation, Data, Learning Outcomes, Student Success, Technology, Diversity, Centennial Celebrations ......... Your energy and dedication to our student inspire me. Each and every one of you has been willing to step up and lead or participate as we work together and plan for the future. Thank you!

**Associate Degrees for Transfer**
You may have already heard, but Bakersfield College now has four Associate Degrees for Transfer completely approved, and five more in the hopper awaiting their final vetting. However, we must do more. Last week, at the Community College League of California conference, I learned Bakersfield College is in the lower 20% of community colleges statewide with completion of AA-T and AS-T degrees. We have a goal of 20! Let’s do it. Let’s do it now in time for Board approval in February.

So far, more than 1,000 degrees which guarantee transfer have been developed in California, and it is important that Bakersfield College provides this opportunity to our students. See the video to the right for one student’s success story with an Associate Degree for Transfer.

**New Child Development Program**

The Bakersfield College Child Development Center has an additional program on campus. The Child Development Center is offering a three-hour state preschool program for children 3-5 years of age. The program runs from 8-11 a.m. or noon - 3 p.m. and is free or low cost to income eligible families. The Child Development Center also offers child care for college students between the hours of 7:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Families can come by the center and pick up an application, download an application online, or call 661-395-4369 for additional information.

**Coming Soon – First Generation Film**

Remember, 80% of our students are first generation. Early in the Spring term, we will be screening *First Generation*, a film of four high school students who set out to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to their families and communities by pursuing a college education. What’s more, Cecelia (pictured left), one of the students featured in the film, is from Bakersfield, and attended Bakersfield College! Watch your email for details on dates, times, and locations. Check out the film trailer for a
sneak peek at this important film.

**Issues impacting students:**

*Parking Fees:* While primarily affecting students, it is important that you are aware of a change to parking on campus. Starting with the Spring 2014 semester, all student parking on campus will be $40, and there will no longer be free parking in the southwest lot. We are working to let students know of this change, but there will be questions.

*US Bank Financial Aid and Debit Cards for Students:* Starting in Spring, Bakersfield College students will have a new provider for their direct deposit financial aid awards. The Kern Community College District has partnered with US Bank for Renegade Cards for our students. These cards, which serve as a student identification card and a debit MasterCard, will be directly mailed to students. It is designed as a smart solution to managing college expenses and it will speed up the financial aid refund process beginning this spring. Because it is not a credit card, there is no risk of running up debt, and you can only spend what they have in your account. We will be communicating directly to students about this card and what they need to do to receive one.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

December 4-20 – Jamie Oliver Food Foundation’s Big Rig Tour at Bakersfield College

December 6th, Friday: 8:30 to 10:30 – College Council meeting. Presentation on Program Review and Closing the Loop on resource requests (both personnel requests and non-personnel requests).

December 6th, Friday – *Song of Light* winter concert led by Jen Garrett at the First Presbyterian Church downtown at 7:30 p.m.

December 7th, Saturday – 6:00 to 9:00. Revival of the BC Holiday Party. *RSVP by this Saturday!*

December 23rd to January 1st – Closure to the public and/or operational closures: On Dec 23rd (Monday) Bakersfield College will be closed to the public. However, this will not be an operational closure.

Dec 24th – Jan 1st – The Board of Trustees has determined that there will be an operational closure, in conjunction with the Board approved Christmas and New Year’s holidays, throughout the District from December 24, 2013 through January 1, 2014. All Campuses and the District Office will be closed during this period.

January 2nd – Offices will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

January 17th, Friday – Spring Opening Day
That’s all for now..... Until next time.

With Renegade pride and collegiality,
sonya

See all issues of Renegade Roundup online