March 1, 2020

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**Our Vision for Early College**

- Every Early College pathway is clearly mapped from high schools to community college and into four-year institutions.
- Every high school student has an opportunity to earn at least 9 college credits by the time they graduate from high school.
- Every high school student understands what it takes to complete a college pathway.

**Program Growth**

**Early College Courses & Pathways:** Bakersfield College currently offers dual and concurrent enrollment courses at 31 public high schools in Kern County. During the 2019-2020 school year, a total of over 700 sections were offered across these schools, which is over 30% growth in section count from the previous year.

All Bakersfield College guided pathways are represented in the Early College program, with the largest number of offerings being in Personal and Career Exploration* because most high schools offer a Student Development course to each of their students in the 9th grade. (*- This course uses the Get Focused, Stay Focused curriculum and strategies to onboard students into Early College and guided pathways.) Limitations such as instructor availability and student age requirements make the Health Science, STEM, Public Safety Training, and Education pathways more challenging to offer at the high school level.

**Early College Students:** Enrollment in Early College courses offered at the high schools has grown over 760% in the last 5 years, with enrollments projected to be over 14,700 by the close of the 2019-2020 school year. Student headcount for this year is projected to be over 11,000 students, the majority of which are first-generation college students from low-income families.
Steady Success Rates: As participation continues to grow, student outcomes also remain above BC’s institution-set standard for success, proving that high school students are capable of meeting the rigor and expectations of the college-level courses. Factors such as supplemental instruction, additional time, and counselor intervention allow these students to get a successful start to their college pathway by beginning their college transcripts with high marks and sending them off to college after high school with a clear sense of what will be expected of them and what they will need to do to find continued success in their education.

Equitable Outcomes: Traditionally, the success rates of Latinx and African American students at BC have been below the 69.9% standard for success. While approximately 80% of all Early College students are Latinx and only 2% are African American, offering college courses to these student groups in high school has proven an effective strategy for closing the equity gap. Both ethnicity groups have succeeded at rates above the achievement rate of these student populations at Bakersfield College and proportionate to the entire Early College student population.

Class of 2018 Graduates: In the Spring of 2018, 28 Early College students from Wonderful College Prep Academy were awarded an Associate Degree for Transfer when they graduated from high school. To track the impact that Early College had on these students, as well as 47 of their peers who participated in Early College but did not complete a degree, BC obtained data from National Student Clearinghouse to evaluate students’ college-going rates and retention during their first year of college.
Looking at the Early College class of 2018, 86-87% of participating students went to college directly after high school. While both groups show high retention rates, students who completed a degree through the Early College program (“graduates”) were shown to be more likely than their peers (“non-graduates”) to retain enrollment through the second semester.

![College-Going Rates and Retention for Early College Graduates](image)

**Overall Benefits**

From the launch of the dual enrollment program in the Summer of 2014 to the now implementation of Early College across the county, over **23,000 students** have completed a total of approximately **90,000 college credits** right from their high school campus. Student savings to date in tuition alone exceeds 4.3 million dollars, with a total estimated savings of over **8.8 million dollars** when also including fees, materials, and transportation costs that are eliminated through the Early College model.

**Looking Ahead**

**Opportunities:**

- The Student-Centered Funding Formula incentivizes the expansion of dual enrollment allowing the college to grow programs like Early College as supported by the Chancellor’s Office.
- New memorandum of understanding created by KCCD will allow expansion of dual enrollment partnerships into private high schools beginning in Spring 2020.

**Considerations:**

- While tuition and fees are waived for Early College students, there is an immediate need to find funding sources for course materials.
- CCAP/Dual Enrollment legislation should not exclude courses with waitlists. This would allow schools to remove the requirement that courses be publicly listed and to raise the cap on units in which HS students may enroll.
- Community College instructor minimum qualifications should be reevaluated and/or revised to consider and include the qualifications of high school instructors to teach dual enrollment courses.