My First Speech

Hello, my name is Matthew Frazer. I would like to start by thanking you for allowing me a few minutes to speak.

Bakersfield College has always had a large influence on me and my family. My introduction to BC started when I was a child which involved coming to the Renegade football games; all the way until watching my brother graduate last spring. These are just a couple memories I’ve had growing up in a city where everyone can call Bakersfield College home. Besides being in my 3rd and final year at BC, I am also a returning Renegade.

I first attended Bakersfield College for one semester in 2007 and then re-entered in fall of 2014. I am also a recently married man, advocate to the deaf community, athletics enthusiast, and most importantly a strong believer in our educational system and its values.

I wanted to share with you those aspects about myself for a few reasons. Because I am a returning student, I’ve had the chance to experience being a Renegade twice. However in that seven year gap, I’ve realized not many things have changed. Although I find comfort in the way Bakersfield College has managed to stay true to and excel its educational and core values, the physicality of BC has deteriorated on the other hand. The 1950s look is simply not cutting it for me anymore. Something was starting to stir inside of me as a member of the student body – I started to realize that my campus needed a path to modernization.

That brings me to the reason as to why I decided to run and was successfully elected to the seat President of the Bakersfield College Student Government Association (BCSGA). My motivation and intent was to bring a level of change to all my peers, from inside the classroom to the outside structure of our buildings. To do so, I
knew BCSGA would need a clear vision. A vision in which I imagine Bakersfield College students would have a heightened enthusiastic sense of pride for our Home of the Renegades campus. The best way to instill more pride is by having a campus infrastructure that meets the needs of the students for tomorrow.

Today I hear from students that we don’t have adequate classroom space, we don’t have enough sections of prerequisite classes, we don’t have clear easy paths of travel for my friends who are either blind or bound to a wheelchair, we don’t have study spaces for group work or study in quite areas, we don’t have enough lecture rooms for faculty to educate us, we don’t have efficient space configurations of science laboratories, we don’t have permanent academic fixtures at our Delano Campus, we don’t have the upkeep for my student athletes to champion on, we don’t have an acceptable space for my student veterans to call home, we don’t have a one-stop shop for student services where currently we have to go to 4 different buildings across campus to register for classes, we don’t have buildings that are LED certified, we don’t have proper security measures including a campus-wide security camera system, we don’t have, we don’t have, we simply don’t have things we need right now…

This leads me to our primary discussion today of our KCCD Bond. As of right now, my constituents feel as though our campus is "alright" but when asked if there is more we could do? The answer is always, yes. Students believed in the vision of a Better BC. I will gladly do everything I can to support the needs of my current and future Renegades.

That being said, I personally will be leading a student committee that is designated and determined to create awareness of our BOND while educating our over 26,000 Renegade peers. We have already started designing a full no-cost social media campaign and will strategically be attending various student meetings across campus.
Not only will we get student to register to vote, We will get them to the polls to vote YES on our future.

Because I truly believe the passing of this Bond will restore and reinvigorate pride within Renegade Community. It will restore and reinvigorate pride for past, present, and future Renegades.

WE ARE BC!