Renegade Colleagues:

When I think about the original students who gathered over a century ago to attend the very first classes at Bakersfield College, I wonder what they would think of BC today….

Those thirteen students desired to learn from our founding faculty as they worked toward something spectacular - building a better life. Since those humble beginnings, many things have changed.

- We moved to our current campus in 1956
- Our enrollment continually grows
- We have a campus at Delano
- In 1956 we had ten athletic sports and now we have double the number, twenty.
- We have more programs and services available for our students.
- And they’ll be the ones to power the workforce and set the stage for future generations.

When I started as President, in January 2013, I began to see our incredible campus through new eyes. We were launching our centennial celebrations by recognizing our prestigious history, but to be honest… my favorite part was when we used this as a platform to start dreaming about the next 100 years of BC and determine how we could contribute to the future success of this great institution.

Our campus has over 30 buildings, many of which are aged and their current condition cries out for expansion and modernization. Looking back, I wondered what care and maintenance had been done over the last 50 years… and looking forward for the next 50 years and beyond, we developed our comprehensive Facilities Master Plan.

When you are talking about the needs of 153-acres and satellite locations, with buildings over 50 years old, and the needs adding up to over $400M, the challenge is finding a
Our District Board of Trustees is seriously considering a potential bond measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

In a few short weeks on July 14th, a historic meeting of our Trustees will take place where they will consider a vote on the future of the bond. And we, at BC are ready! In anticipation and excitement, I’d like to share with you some of the activities we’ve been up to this year in preparation -

- First up, our Blue Ribbon Committee, chaired by Mayor Harvey Hall has been meeting regularly. Members have shown complete dedication to this project by conducting community outreach, giving presentations to partner organizations, collecting information, and accepting constructive feedback from the community. In addition to Mayor Harvey Hall, we have an incredible team including former congressman, Bill Thomas, serving as the senior advisor, Norma Rojas-Mora, Jay Roselieb, Pastor Hayward Cox, Jay Tamsi, Michael Bowers, Karen Thomson among many more.

- Select faculty, including Sarah Baron, have been busy offering presentations around our community. I’ve showcased a few of these presentations on my blog - I hope you’ve been following! Together, with our partner organizations, we can do incredible things for our community.

- A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to speak to the Bakersfield West Rotary Club. The club went all out with BC colors for the table decorations and traditional “flying saucer” cookies that have been a staple on BC’s campus for decades. It is so rewarding to see how much BC means to the community.

- Letters from BC is an e-newsletter which highlights the history and ongoing events of our campus as we prepare and look forward to creating A Better BC. Our 4th email will be going out sometime soon, so make sure to subscribe to Letters from BC at www.abetterbc.com to get these emails sent to your inbox!

It is no surprise to anyone who looks, that our current facilities and buildings require constant maintenance, and care. These efforts wouldn’t be possible without the leadership and dedication of our Facilities and Operations staff. As we talk about our ambitious plans and dreams, I know you all join me in thanking those responsible for taking care of our campus every day. These hardworking men and women do everything possible to keep our campus beautiful. A special thank you to our facilities and maintenance staff!
Our achievements thus far are a product of over 100 years of dedicated visionaries who supported the dream for student success and prosperity. Every day we pursue this same dynamic vision built upon the hard work of those who came before us.

Just like them, we have some big dreams and though it may sound irrational, our common goal is to really make this an even better place! I believe we can do it. We can make this an even better school, a better campus, and better Bakersfield. But, we can't do it alone.

Every friend, every gift, and every person who helps us is making it possible for Bakersfield College to be the place we imagine... One which breaks new ground for discovery, creativity, passion, and professional pursuit.

On July 14, 2016 the Board of Trustees will make a historic decision and November 8, 2016 will be a date imprinted in the Bakersfield College history books.

Let’s join together on this major undertaking, I know this will be the most significant one during my tenure as president, and make A Better BC.

That’s all for now.....until next time.

With Renegade pride and collegiality,

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