Renegade family,

As we continue in-person operations, I wanted to highlight how drastic the situation in Kern County is and remind everyone why it’s so important to follow the COVID-19 protocols while you are on campus.

The Kern County COVID-19 case rates over the holiday weekend were significantly higher than last year. This morning, Kern County Public Health reported that 1,911 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed over Labor Day weekend.

From September 1st and September 7th this year, there were a total of 3,827 COVID cases confirmed by Kern County Public Health—an average of 547 new cases per day.

Over the same period last year there were only 550 COVID cases—an average of 79 new cases per day per data compiled by Kern County Public Health’s COVID-19 dashboard.

For more information about our COVID-19 guidelines on the Sept. 7 deadline for receiving a first vaccination, please visit the COVID-19 information website.

### Pandemic Taking a Financial Toll on Local Hospitals

Despite hospitals throughout the county being filled with COVID-19 patients, many of Kern County’s healthcare providers are feeling an economic impact due to the pandemic. Representatives from Kern Medical, Memorial Hospital, and the Kern County Health Care District are quoted in an article outlining how rising costs and falling revenues coupled with diminishing state and federal resources are making it difficult for local hospitals to manage a third wave of COVID-19 patients.

### Cities With Higher Vaccination Rates in California See Severe COVID Cases Tapering Off
While the third wave continues in the Central Valley, areas of Southern California and the Bay Area with high vaccination rates are starting to see a decrease in hospitalizations. COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state overall have decreased for five consecutive days while Kern County is recording hospitalization highs, according to the LA Times. However, experts warn that we could see cases going up again across the state after Labor Day weekend.

**Extra Campus Pass Monitoring**

As part of our Renegade shared responsibility, to assist the campus community, the BC COVID Response Team is strategically placing staff members at various locations around campus, from Monday through Thursday from 9am to 1pm. Some locations may include but are not limited to Language Arts, Cafeteria, Business Building, Humanities, SE/MS, Fine Arts, etc.

The campus pass monitoring program is a partnership with Knights Events Management to assist students to complete the daily health checker via the KCCD Campus Pass App in order to receive their Campus Pass to show faculty and staff as they enter the classroom/office.

As a reminder, to maintain the health and safety of our community, students need to have a Blue or Green Pass in order to enter any campus facilities. If a student has a Red Pass, please ask them to step outside and call the BC COVID Hotline at 661-395-4773.

The Hotline is available from 9:00AM to 3:00PM Monday to Thursday. Otherwise, have them email covid19@bakersfieldcollege.edu for more assistance.

You can also email the COVID Team directly with the names, phone numbers, and BC ID Numbers.

---

**Student Services are Open and Assisting Students**

Faculty, staff, and fellow administrators, please encourage students to seek support by visiting one of the following:

**Student Services Center: A one-stop center for essential “in-person” support**

The Student Services Center brings several departments to one convenient location in CSS 151. Students can get support from Admissions and Records, Financial Aid and Scholarships, EOPS, CARE, CalWORKS, NextUp, AB540, Early College, and all Welcome Center services such as enrollment support, class scheduling, and troubleshooting. Hours of operation are:
• Monday - Thursday: 7:30AM to 5:00PM
• Friday: 8:00AM to 12:00PM

**Student Information Desk (SID)** for all general inquiries and support
The Student Information Desk is here to serve students virtually 6-days a week. Students can receive on-the-spot support with enrollment, account holds, academic advising, and more. Connect by visiting [https://bit.ly/bc-sid](https://bit.ly/bc-sid). Hours of operation are:

• Monday - Thursday: 8:00AM to 6:00PM
• Friday: 8:00AM to 12:00PM NOON
• Saturday: 9:00AM to 1:00PM

**Financial Aid Virtual Lobby** for all financial, scholarship, and aid needs
Students can visit the Financial Aid Virtual Lobby to speak with financial aid staff about BankMobile, verification, chromebooks, scholarships, or any other financial aid or support need. Connect by visiting [http://tiny.cc/falobby](http://tiny.cc/falobby). Hours of operation are:

• Monday - Thursday: 8:00AM to 5:00PM
• Friday: 8:00AM to 11:45AM

**Renegade Hub** for all technical, canvas, and online learning
The Renegade Hub is open virtually, by phone, and in-person to serve students with technical support. Students can connect in 1 of 4 ways:

• In-person at BC's Library, downstairs in front of L130
• Phone: 661-395-4477
• Email: renegadestudents@gmail.com
• Virtual through Starfish

Hours of operation are:

• Monday & Wednesday: 7:30AM to 11:00AM, and 4:00PM to 8:00PM
• Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00AM to 8:00PM
• Friday: 7:30AM to 2:00PM
• Saturday: 11:00AM to 3:00PM
• Sunday (Remote Options Only): 12:00PM to 3:00PM
Visit the BC 9/11 Monument in the Renegade Crossroads
As we approach the 20th anniversary of one of the most profound tragedies our country has ever endured, the attacks of September 11, 2001, Bakersfield College is ever mindful of each soul that was lost. We remember with gratitude the heroic actions and selfless sacrifices of the first responders that day and of the servicemen and women who went on to fight the War on Terror in the years that followed. Through this memorial monument, we wish to honor and pay tribute to all those who perished. We at Bakersfield College vow to remember them on this 20th anniversary and throughout the ages.

Bakersfield College invites students, staff, and the community to share in our tribute by visiting the Veteran Resource Center booth to pen a message of remembrance and affix it to a red memorial carnation provided by the BC Veteran Resource Center. The carnations will be placed at the foot of the Twin Tower memorial, which will be located in the quad throughout the week.

The Twin Towers Memorial Monument was a collaborative project by the BC VRC staff, designed and built by BC faculty, Jeremy Staat. BC Horticulture faculty, Lindsay Ono, provided the plants and rubble to complete the memorial. The base of the monument bears resemblance to the current memorial in New York where the twin towers once stood. There are nearly 3,000 welding tacks within the monument in honor of the souls lost that day. New life, hope and the tenacity of our country are represented by the foliage overcoming the rubble below the towers.
Renegade Spotlight on BC's Jeremy Staat

Last summer was a milestone for students and our community in a collaboration between Bakersfield College and CityServe. Students had the opportunity to participate in a work experience/internship project through free courses offered by BC. Collectively, students constructed a metal fence enclosing the back end of the CityServe facility entirely from scratch. This addition is the first phase of an outdoor welding lab housed at CityServe, scheduled to provide hands on welding experience for students. With instruction and leadership from supervisor and instructor Jeremy Staat students gained industry knowledge and valuable hands on experience of welding techniques and processes. This unique project is only the beginning of the support for our community and the success of many more future students. This opportunity provides students with real industry experience through participating in free non-credit courses leading to achieving certificates and career opportunities.

Ag/Water/Energy (AWE) Education Series

The Energy Technology Transfer and Workforce Development initiative launched a new webinar series bringing together experts and stakeholders in natural resources for Kern County.

For the first edition of the Ag/Water/Energy Education series, Kern County Farm Bureau Executive Director Romeo Agbalog started off by introducing Roger Aines, a scientist from Lawrence Livermore laboratories who talked about the rich potential for biomass and carbon sequestration projects in Kern County.

Patricia Poire, Executive Director of the Kern Groundwater Authority, helped viewers understand California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Finally, Joe Ashley from the California Resources Corporation shared how water used in oil production could be repurposed into irrigation for crops. James McGarrah, an associate dean here at BC, moderated a Q&A discussion with all of the panelists at the end of the webinar.
Renegade Football Returns

Football season is back and fans will be returning to Memorial Stadium on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 6pm as the Renegades face off against the El Camino Warriors!

On the anniversary of September 11th, the 'Gades will be honoring all first responders during half time and all first responders will be receiving free admission.

Renovations made to Memorial Stadium since 2019 include the remodeled concessions stands, new stadium lighting, and an HD video scoreboard which will enhance the game day experience at Memorial Stadium. Gates open to the public at 5pm.

More Renegade Athletics Taking Place This Week

- Tomorrow, BC's Men's Soccer will travel to Cerritos and play the Falcons at 4pm.
- On Friday, September 10, Men's and Women's Cross Country will travel to Oxnard College for the Oxnard Invitational at 10:00AM. Women’s Soccer will host Cuesta College at Bakersfield College Soccer fields at 4:00PM.
- Wrestling will return to play after not competing in since 2019. They will host Victor Valley in the Gil Bishop Sports Complex at 6:00PM. Then return Saturday morning to host the Bakersfield College Duels at 10:00AM.

BC at the Vineyards

Last week, BC's Rural Education, Adult Education, and CTE teams collaboratively kicked off the 4th Annual BC at the Vineyards project.

This lifechanging work done in collaboration with the California Farmworkers Foundation, sees members of our campus family hitting the road to visit local fields and share educational opportunities available at BC for farmworkers and their families.

The teams were able to connect with over 1000 farm workers and over 100 farmworkers requested additional information to enroll. Enrollment workshops will be held at various rural locations to serve these new Renegades.
Reflections from Outside by Sara Wallace

Sara Wallace, one of BC's English faculty, has published another entry on her blog titled: “Reflections from Outside”. She has been working as a full-time instructor at a total of five different prisons since Fall 2019.

Her blog is a reflection about doing this important work. The Inmate Scholars Program is a few years old, and this semester is including face-to-face classes as well as correspondence classes in five different prisons.

This entry was written before instructors were allowed to go back inside the prison and includes some tips about self-care during the past year. Wallace's observations and reflections about going back into the prison will be addressed in the next installment.

Read Reflections from Outside

What's New in the Center of Campus by STEM Dean, Stephen Waller

Here is the question that has been on the lips of many students on the Panorama campus this semester. “How do I get to...?”
They have started their trek across the campus for the 1st time since major construction projects began, and the campus looks like a maze of fences with construction zones everywhere. The most noticeable of these is smack-dab in the middle of campus, with a new three-story building. Now cloaked in drab green tarps, what is that about?

This is the caterpillar that will soon be an amazing butterfly (aka the new Science and Engineering building). This is the first instructional building on Panorama campus that is 100% funded by the voters’ approval of Measure J, giving BC about $400 million for new construction and much needed renovations. This building is unique in that it is more than a new instructional building. It is designed as a learning building.

First, some expected facts about this building.

- Twenty laboratory classrooms for biology, physical sciences, and engineering
- Three lecture classrooms
- A state-of-the-art robotics lab at the core of the building

Also, some unexpected learning-focused facts about this building.

- A multi-purpose “makerspace” is a showcase space on the west side of the 1st floor.
- On the east side of the 1st floor is amphitheater seating/steps with a central projection system for public presentations.
• Student group study spaces are throughout the hallways and in a 3rd floor general-use room.

• STEM learning is embedded in obvious and secret codes all over the building. Feel free to roam the building and discover something new without the need to walk into a classroom!

All of this is coming soon, so now is a good time to get excited to be on the Panorama campus in Spring 2022!

BC's Dreamer Open House

The AB 540 & Undocumented Students Program hosted the annual Dreamer Open House last month. The event is held every year to welcome new students to the college and introduce them to resources, staff, and their college peers. The United Farm Workers Foundation was invited to provide attendees with the latest information on immigration policies. Students had the opportunity to start developing their network of support amongst themselves in a workshop called Building Bridges. In the closing survey, students expressed the event was “very helpful for the first-year students that are coming to Bakersfield College,” and “it was fun and informative.” Overall students found the event to be informative, engaging and memorable.
Last Saturday, Chancellor Christian shared in her blog "KCCD leaders with our communities" how KCCD’s three campuses are doing bold things to support students and our communities. This week let’s carry on this bold spirit as we continue to support students through the fall semester.

I look forward to communicating with you soon.

Zav Dadabhoy,
President, Bakersfield College