

Sonya Christian, December 12, 2019

The Bakersfield College Vernon Valenzuela Veterans Resource Center

Our community gathered on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019 for a historic milestone in Renegade history. With college and district leaders, community members, students, supporters, family, and friends, BC officially opened the brand new Vernon Valenzuela Veterans Resource Center, a space dedicated to student veterans and the first completed Measure J building.

The 4,700 square foot center features a tutoring room, conference room complete with whiteboards and television, a lounge area with two televisions, coffee bar, fridge, microwave, computer area and outdoor patio area. The space began as a renovation of the Finlinson Center with 1950's style, poured-in-place, reinforced concrete walls which have been supplemented with an additional 3,755 square feet of space to the interior and exterior spaces. This new building possesses some of the same architectural elements as other structures on campus, such as the curved roof and vertical fins which are visually similar to the Performing Arts Center. And one of the most unique extra special details to the outside design is the perforated metal panels displaying all five US Military branches.



When our local veterans are returning home, this new center will be the place they find support, comfort, and comradery with fellow Renegades. For over 100 years Renegades have put on the uniform, and when they were ready to trade in their boots for books, BC knew its responsibility. From then up to right now, BC's mission continues... to educate our veterans, mind body, and soul. The VRC is a center dedicated to the education, wellness, and transformation of our students, therefore it's only fitting that this place is named after Vernon Valenzuela. Vernon was a Vietnam combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient. He was a Bakersfield College student in the 1970s and later became a licensed counselor who spent the rest of his life working with veterans and their families. During the ceremony, both BC's Armando Trujillo and former trustee and Congressman, Bill Thomas paid tribute to the man they knew as a student, a mentor, a teacher, and a friend. His legacy will remain as strong as ever, ingrained in the work we do at BC supporting our student veterans.

This special facility is the first of many made possible by the tremendous community support of Measure J. There is a very, very long list of individuals to thank, but I must recognize Trustee Kay Meek for her constant focus and dedication. The reason why Trustee Meek emphasized the

prioritization of this project was evident in the words of student veteran and Veteran Club President Ilene Garcia during the grand opening. She said, "As soon as I walked in, I felt that comradery and bond that I had been missing that you instantly obtain when you join the military. Finding that comfort zone in civilian life is essential for veterans returning home. We crave the structure and sense of belonging that the military instills in us. The Veterans Resource Center at BC provides this."

And in closing, I will quote the words of Paul Beckworth, BC's Faculty Director of Veteran Services as he addressed BC's students... "Thank you for your courage, for believing in yourself and for pursuing an education. Thank you for choosing Bakersfield College. This place is for you."



Join Us at these Renegade Events

Chamber Singers Holiday Dinner
December 14, 2019 at 5:00PM
Gym Huddle

Renegade Men's Basketball
Dec. 20, 2019 at 5:00PM
Memorial Stadium

Campus Holiday Closure
Dec. 24, 2019 - Jan. 1, 2020
Campus Wide

BC's Spring 2020 Opening Day
Jan. 16, 2019
Indoor Theater

These events and more
can be found online



Bakersfieldcollege.edu
GoGades.com

Enrollment Update

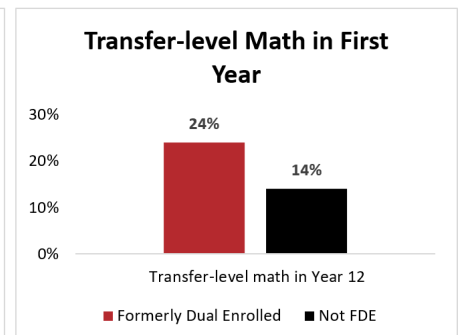
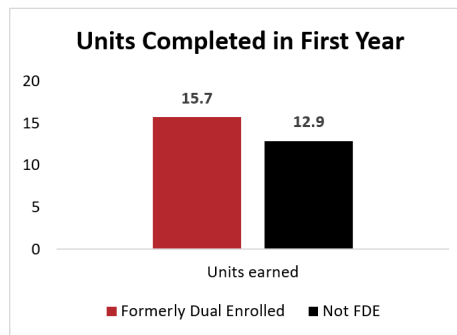
The enrollment report prepared on December 6, 2019 by the KCCD Office of Institutional Research shows that current headcount at Bakersfield College is up by 9.2% compared to the same point in time last year. FTES are up by 5.3% and Active Sections are also up.

Bakersfield College	Point-in-Time Comparison ¹			
	Spring -2 Weeks Since Open Reg			% Chg
	Spring 2019	Spring 2020	Diff	
Current Headcount	14,672	16,021	1,349	9.2%
Waitlisted Enrollments ²	4,439	4,284	-155	-3.5%
Current FTES ³	5,336.9	5,622.0	285.1	5.3%
Workload (FTEF)	478.9	535.0	56.1	11.7%
FTES/FTEF ⁴	11.1	10.5	-0.6	-5.7%
Active Sections	2,179	2,343	164	7.5%



Data Snippet: The Impact of Dual Enrollment on First-Time Students

An analysis conducted by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) showed that dual enrollment students with a high school GPA of at least 2.60 are earning nearly 3 more units than non-dual enrolled students in the same GPA range. There was also a very large effect of dual enrollment on math completion: 24% of formerly dual enrolled students in this GPA band completed transfer-level math in their first year, whereas only 14% of similar non-dual enrolled students completed transfer-level math in their first year. Students with a 2.60 GPA or better in high school represent about 65% of the formerly dual enrolled students and about 51% of non-dual enrolled students. The benefits of dual enrollment are concentrated among the group of students with high school GPAs of 2.60 or better. While students with lower GPAs perform about the same once they reach BC whether they were formerly dual-enrolled or not.



Intersegmental Pathways Symposium

Meeting the required additional 1.1 million bachelor degrees by 2030 will require not only redesigns of the internal system for all four higher education systems in California—CCC, CSU, UC, and private colleges—but also a redesign of the hand-off from the CCC to the four-year schools. Furthermore, all of higher education systems will need improvements in the hand-off from the high schools.

The Symposium hosted by Bakersfield College on November 15, 2019 invited educational leaders and dynamic policy influencers to converge in Bakersfield to catalyze solutions to the issues and barriers that affect students throughout the state.

KCCD was well represented at the event. Chancellor Tom Burke welcomed and recognized the sold out crowd in his remarks for the collaborative work taking place across the Central Valley for our students. KCCD Student Trustee, Christian Chavez took the stage to participate as a panelist, speaking on her community college experiences. And colleagues from across the various KCCD college campuses attended as well.

In addition to panels focused on streamlining pathways and curricular data sharing, a powerful keynote session featured CA Community Colleges Chancellor, Eloy Oakley, Senior Policy Advisor to Gov. Newsom, Lande Ajose, and Chief Deputy to CA Superintendent of Public Ed, Lupita Alcalá. The message was clear: As educators, we must work together to support our students both to and through their education, we must be diligent to break down barriers and we cannot settle in silos. Special thank you to Trustee Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg and former Trustee Bill Thomas for supporting the event with your attendance.



Rural HEAL Summit

Bakersfield College hosted a summit focused on rural poverty and health equity at the Delano campus last month. Attendees had the chance to connect with researchers, educators and policy makers to share the hard work being done to make the Central Valley a healthier place to live.

“What are we going to do?” was a recurring question that kept arising from panelists as topics such as air pollution, vaping, substance use, low educational attainment, our nursing shortage, student debt and more took the stage. One of the many highlights was hearing from David Rohac, a psychology faculty at BC. His cutting edge research is focused on neuroscience and alcohol and is showing that early exposure in the first trimester is more dangerous than exposure to heroin. Another was having Cindy Collier moderate a panel.

Special guests and speakers included Congressman TJ Cox, Dr. Kathleen Murphy, Dr Nancy Burke, CEO of Adventist Health Sharlet Briggs, and Science Officer for Gov. Newsom, Dr. Julianne McCall. The HEAL Collaborative looks forward to the next event in March 2020.

