

Renegade Roundup

COVID-19 Advisory

April 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

As of today April 7, 2020 at 5:30 a.m., the [Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#) shows 1,362,936 confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide, 368,449 in the United States, and in California. Kern County Public Health has announced 252 confirmed cases in Kern County.

Here is the table that captures the difference in the numbers every time I do a Renegade Roundup.

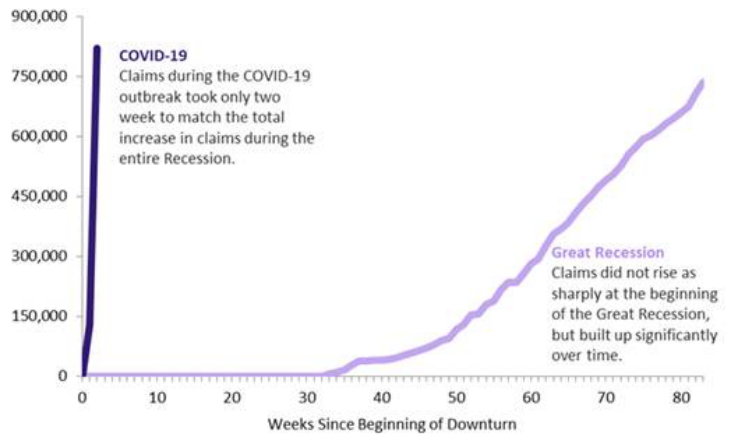
| | April 6 | April 7 | Difference | Percentage |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| World | 1,289,380 | 1,362,936 | 73,556 | 5.7% |
| U.S. | 337,933 | 368,449 | 30,516 | 9% |
| California | 15,158 | 16,349 | 1,191 | 7.9% |
| Kern | 230 | 252 | 22 | 9.6% |

The graph from Brian Uhler from the Legislative Analyst's Office shows that the unemployment claims are increasing sharply compared to the Great Recession in 2007 to 2010. We are closely monitoring the state of the economy. Experts are beginning to use the terms "recession" and "depression" freely as unemployment claims exceed 10 million. <https://tinyurl.com/tzurmo8>

Historically, as unemployment rises, enrollment in community colleges also rises while budgets slim. **This means we need to be prepared to do more with less.** This means we need to serve more students more efficiently. It means we need to open our doors wider than ever to create the opportunities those in our community need as they face job loss, severe financial strain, and the emotional toll that comes with economic strife.

Current Slowdown Already Rivals the Great Recession

This graph shows the aggregate number of "above-average" unemployment claims since the beginning of each downturn. Above-average claims are the amount by which the claims in a week exceed the long-term average.



In terms of Bakersfield College's operations, BC is gearing up for this demand in several ways:

- The Board Finance Subcommittee (Trustees Meek, Carter, and Corkins) met on Thursday, March 26 to discuss efficiency measures and strategies to support an influx of students with a flat or reduced budget district-wide. The subcommittee has committed to meeting on a more regular basis
- BC's Budget Committee has begun meeting regularly to respond to necessary budget adjustments and discuss potential scenarios as the Committee put forward in 2018-19.

- Bakersfield College initiated a hiring moratorium upon the physical closure of the campus on March 19. Chancellor Tom Burke has since expanded this as a district-wide directive. Only mission-critical positions will be filled with a keen eye on the fiscal prudence of the hire.



BC's Budget Committee

Unless we get this globally under control, there is a very good chance that it will assume a seasonal nature in the sense that if - and I hope it's not only if but when - we get it down to a point where it is really at a low level, we need to be prepared. Since it will be unlikely to be completely eradicated from the planet, as we get into next season, we may see the beginning of a resurgence. -Dr. Fauci, April 5, 2020

In addition to closely monitoring operational and budgetary decisions moving forward, President's Cabinet and College Council are exploring strategies to ensure instructional and support continuity through summer and fall 2020 while anticipating the likelihood of subsequent peaks of the virus' spread.

At this point, you should expect that summer 2020 lecture courses will be primarily online with reasonable and conservative measures in place for specific in-person courses that have proven particularly difficult to transition.

In addition, we are committed to creating a flexible semester schedule to meet students' needs and ensure minimal disruption to student learning should another wave of COVID-19 hit mid-fall as Dr. Fauci has suggested.

College Council came up with several strategies at our last virtual meeting on April 2nd that the Executive Team is evaluating for feasibility.



College Council

Today, April 7, I will host another virtual forum to hear from our students.

**COVID-19 President's
All-Campus Forum:
Let's Hear from our
Students**



Sonya Christian



Nicky Damania



Shantelle Rubio
Nursing Major



Sara Navidad
Sociology Major



Krissy Cogshall
Computer Science Major



Izzy Foster
Commercial Music Major

April 7th, 2020, 3:00 p.m.



Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/723559098>
Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16699006833,723559098# or +13462487799,723559098#
Telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)
Meeting ID: 723 559 098

**A tip: Joining audio by phone in addition to joining the video by web will give you the most clear audio and ensure poor internet connections do not interrupt the content*

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,
sonya

[See all issues of Renegade Roundup online](#)