



# Bakersfield College President's Report

to the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees

February 12, 2015

## Changes in Attitude: Integrating Technology in Classroom Learning

Renowned cultural anthropologist Dr. Michael Wesch came to Bakersfield College as the featured keynote at the Learning Technology Conference on February 5th, a Learn@BC! event ([www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/conference/2015-bc-conference-on-learning-technologies](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/conference/2015-bc-conference-on-learning-technologies)). The evening prior to the conference Wesch gave an entertaining and inspiring community talk at the recently-

updated Indoor Theater. Wesch presented on *The End of Wonder in the Age of Whatever*, where he described his own journey in world a where we have become constantly connected through new media and technology. As an anthropologist he reflected on his earliest experiences living in an isolated community in New Guinea and how that shapes his understanding of what it means to be connected and in community for us today.



In his keynote address Wesch brought together the three worlds of anthropology, New Media Technology and the classroom—teaching and learning. Wesch described how students grow in understanding, from thinking that learning is about questions and answers, to understanding the role of ambiguity and the experience

## Department of Finance (DOF) Innovation Award Application

On January 9, 2015, BC submitted its application for the DOF Innovation Award Application. Over 25 individuals helped with the work. I would like to call out a few of them and extend a special thanks to them as they worked on the document from Hawaii, New Haven and other parts of the country: Kimberly Bligh, Michele Bresso, Amber Chiang, Anthony Culpepper, Janet Fulks, John Giertz, Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, Manny Mourtzanos, Kate Pluta, Oliver Rosales. Attached is the 24-page narrative of the application. Here is the 250-word abstract that captures the essence.

*“2013 was a year of institutional capacity building at Bakersfield College (BC) focusing on college-wide learning and leadership development. This set the stage in 2014, for substantial innovation and change driven by an urgent vision to improve student success. BC moved to disrupt the status quo and radically cultivate new approaches for educational progression from kindergarten through post-graduate employment by building durable and responsive networks with community partners. Fiscal sustainability, a focus on*



of wonder, and talked about ways that this growth can be nurtured using technologies of connectivity, collaboration and community.

On Thursday, February 5, we had two keynote speakers and several other speakers at breakout sessions. Breakout sessions guided attendees on a deeper exploration of the intersection between learning and technology.

Education specialists Dana Van Deirse and Amy Kauffman offered new philosophies and tips on how instructors can merge educational tech and newly-compiled data with some time-tested behavioral and attitudinal advice to get teens, young adults and returning students better poised for academic success. Meanwhile, tech innovators Steve and Debby Kurti explored the advances in 3D printing technology and the groundbreaking implications of open source, low cost means for replicating expensive scientific equipment and other specialized educational tools. Their DIY approach advocates not only a revolutionary opening of science and engineering fields, but the way all school subjects and disciplines are taught and experienced.

*data, and research-based practices were fundamental to this work. To improve the 15% baccalaureate attainment rate in a community with staggering levels of poverty (22%), BC inserted itself into the entire educational continuum. No longer waiting to welcome or manage whoever shows up, BC is working in new and collaborative ways, with regional high schools as well as groups like the NAACP to foster generational shifts through dialogue with parents about the critical need to read to infants. BC is offering high-touch services for students who lack familial support structures. BC is using Multiple Measures to place students in higher levels of English and math, redesigning curriculum in basic skills to move students into college-level work sooner; in Career and Technical Education to ladder certificates to create degree pathways; in general education to reduce units so that disciplines can develop Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT); and if approved, an Applied Baccalaureate in Industrial Automation. BC is positioned to realize these efforts because of a shift in leadership approach from hierarchical to distributed, aligned and grounded in connectivity.”*



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# Sustainability: A Better Bakersfield College, A Better Tomorrow

Every day, with every action taken at Bakersfield College, we live our Core Values, one of which is Sustainability. To support this value, Bakersfield College has engaged in a number of sustainability efforts: installing LED lighting on walkways and soffits, working with local organizations to provide paper and plastic recycling in campus offices, installing low-flow toilets in restrooms, addition of electric work vehicles, replacement of gas chillers with electric ones, and more. These green practices help Bakersfield College to reduce our environmental impact on the community we serve.



*Ramon Puga, Craig Rouse, Rachell Morehouse*

Further supporting the effort was late January's Sustainability Symposium ([www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/conference/sustainability-building-an-institution-for-the-future-generations](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/conference/sustainability-building-an-institution-for-the-future-generations)). M&O Manager Craig Rouse reinforced the sustainability message with attendees, placing focus on the college's role in practicing sustainability. Part of the symposium included community

organizations which provided important information and resources to attendees. These included Kern Regional Transit, Kern County Waste Management, Bike Bakersfield, CommuteKern, Golden Empire Transit and California Vanpool Authority. The major emphasis from these organizations is carpooling or use of public transportation.

Included in the Sustainability Symposium was a presentation by Mike Grover, senior vice president

for Bakersfield Association for Retarded Citizens (commonly known as BARC). Mike talked about the services available from BARC, and how BARC not only partners with the community to help with recycling, but provides essential training opportunities to Bakersfield's disabled residents. The big news of the day came when Mike announced that Bakersfield College, in partnership with BARC, would be bringing large bins back to the campus for community recycling.

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# Bakersfield College Named Baccalaureate Pilot Site by BOG of CCC

In December 2014, Bakersfield College completed the required application process and proposed the development of a Baccalaureate of Applied Science in Industrial Automation as part of the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program. This degree will provide students with the option to complete all required coursework for a Bachelor of Science degree in an area that is much-needed by the community Bakersfield College serves. Over the course of the application process, Bakersfield College obtained statements of support from more than 80 representatives of local businesses, education, and government to illustrate how strongly the greater Bakersfield community supported the college's application for the baccalaureate pilot program. Each of these statements of support is posted on the Bakersfield College website at [www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/baccalaureate-degree/letters-of-support](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/baccalaureate-degree/letters-of-support).



*Janet Fulks, Sandra Serrano, Sonya Christian*

Industrial automation represents the technology-driven business model of the 21st century. In today's industry, an engineering team is involved in developing new products or systems. These teams work with technologists who can apply scientific or technical knowledge in the design, manufacturing, and repair of automation systems. Bakersfield College's Baccalaureate of Applied Science will train students with the skill set that the technologist requires, meeting the needs of a number of local employers, including major local areas of agriculture, distribution, and manufacturing.

Bakersfield College will now develop the application criteria for students interested in the Baccalaureate of Applied Science in Industrial Automation program, with the goal of having the first cohort graduate in May 2018.



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## Making it Happen Program Recognized with Statewide Award

On January 21, 2015, the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges awarded Bakersfield College's "Making it Happen" program the 2015 Exemplary Program Award at their monthly meeting. Program lead, Dr. Janet Fulks, Bakersfield College's Interim Dean of Pre-collegiate and Student Success, Bakersfield College Academic Senate President Steven Holmes, Kern Community College District chancellor Sandra Serrano, and I were in Sacramento to accept the award on behalf of the Bakersfield College team.

Bakersfield College received first place in the 2015 Board of Governors' Exemplary Program Awards, which are sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, and recognizes outstanding community college programs which place importance on assisting students as they transition from high school to college. Los Angeles Pierce College and Santa Barbara City College received honorable mentions.

Developed by faculty and staff, Bakersfield College's "Making it Happen" program is a mentoring program that began as a holistic approach to better serve first-generation, economically disadvantaged students transitioning from rural high schools to college. Attached is the presentation that was made at the January 21st BOG meeting.

To help students in the "Making it Happen" program succeed, mentors are assigned to first-time, first-generation students, and the mentors represent faculty, classified staff, administrators. I have a mentee as well, a student from Shafter High School who is



*Sandra Serrano, Steven Holmes, Janet Fulks, Sonya Christian*

now in her second term at BC. The program structure involves the entire college community, and allows Bakersfield College to work collaboratively across departments, and between instruction and student services.

Bakersfield College designed "Making it Happen" from the ground up. The program begins by setting students on a path to success by placing them in the highest appropriate level of coursework, and has increased the number of students placed into higher level courses and shortened basic skills pathways. As a result of this altered strategy, in combination with basic skills curriculum revision, have saved students more than 571 semesters of work and about \$7 million in fees.

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## 7th Annual Sterling Silver Wows - Raises Money for Scholarships

Last weekend, Bakersfield College presented the seventh annual Sterling Silver dinner to support scholarship programs for the students in culinary arts and automotive technology programs. Dressed in finest cocktail attire for the annual soiree, all of the guests were a visual delight as they chatted to the strains of piano music provided by the talented BC Choir Director, Jennifer Garrett.

As the evening unfolded, a multitude of the community's finest leaders and greatest BC supporters enjoyed a multi-course meal with lovely wine pairings at every pass. We were honored by the presence of new Kern Community College District trustee Kyle Carter, who attended the event for the first time.

The energy and delight in the room only increased as the live auction festivities began with community-favorite and BC alumnus Paul Pavletich leading the cry for bidders. Attendees generously gave to the fundraising efforts that supported both the Culinary Arts and Automotive Programs this year. Thank you David Gay and Rick Kreiser who co-chaired the event. I hope we can have all members of the KCCD Board attend in 2016.





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# EquityTV Brings Educational Opportunity Straight to Students/Families

As part of our overall Equity emphasis at Bakersfield College, BC launched a new webcast series called BC-EquityTV. The series airs on [www.bakersfield.com](http://www.bakersfield.com) at 11 a.m. on Mondays and started on Monday, January 19. Each hour-long episode of BC-EquityTV provides important information, descriptions of services benefiting students, and local educational success stories—all designed to inspire potential students and their families and make the dream of higher education a reality. BC-EquityTV is a fusion of radio and television and the creation of an organic relationship with the viewers through casual conversation. A radio format brings familiarity and comfort to the presentation, while broadcast visuals support the development of a relationship with the community.



President Horace Mitchell. Subsequent weeks will focus on veterans, Latino students, and other special student groups such as Dream Act students, foster youth, and more.

BC-EquityTV is made possible through the creative work of a group of staff and volunteers who have been working

diligently since late fall to plan each episode and schedule guests. The leads for the project include: Amber Chiang, Odella Johnson, Corny Rodriguez, Lisa Kent, Paul Beckworth, Tina Mendoza, and Primavera Arvizu. The show is hosted by Christine Dinh O'Dell, who some of you may remember as a field reporter for KERO-TV 23 ABC before she left to head up video production for Stay Focused Ministries. Francis Mayer, who is the man behind the Athletics Department's Renegade Report is coordinating the overall project.

Over the 14-week BC-EquityTV schedule, we will feature special populations who are traditionally first-generation students, or who have barriers to education. In honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, we launched EquityTV with a focus on the local African American population, and featured guests, such as CSU Bakersfield

Tune in Mondays at 11 a.m. to see EquityTV with Bakersfield College by going online to [www.bakersfield.com](http://www.bakersfield.com). If you can't tune in, search EquityTV on the BC website for all shows.

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## Supporting the Community - BC at Chamber Dinner, MLK Breakfast

Just as Bakersfield College asks for support from the community for our initiatives, special events, and other activities, we support the community events where we are needed. This month, we attended the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce board installation dinner, Bakersfield Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast, and the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce event. With each event, Bakersfield College sends different staff members and students who can meet others, network, and represent Bakersfield College!



*Back - Amber Chiang, Valerie Robinson, Paula Parks, Gayle Anderson, Michele Bresso  
Front - Tom Gelder, Greg Lockard, Angie Paquette, Mary Jo Pasek*



*Back - Paula Parks, Marcus Duarte-Smith, Steve Watkin  
Front - Odella Johnson, Louise Phipps, Debra Strong, Denise Norris*



## Update on Athletics Achievements - Letter of Intent Day at BC

It's Spring, and that means our basketball teams are in the thick of conference play, while baseball, softball, men's golf, and track and field are just getting underway. In early February, BC Athletics joined community colleges and high schools across the nation and hosted a National Letter of Intent Signing Ceremony for football players Khalin Smith and Darren Adjei. Adjei, also an SGA Senator, accepted a scholarship to Cal Poly. He said he became a better football player at BC, but more importantly, he learned how to be a college student. Smith accepted a full-ride scholarship to the University of Idaho, a Division 1 school that opens its season against USC in the fall.



*Khalin Smith signs his letter of intent to University of Idaho*

BC Softball's new coach is Christie Hill, who set many records at Cal State Bakersfield as a pitcher and fielder before playing professionally for two years in Europe. The team is off to an impressive 4-0 start, including a wild 19-18 win over Cuesta College that saw the 'Gades down 12-5 at one point. Coach Hill says she has a special group of resilient ladies, like Trinity Lee, a pitcher who has gotten batters out in all four games this season!

### PLEASE JOIN US!

April 23  
Learn@BC!  
Student Equity Conference  
SPARC Indoor Theater

May 8  
Honor Reception  
Recognizing scholarship recipients  
and department award winners  
SPARC Outdoor Theater

May 15  
Commencement  
Memorial Stadium

call 395-4211 for information on these events

She's also handy with the bat, and hit a home run against Cuesta.

Coach Tim Painton revamped the Bakersfield College baseball roster, and it's already paying dividends. While the team currently sits at 2-2, every game has been decided by two runs or less, and he feels like it's a night and day difference from last year's team that failed to make the playoffs. Coach Painton says Frontier grad Harrison Smith is one of the better

hitters he's seen at BC, and he expects big things from the third baseman in the field as well.

Women's basketball continues to march toward the playoffs. They sealed up a 76-71 win over West LA Wednesday night and improved to 17-4 on the season. "West LA was very physical, but I felt like the only way to get them back was by scoring points," forward Nakia Page said. And she did, leading the 'Gades with a season-high 32 points and 16 rebounds!

Men's won a riveting 59-53 overtime victory against West LA Wednesday...point guard Jameik Riviere sank a clutch shot to send the game into extra time, and his teammates made sure it wasn't in vain. David Wooley came off the bench and scored 12 points to lead the team to victory. While Deandre Dickson remains among the top 20 scorers in the state, the team relied on no one man to win against West LA, and it'll require more efforts like that for them to qualify for the playoffs.

The women won 12 events while the men won 9 was the Bakersfield College Track Team absolutely dominated their season-opening Antelope Valley All-Comers Track Meet. Kaira Saunders, Lilana Portillo and Marilyn Quintero each won two events, while Cross Country standouts Jessica Campbell and Juan Calderon watched their success roll into the spring with wins in the 1500 and 800, respectively.

In closing, The Southern California Wrestling Alliance named Jack Murphy Wrestler of the Year for a historic season where he didn't give up a single offensive point and remained undefeated on his way to the 197 pound state title! Way to go, Jack!