



# Bakersfield College President's Report

to the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees  
June 11, 2015

## 101st Bakersfield College Commencement Celebrates Completion

On Friday, May 15, Bakersfield College celebrated the achievements of the class of 2015 at our 101st annual commencement exercises. It was great having two members of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees with us that evening – Romeo Agbalog and Kyle Carter. For the Bakersfield College team, commencement is the culmination of each student's academic career, and the realization of many hopes and dreams. For our trustees to see that realization in person, as each student walks across the stage to accept their diploma cover, is sure to make each trustees' hard work, sacrifice, and commitment as a member of the Board of Trustees something to be proud of.



Bakersfield College's class of 2015 was comprised of nearly 1,100 students who completed the requirements for an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate Degree for Transfer. About 700 students participated in the 2015 commencement exercises.

Looking back, Bakersfield College's rate of completion and number of students who participated in commencement is growing steadily. In 2014, nearly 1,100 students filed to graduate, and more than

600 participated in commencement. In 2013, nearly 1,000 students filed to graduate, and about 500 participated in commencement. In 2012, 968 students filed to graduate, and about 500 participated in commencement. While the unseasonably cool May weather may have boosted this year's commencement attendance, Bakersfield College's Commencement Committee is positive that our ongoing efforts to promote commencement participation among students will continue to improve attendance at this seminal event. I want to recognize the Commencement leadership team for their efforts: Amber Chiang, Sue Vaughn, Jennifer Marden, and Kristin Rabe.

## Enrollment Figures Show Bakersfield College Meeting Targets

With the state allocating growth dollars for 2015-2016 BC is well positioned to contribute to KCCD meeting this growth target. The Enrollment Report of June 10, 2015 shows a growth of 7.6% for Fall 2015 over Fall 2014. This puts KCCD as a whole at 3.6% with the target from the state set at 4.2%

Bakersfield College	Point-in-Time Comparison <sup>1</sup>							
	Summer - One Week Before				Fall - Seventh Week Open			
	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Diff	% Chg	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Diff	% Chg
Current Headcount	7,938	8,742	804	10.1%	13,290	14,072	782	5.9%
Duplicated Enrollments	10,803	11,970	1,167	10.8%	38,524	41,399	2,875	7.5%
Waitlisted Enrollments <sup>2</sup>	956	1,093	137	14.3%	4,522	4,686	164	3.6%
Current FTES <sup>3</sup>	1,324.3	<b>1,425.0</b>	100.7	7.6%	4,812.1	<b>5,176.0</b>	363.9	7.6%
Workload (FTEF)	82.6	90.3	7.8	9.4%	350.2	372.6	22.5	6.4%
FTES/FTEF <sup>4</sup>	16.0	15.8	-0.3	-1.6%	13.7	13.9	0.1	1.1%
Active Sections	396	436	40	10.1%	1,520	1,604	84	5.5%

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## Bakersfield College Chamber Singers Italy Preview Concert Tonight

After two years of hard work and preparation, the Chamber Singers are just days away from a tour of Rome, Florence, and Venice, before a special Mass concert at St. Peter's Basilica.

The Bakersfield College Chamber Singers is a small auditioned group of current students and Bakersfield College alumni who perform challenging repertoire and study major chorale literature of all the historic periods. As opportunities present themselves, the Chamber Singers will tour locally and abroad, singing music across all styles and genres. The Chamber Singers perform four concerts a year.

The Rome Send Off Concert will feature some of the music from the Chamber Singers' festival concert with choirs from around the United States, as well as the private concert repertoire, which will be performed in Rome, Florence, and Venice. Cost for the concert is \$5 for Bakersfield College students and employees, military veterans, and senior citizens, and \$10 general admission.



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## Delano Campus Honors Students with Special Graduation

For the first time in recent memory, Bakersfield College honored North Kern students with a special pre-graduation event at the Delano Campus. The event, which honored Delano



and McFarland graduates, provided students who could not ordinarily travel to Bakersfield College's Panorama Campus, the opportunity to have family and friends celebrate the realization of their academic goals.

The North Kern pre-graduation began with a mariachi performance, and continued with guest speaker Abel Guzman, Executive Director of Youth 2 Leaders Foundation. Guzman spoke to students about finding their "ah-ha" in life – the next big moment that tells them where their future is headed. For Delano Campus director Rich

McCrow, the North Kern pre-commencement celebration was important. He said that the event was an opportunity to "take a moment to recognize our students on campus, here in Delano, where they

earned their degrees."

More than 15 members of the Bakersfield College faculty and staff joined hundreds of family and friends to celebrate the accomplishments of the class of 2015. 80 members of the North Kern class of 2015 were presented with a special sash to wear which had the Bakersfield College logo and City of Delano centennial logo embroidered on it. You can find more information about the various graduation celebrations at: [www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/president/graduation-celebrations](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/president/graduation-celebrations)



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# News from Around Bakersfield College

## ***Simonsen Performing Arts Center Earns Beautiful Bakersfield Award***

Bakersfield College's newly-renovated Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center received the "Commercial Remodel" award at the 2015 Beautiful Bakersfield Awards, held by the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce in late May. BC and KCCD was there in full force to celebrate this recognition. Tom Burke received the award on behalf of the team.

As you know, the project included interior and exterior improvements that help to enhance cultural programming for the college and the community. As part of the remodel of the SPaC, the auditorium and outdoor theater were renovated, new audio/visual equipment was installed, and acoustics and sight lines for performances were enhanced.

Bakersfield College opened the Simonsen Performing Arts Center in late April with A Noteworthy Event, which was featured in last month's report to the KCCD Board of Trustees.



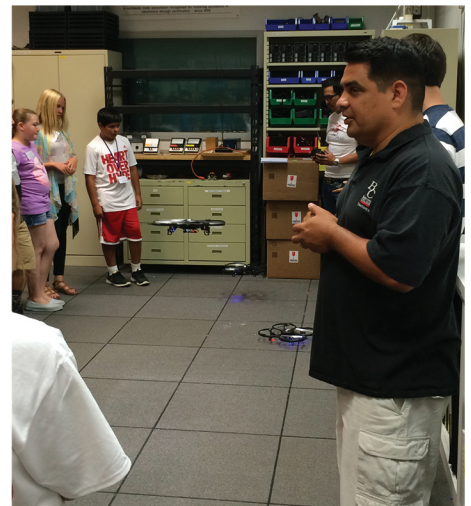
## ***Bakersfield College Tied for Fourth in ADT Creation***

A recent progress report from the California Community Colleges indicated the progress each college in the state has made toward the creation of Associate Degrees for Transfer. Bakersfield College's efforts to create the degrees has provided our students with 23 options for degrees which can guarantee their transfer to colleges and universities with junior status. Statewide, Bakersfield College is tied for fourth with five other colleges.

The need for Associate Degrees for Transfer is real for many students who may be denied transfer due to California's tightly-filled public university systems. Of the nearly 1,100 students eligible for graduation in Bakersfield College's class of 2015, 200 earned Associate Degrees for Transfer. Bakersfield College currently offers Associate Degrees for Transfer in: Administration of Justice, Anthropology, Business Administration, Communication Studies, Computer Studies, Early Childhood Education, Economics, Elementary Teacher Education, English, Geology, History, Journalism, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, Studio Arts, and Theater Arts. Bakersfield College is working to complete the following degrees by Fall 2016: Philosophy, Chemistry, Biology, and Plant Science.

## ***Middle School Project Lead the Way Camp Teaches Engineering Skills***

Thanks to the support of Chevron's Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) grant to Bakersfield College, approximately 23 students from eight area middle schools are participating in a week-long Project Lead the Way camp to study engineering skills in the design, building, programming, and flying of small drone vehicles. Students in the Project Lead the Way camp are part of a larger community-wide effort to encourage students to pursue education and careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Chevron donated \$10,000 to Bakersfield College to sponsor the week-long program as part of an overall STEM education grant, which is designed to help future generations see the potential of a career in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics field.



## ***Inaugural Professional Development Institute for Faculty and Staff***

The Monday following graduation, approximately 60 faculty, classified staff, and administrators at Bakersfield College participated in a four-day professional development institute primarily focused on teaching and learning to enhance student success in courses and their progression toward degree completion. The institute covered topics of equity, program review, student learning, and assessment, as well as academic support services such as supplemental instruction.

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# Brookings Ranks Bakersfield College #1 in the State

*On Saturday, May 30, Bakersfield College was featured on the opinion page of The Bakersfield Californian thanks to a Community Voices piece from Sonya Christian. Below is the text of the Community Voices opinion piece on the Brookings Institute rankings.*

Higher education is the key to a better life.

This isn't breaking news. Better education equals better opportunities equals better jobs equals better lives.

Here at Bakersfield College, we like to think we're pretty good at translating that equation to fit each individual student. We pride ourselves on that fact.

Still, it's always encouraging when a prestigious outfit like the Brookings Institute wholeheartedly agrees with how well Bakersfield College is fulfilling its mission.

Brookings is one of the nation's most renowned think tanks, conducting public policy research and education that's respected worldwide. After an exhaustive study of economic success among U.S. college students, Brookings concluded that no community college student in California has a brighter financial outlook – than a BC grad.

Bakersfield College ranked number 1 in the state and sixth nationally among two-year institutions for alumni mid-career earnings, taking into account each graduate's salary, career field, and how much debt they're saddled with after finishing college.

I won't bore you with all the numbers, although you can read about BC's amazing showing for yourself here: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2015/04/29-beyond-college-rankings-rothwell-kulkarni>.

More importantly, what's happening at Bakersfield College that puts so many of our graduates in position for career success that's head and shoulders above their peers from other institutions?

It's all about staying laser focused on each student using high tech, and more importantly, high touch.

Bakersfield College serves a student body that's nearly 80% first-generation college students. But that means special care and understanding is needed to help students succeed. I take tremendous pride in the fact that every BC employee engages our 20,000 students on a personal level, working with each student on assessing life and career aspirations, then focusing dreams very attainable goals.

And it all starts before a student even becomes an official Renegade. Critical activities like orientation, testing, counseling and registration don't happen just on the BC campus – they're happening at our 41 feeder high schools.

With our high school partners laying the groundwork, students enter BC far more prepared for college life than ever before.

Throw in a Summer Bridge session – BC's crash course on best practices and student services – and you've got a student ready to hit the ground running. When nearly 65% of BC students are receiving some form of financial aid to make these life dreams come true, wasting time and money just isn't an option. Coupled with BC's student services, led by trained faculty and staff, students have the best possible chance at education and career success.

None of that means much if students can't find work once they graduate. Thanks to our amazing partners in the Kern County business community, that's not an issue. Large and small companies in petroleum, agriculture, healthcare and logistics work closely with BC to alert students to opportunities for high-paying careers.

Show a bright, energetic student the potential for a lucrative career, then give them the training and workplace skills needed to succeed in that field. Mix in internship opportunities with our industrial partners and the straight line equation that thousands of BC students have already followed becomes clear. It bolsters our area workforce, while giving grads a leg up on that better life they've dreamed of.

Win-win. And state figures confirm what's happening on the BC campus is working.

Census data puts the annual median income of a Kern County household at around \$48,000. The average nursing grad from BC is now making over \$81,000 annually just three years after graduation. Machining grads? Nearly \$74,000 a year. Structural metal, radiology, architecture and plumbing students will all be making north of \$60,000 a year by 2018, under current projections.

Those are wages that families can actually live and thrive on. Those are jobs that fulfill the needs of our business partners and contribute to healthy communities, both economically and socially.

So with all that in mind, what do the Brookings findings really mean? I think they mean BC students graduate ready to go to work. They're prepared. They're creative, critical thinkers. They are good citizens of our community. Basically, they're the upper echelon of the available work force. And as our area's biggest businesses will attest, a BC grad is infinitely employable.