Renegade family,

Kern County Public Health reported 1,445 new cases of COVID-19 – a continuation of the surge. On Friday, September 17, there were 510 new COVID-19 cases confirmed.

For the first time since April, Kern County Public Health has released demographic data related to COVID-19 deaths in the county. Of the 1,515 COVID-19 deaths in Kern since the start of the pandemic, 56.4 percent were Hispanic or Latinx. Men accounted for 60.2 percent of all COVID-19 deaths in Kern County.

In the state overall, 67,612 people have died as of September 20, according to the California Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 dashboard. Of all COVID-19 deaths, approximately 45.8 percent were Hispanic or Latinx despite making up 38.9 percent of the total California population. Approximately 58.3 of the COVID-19 deaths in California were men.

**Bipolar Ionization Technology at BC**

Since COVID-19 spreads through airborne particles and droplets, the Maintenance and Operations team at BC has been proactive by installing cutting-edge bipolar ionization technology in HVAC systems throughout our campuses. Bipolar ionization is a process that actively releases positive and negative oxygen ions into the air via electrified tubes in the air ducts. The ions attach to airborne particles and breath droplets, breaking down the molecular structure of bacteria and virus cells while neutralizing all odorous gases and aerosols. In the picture below, Jim Coggins, Maintenance and Operations manager inspects a unit in the Language Arts building.

Schools across the country have installed bipolar ionization systems, which can reduce 99.9% of microbes in the air in a matter of minutes. Bipolar ionization is also in use at several major international airports, including LAX, New York’s LaGuardia airport, and O’Hare in Chicago.

For more information about the various safety measures we’ve instituted for in-person services at BC, visit the COVID-19 Information website.
Sanitization and PPE Resources Available to BC Faculty and Staff

Each classroom and office space is equipped with a “PPE box” containing masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and cleaning equipment. To request N95 masks or any additional equipment to your classroom or office space, fill out a work order with Maintenance and Operations via MySchoolBuilding, or go to the M&O Office to pick up your N95 or KN95 mask.

Additionally, the custodial team with Maintenance and Operations have increased their cleaning schedule to clean indoor spaces twice a day, scrubbing all desks and surfaces while sweeping and vacuuming the floors in every classroom and office. Our custodians work hard to keep our spaces safe and clean, and I’m grateful they are so responsive to the necessary sanitation and cleaning protocols in place at BC.

What Happens on November 1?

This is a reminder that the COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement deadline for being fully vaccinated is November 1. This gives plenty of time for those who have only received their first dose to follow up and be fully vaccinated.

After November 1, all individuals who have not verified their full vaccination status or been granted an exemption will receive a red pass on their KCCD Campus Pass app and will not be permitted to access district property. For more information about the vaccine requirement, including Q&A’s, visit the KCCD Coronavirus Update page.

BC Continues Efforts to Get Kern County Vaccinated

The Student Health and Wellness Center continues to offer COVID vaccination and testing clinics in the Fireside Room from 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Thursday.

In late August, SHWC held a community vaccination clinic at Bright Beginnings Daycare in coordination with our host, Temple Beth El. More recently, the BC
SHWC received a $55,000 grant from the CalVax Grant program to support vaccination efforts in targeted rural and under-vaccinated communities. Special thanks to Drs. Stephen Waller and Bonita Steele for their invaluable assistance in securing this grant.

In addition to these vaccination efforts, the SHWC continues to provide regular medical, health, and counseling services to all BC students.

Anyone wishing to volunteer at BC SHWC COVID vaccination and testing clinics is encouraged to contact 661-395-4336 or email the Center Director, Charles Collom.

BC's Nursing Ranked 8th in CA for LVN Program, 23rd in State for ADN Program

BC's LVN program has been ranked #8 in the state by Nursing Schools Almanac. The College’s Associate Degree in Nursing program also ranked high, earning the #23 spot on its respective list. The 2021 ranking was based upon the program's National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCLEX) pass rate among first-time test-takers over a certain period of time.

Over the past two years, BC’s leadership made a concerted effort to increase the size of our programs to meet community demand for licensed nurses.

“This year's ranking by Nursing Schools Almanac reaffirms what we’ve known at Bakersfield College for decades,” said BC’s Dean of Instruction over Nursing, Carla Gard. “BC offers quality education, giving students from all backgrounds the opportunity to go on and do great things in the career field of their choice. I am so proud of our nursing faculty, staff, and of course, our students who continue to do amazing work.”

BC's Financial Aid Provides Over $38 Million and Counting in Emergency Funds

The BC Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships has been a lifeline for students during these challenging times. Last year, more than $120M in funds were awarded to students. This year, more than $38M in emergency funding and other sources have already been disbursed to students in need. At this rate Financial Aid is on track to surpass last year’s mark.
In addition to emergency funding through various Federal and State sources, our students have access to many other financial aid resources available to address their diverse needs, including:

- Dreamer Emergency Relief Funds
- CalFresh Emergency Funds
- Book Advances
- Barnes and Noble Scholarships
- Chromebooks
- Finish Line Scholars

Please continue to refer students to us for support. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are available for:

**In-person services:**
Monday - Thursday: 7:30AM - 5:00PM  
Friday: 8:00AM - 11:30AM

**Online services** ([http://tiny.cc/falobby](http://tiny.cc/falobby)):
Monday - Thursday: 8:00AM - 4:00PM  
Friday: 8:00AM - 11:45AM

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**Early College Industrial Automation Academy**

As a part of the Industrial Automation Early College Summer Academy, students took a tour of BC’s classrooms with various program faculty.

Students visited four different industry sites for tours and more information about career opportunities. They also created a customized educational plan with a BC advisor to see how they can complete a bachelor’s degree in Industrial Automation at BC.
The Scoop on Renegade Athletics

It was a busy winning weekend for our student athletes! This past Friday, Men's Soccer hosted the Santa Barbara City College Vaqueros. The Renegades found a way in the second half to come out on top, 1-0, and give the Vaqueros their first loss of the season.

Freshman, Anthony Miron, came up big for BC as he scored a driving goal from the halfway line to beat SBCC's goalkeeper to the punch.

Later that same evening, Volleyball hosted the #5 ranked, Moorpark College and swept the Raiders in three sets!

On Saturday, over 250 Renegade friends and family members traveled to Huntington Beach to watch the football team play a thrilling game until the end. Renegades beat the Rustlers by an extra-point kick that would haunt Golden West for the rest of the game. Football will travel to Mt. San Antonio this Saturday with a 3-0 record.

For more details about this weekend, visit gogades.com.

This week the Renegade Cross Country team will host their Bakersfield Invitational at Hart Park on Friday, September 24, at 1:00PM. Renegade fans are welcome to come out and cheer the team.

Renegade Star: Spotlight on Ronnie Wrest

We have faculty doing great things at Bakersfield College, much like Ronnie Wrest, art faculty and co-director of The Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery. Ronnie has always been an advocate for inclusivity, incorporating art from diverse artists into his classroom and bringing them to campus for (virtual) events. Last year, he hosted Quique Rivera, with the goal of showing students real-life success stories from people who share similar backgrounds. He said, "It is my hope that our students would feel inspired by these artists as our students overcome their own struggles, especially with everything we are facing these days. Also, it is my goal to expose our students to a diversity of artistic communication that they may not have otherwise encountered in their daily lives."
Save the Date for Upcoming Peace Day Webinar

The Bakersfield College Peace Initiative will host a virtual gathering on Tuesday, September 21 at 4:00PM as part of the United Nations International Day of Peace. The event will feature short speeches by local peacemakers, musical performances, and will be the first in a series of other activities in the coming months. The program will premiere on BC’s YouTube Channel.

Speakers will include:

- Dr. Kathleen Murphy, Pediatric ICU Physician
- Dr. Portia Choi, Physician and Poet
- Karen Goh, Mayor of Bakersfield
- Traco Matthews, Community Leader
- Neeraj Rama, Gandhi Committee for Truth and Nonviolence

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate September 21 as a period of non-violence and cease-fire and is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace.

The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world.” As we heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthy.

Levan Events for Hispanic Heritage Month

The Levan Center is proud to present its first of two webinar talks this year, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. This Wednesday, the Levan Center presents Romina Ruvalcaba, UC Merced Professor of History and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, who will give a talk titled Our Ranchero Roots: A History of the Mexican Rancho, Development, and Emigration.

Hispanic Heritage Month takes place each year from September 15 through October 15, and BC’s Norman Levan Center for the Humanities is honored to celebrate this month each year by
hosting multiple events that explore the history, cultures, and experiences of Hispanic persons, both in the US and abroad.

Undocumented Student Action Week

The week of October 18, 2021 is “Undocumented Student Action Week.” This statewide-wide campaign is focused on advocating, supporting, and providing resources for undocumented student population. More information about webinars, speakers, and activities will be announced!

Keeping Up with Workforce Development

In a recent Workforce Development newsletter, the headlining article shared how KCCD and BC are leading the way as we develop a sustainable workforce that will carry us well into the future. Here is an excerpt:

KCCD, BC to lead effort to build Kern's future workforce

*Kern County features abundant natural resources and diverse communities but also faces many economic, environmental and social challenges. As the economy changes in response to technology, climate and market demand, Kern needs a vision for economic diversification and a strategic plan to generate the workforce needed for its future economy.*

*To do this, Bakersfield College and Kern Community College District (KCCD) faculty and staff applied for and received a grant from the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) to develop an industry-led, community- and worker-centered strategic workforce development plan.*

*The work, known as the High Roa...
with additional partners including Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) and California State University Bakersfield (CSUB).

The coalition will engage community members, experts, workers and industry leaders to assess training needs and identify opportunities to develop a "High Road" workforce. High Roads employment is a term used by the CWDB to describe high-quality job opportunities that benefit workers, communities and the environment. These jobs pay family-supporting wages, provide stable work hours, health insurance and paid time off, and are accessible to all.

Over two years, the coalition will conduct work in three major areas: industry and workforce research, coalition-building to deepen regional collaboration and identification, implementation, and expansion of High Roads training. The process will have a special emphasis on including participants who have historically been left out of the mainstream economy -- such as rural residents, members of low-income communities and communities of color.

Photos from the Faculty Art Gallery

The 2021 Bakersfield College Art Faculty Exhibition is currently running through October 22 and is a can’t miss event at the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery in the Bakersfield College Library. Eleven amazing faculty artists are featured with 18 works that include photography, acrylic and watercolor painting, paper collage and woodblock print, something for everyone. Fall 2021 hours of operation are Monday - Thursday: 1:00PM - 4:00PM.

Last Saturday, Chancellor Christian shared in her blog that good news is all around us at KCCD. This week, let's continue to support students through the fall semester.

I look forward to communicating with you soon.

Zav

Zav Dadabhoy,
President, Bakersfield College
Have a story to share?
Submissions for the President's weekly update are due each Friday by noon.
Send in your submission online!

Make a submission!

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