

Renegade Roundup



Accreditation reaffirmed for the next seven years

January 28, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

We just received the official word from ACCJC!

Bakersfield College's accreditation has been **reaffirmed for the next seven years**. There were **no compliance Recommendations**. There were **no improvement Recommendations**. Further, the college received three Commendations and the District one Commendation. It is a good time to be at BC! We are BC!

The full accreditation report for Bakersfield College is available to the public and is posted on the College's website at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/accreditation.

You can read ACCJC's [Reaffirmation Letter here](#) and the [External Evaluation Report here](#).

The College has earned its Commendations for (1) exceptional leadership and active engagement to advance student learning and achievement, (2) proactive outreach to and support of its students in the rural portions of its service area, including the communities of McFarland, Arvin, Wasco, Shafter, and Delano, and (3) exemplary and multifaceted professional development initiatives to lift all members of the BC Community through shared and inclusive learning. The one District Commendation is to commend the Kern Community College District for its establishment of fiscal stability and financial transparency. The exact language is:

Commendation 1: The team commends the College for its exceptional leadership and active engagement to advance student learning and achievement as indicated through the work of governance committees such as Program Review, College Council, Accreditation and Institutional Quality; institutional reports including Closing the Loop and State of the College; and adopting the Guided Pathways framework with intentional outreach to high schools, creating completion coaching teams, and using data coaches to support student success. This is the result of institutional leaders creating an empowering environment to drive innovation. (I.B.4, II.A.7, II.C.5, II.C.6, IV.A.I)

Commendation 2: The team commends the College for its commitment to mission as exemplified by its proactive outreach to and support of its students in the rural portions of its 5,000 square-mile service area, including the communities of McFarland, Arvin,

Wasco, Shafter, and Delano, through the Rural Initiatives program. The College's efforts to partner with these and other rural Kern County communities to offer classes and support services at remote sites has helped create the foundation for a college-going culture throughout the Bakersfield College service area. (II.A.I, II.C.3)

Commendation 3: The team commends the College for its commitment to capacity building of all members of the Bakersfield College community. This core value of shared and inclusive learning is evidenced by exemplary and multifaceted professional development initiatives, including locally-created Title IX training videos for students, "scholarships" for employee attendance at external conferences, and providing real-time and on-demand streamed workshops and events ensuring maximum accessibility and participation by all constituency groups. (III.A.14)

District Commendation 1: The teams commend the District for establishing and maintaining a culture of fiscal stability as evidenced by unmodified audit reports, funds earmarked toward known liabilities, substantial reserves, clearly defined plans to address potential future uncertainties, and a high degree of financial transparency. With the establishment of the District-wide Budget Committee, the District has demonstrated its commitment to collaborative decision-making and continuous improvement. (III.D.1, III.D.9)

This is no coincidence. This reaffirmation and these Commendations are a direct result of your leadership and engagement to the heartfelt work that we do on this campus. Each and every day, we actively choose to see every student as an important part of our own existence, an important part of our purpose and story, incorporating them into our one unified Renegade tradition of excellence.

Thank you, each and every one of you for the work you do to make this campus a remarkable place of hope, diversity, acceptance, dreams, and student success.

Join me as we reflect on the Accreditation process and team visit.



A Look Back at the Accreditation Process:

Over 200 faculty, staff, administrators, and students engaged on writing teams, in open forums, and through our campus-wide committees.

The work began in spring 2016, with BC writing teams organizing around the standards. In spring 2017, we launched the full ISER writing process at opening day. From there, in retreats, small group meetings, and lab settings, our writing teams engaged in the detailed work to respond to the standards. Faculty, staff, and administrators alike contributed to the early draft documents and collection of evidence. Throughout summer and fall 2017, these teams held campus-wide forums, updated our websites, and refined their writing before shipping it off to our editing team.

In fall 2017 and spring 2018, our editing team, led by the indomitable Nick Strobel, began his work to share BC's story in a single voice. Through countless hours and many, many late nights, Nick carefully wove the fabric of our ISER. After a detailed – and I mean excruciatingly detailed – edit, we revealed the ISER at College Council in May at the Delano campus.



Once the Board of Trustees approved the document in July, we immediately switched gears into campus-wide engagement in the way we do at BC: at 150%. Committees, departments, student organizations, and more did deep reads of the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report, identifying their points of pride as described in our report.

On October 4, 2018, over 100 BC faculty and staff gathered in the Fireside Room, in Delano, and in offices across all of our campuses to celebrate the closing of this historic chapter of our history.



Emcee Todd Coston got the party started right as our evaluation team departed. Our catering team ensured we were well fed as we reflected on the 18-month journey to our reaffirmation. We celebrated the leadership that shepherded this important work, spending thousands of hours collectively to research, write, collect and index evidence, engage the campus community in the content of the ISER, interview with the evaluators... and so much more.

To our core team who has been with the work since the beginning, ***thank you for your leadership and engagement***: Nick Strobel, Jessica Wojtsyiak, Sarah Baron, Sondra Keckley, Jason Stratton, Liz Rozell, Todd Coston, and Lesley Bonds.



To the team who worked diligently in the weeks leading to the site visit to engage our campus community, presenting to dozens of committees, ***thank you for your leadership and engagement:*** Jason Stratton, Talita Pruet, Alisha Loken, Sarah Baron, Jessica Wojtyiak, Nick Strobel, Lesley Bonds, Todd Coston, and Liz Rozell.

To our logistics teams who stepped in to ensure every detail of the on-site visit was absolutely perfect and that our evaluators were able to navigate to and from their interviews at ease, ***thank you for your leadership and engagement:***

Logistics Team	Team Liaisons
Tarina Perry Christopher Glaser Carlos Barbaran Chris Counts Ramon Puga Jim Coggins Marco Sifuentes Todd Coston Lesley Bonds Lori Ortiz Bernadette Martinez Tamara Baker	Stephanie Baltazar Danyel Ritter Arisve Pimentel Shauna Turner Lisa Kent Luz Mendoza Isabel Castaneda Yvonne Armendariz Renee McMillon Rosalee Pogue Helen Harp Anna Laven Krista Moreland

A special thank you to Tarina Perry and Chris Glaser for all the detailed preparation for the evaluation site visit.



To our catering teams who came together to ensure our evaluators and staff were energized to power through their days, with perfectly packaged trail mix packages, beautifully presented lunches, and coffee refills on demand... ***thank you for your leadership and engagement:*** Chef Suzanne Tangeman, Chef Alex Gomez, Christian Flores, Stephanie Stuart, and team.

To the students and staff who provided transportation, led a campus tour, and shared their stories with our evaluators, ***thank you for your leadership and engagement:*** Dr. Nicky Damania, Diego Reynoso, Aliyah Kahn, Jordan Thomas, Katalina Quintanilla, Beth Hibble, Johnny Maddon, Danielle Ackenheil, Armando Dimas, Mustafa Barraaj, Emmanuel Limaco, Lee Caldwell, and Hunter Bishop.

As I reflect on our work together, I am filled with pride as the tenth president of Bakersfield College, where **our core value of community is something we don't just say -- it's something we live each and every day.**

We are BC! Somos BC!



That's all for now.
Until next time.....

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

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