Kern Community College District Board of Trustees
Resolution in Support of SB 850
California Community College Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program

On motion of member ____________________, seconded by Member _______________________, the
following resolution is adopted:

WHEREAS, among the 20 most populated states, California ranks 19th in the percentage of high school
graduates who enroll directly in a four-year college or university and 17th in the percentage who enroll in
any college, including community colleges; and

WHEREAS, according to the Postsecondary Education Commission of California, the college-going rates
of residents in the Kern Community College District service area to any California public college or
university are below the State average; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report by the Public Policy Institute of California, the State of
California will fall one million college graduates short of employer demand by the year 2025 if we do
nothing to increase our current production of baccalaureate degree holders; and

WHEREAS, by 2018, 63 percent of job openings will require some college education and 33 percent will
require a bachelor’s degree; and

WHEREAS, there is demand for education beyond the associate degree in fields such as nursing, public
safety and technology for which a two-year degree is becoming inadequate; and

WHEREAS, community colleges have a proven record of meeting local workforce demands in applied
and technical areas, supporting underrepresented students and providing affordable, accessible quality
instruction; and

WHEREAS, 21 states have authorized their community colleges to award applied baccalaureate degrees
in some 465 fields including Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Computer Information Systems,
Agriculture Management, Energy Management, and Administration of Justice; and

WHEREAS, the California community Colleges Baccalaureate Study Group convened in 2013 by
Chancellor Brice Harris concluded that “the offering of baccalaureates by the California Community
Colleges merits serious review and discussion; and

WHEREAS, authorizing community colleges to offer limited, targeted applied baccalaureates would
increase access for underserved areas and populations in our district, benefit the local and state economy,
remove barriers to completion and compensate for the lack of university programs or capacity in certain
fields;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees
supports SB 850, which would allow select community college districts to offer baccalaureate degrees on
a voluntary basis as part of a pilot program.