

## Happy Easter Colleagues

#LeanonBC:

[A video message to BC faculty, staff, students, and our community](#)

# BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

A Message from Bakersfield College President Christian  
April 7, 2020



Sometimes in our lives we all have pain  
We all have sorrow  
But if we are wise  
We know that there's always tomorrow.  
Lean on me, when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend  
I'll help you carry on  
For it won't be long  
'Til I'm gonna need  
Somebody to lean on (*Bill Withers*)

**I will host my next virtual forum on Monday, April 13 with political and community leaders. Tune in at 3:00 p.m.**

### COVID-19 President's All-Campus Forum: Political & Community Leaders



Sonya Christian



Todd Coston



Rudy Salas  
California State Assembly



Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg  
KCCD Trustee



David Bynum  
Attorney at Law

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

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Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/700274650>  
Or iPhone one-tap: +16699006833,700274650# or +13462487799,700274650#

Telephone: +1 669 900 6833  
Meeting ID: 700 274 650

*\*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*

### **Covid-19 dashboard update:**

As of today April 12, 2020 at 8:15 a.m., the [Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#) shows 1,800,791 confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide, 530,830 in the United States, and 22,416 in California. Kern County Public Health has announced 337 confirmed cases in Kern County.

Here is the table that captures the difference in the numbers from the last time I published a Renegade Roundup.

	<b>April 7</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>World</b>	1,362,936	1,800,791	437,855	32.1%
<b>U.S.</b>	368,449	530,830	162,381	44.1%
<b>California</b>	16,349	22,416	6,067	37.1%
<b>Kern</b>	252	377	125	49.6%

### **Celebrating the Generosity of our Community**

In response to student survey data that indicated high student need for technology as Bakersfield College moved instruction online, BC has developed a laptop loan program with a generous donation from Greg and Mary Bynum.

This is a very difficult time for our students who are working to stay in class and focused on their goals despite mass upheaval to their daily routines. The generosity of Greg and Mary Bynum will ensure our students stay on their educational path toward creating a better life for themselves, their families, and our communities. This is the kind of hope our students need right now.



Students will need only to complete a very simple, low barrier, online application they can access from their cell phones to provide basic contact information. The *BC Laptop Loaner to Learn* application can be found at <https://bcstudentlife.wufoo.com/forms/q11jhxj00qyh80/>.

Be sure to check out [KGET's coverage](#) and the [Californian's coverage](#) of this story.

### **Celebrating our faculty and staff who have been superheroes during this difficult time**

Now that we are beginning to settle into our new normal of *business unusual*, I have had a bit of time to reflect on the enormity of our work. As Bakersfield College swiftly moved all operations to a virtual environment over a three week period, I have been blown away by the leadership at

all levels in supporting students and each other to make this transition smoothly.

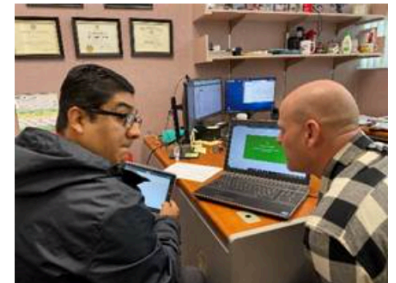
As I walked the campus one last time as the final barricades went up on Friday, March 20, the sadness I felt as the vibrancy of our physical campus faded was tempered by my gratitude for the many of you who had moved mountains over the previous three weeks to bring BC - all 40,000 of our students and 1,000 of our employees to a place of relative stability amidst a growing global crisis.

While COVID-19 has already brought devastation into our lives, I have been inspired by the countless examples of ingenuity, adaptability, resilience, and empathy among our faculty and staff.

I am eternally grateful to each and every one of you. I can assure you that your work has not gone unnoticed - even from afar. Here are just a few of the images and words that have brought me joy and given me a sense of connection over the past few weeks as we have built our new virtual campus, buzzing with the same energy and conversation that has always characterized our work.



**BC's IT Department** staff were among the last to leave campus, helping faculty and staff in getting their technology ready for remote access through Friday, March 20. Thank you to Todd Coston for your leadership of the department, and to the many individuals on your staff who have been inundated with our requests for support: Brett Redd, Eddie Ledbetter, William Velasquez, Chris Leithiser, Judy Ahl, Martin Ibarra, Tim Mason, Ian Mason, Israel Mendoza, Ying Vang, and Zach Wharton.





**BC's Campus Safety** staff have continued their work as essential employees, maintaining the safety and security of our campus even as we all work remotely.



**Marketing & Public Relations** and **Media Services** have been hard at work to ensure consistent communication with our faculty, staff, students, and community.

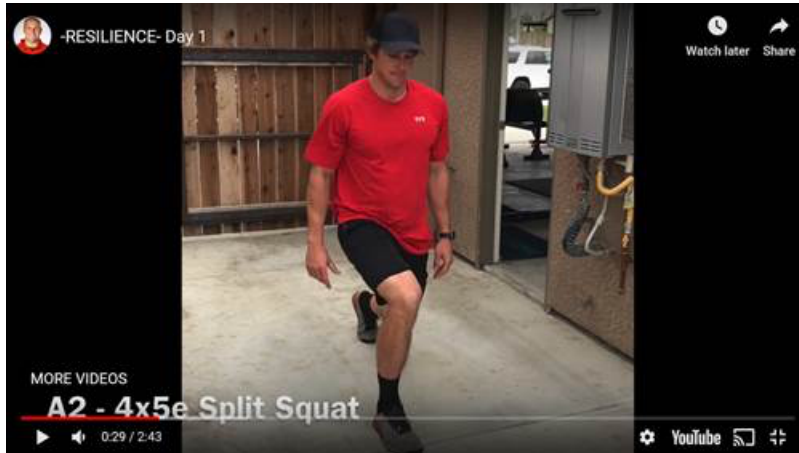


The **Office of Student Life & BCSGA** haven't missed a beat in continuing their services and supports, moving the Renegade Pantry to a drive-thru service and launching virtual engagement activities like personal training. They've even learned how to stream their Zoom meetings to Facebook. [Check it out](#) for a laugh.













Although student athletes aren't competing right now, the **Athletics** coaches found a way to keep students, faculty, and staff focused on their health and wellness.



**Discipline Faculty** have spent countless hours moving their courses online, rethinking how to engage students in a virtual classroom, moving **Bridge to BC** to a fully virtual environment, answering online **library** questions, creating creative online spaces for students like the **Jones Gallery** virtual show, responding to many students who are struggling, meeting in community to discuss best practices, and so, so much more.



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LibraryatBC Retweeted

 **The Jones Gallery**  
@TheJonesGallery

BC art students take annual exhibition to social media  
[bakersfield.com/entertainment/...](http://bakersfield.com/entertainment/...) via @Bakersfieldcali  
 @BAKcollege @sonyachristian @LesleyBonds  
 #2020bcartstudentshow



BC art students take annual exhibition to social media  
 Many artists are taking to social media in this time of social distancing to share their work and connect. So it makes sense that when it came time for Bakersfield  
[bakersfield.com](http://bakersfield.com)

Search Twitter

**Relevant people**

-  **The Jones Gallery**  
@TheJones... Follows you [Follow](#)  
Wiley & Louise May Jones Gallery at Bakersfield College
-  **The Bakersfield Ca...**  
@Bakersfieldcali [Following](#)  
Local newspaper serving Bakersfield and Kern County, California.
-  **Bakersfield College**  
@BAKc... Follows you [Following](#)  
Founded in 1913, BC is one of the oldest operating community colleges in the nation, our mission is to transform education & lives in Kern County. 📍

**Trends for you** 

Entertainment · Trending

**Ayn Rand**  
2,901 Tweets

**#WorldHealthDay** 🇺🇸  
Announce our health heroes!

 **Emmanuel Mourtzanos**  
@mourtzanos

@eloyoakley @daisygonzales @sonyachristian let's talk creativity. @bakcollege #InnovativeFaculty take art galleries & music ensembles online.  
 @calcommcolleges rock! #WeAreBC



Among the most in-demand early in our transition, the **Academic Technology** team worked one-on-one with hundreds of faculty to transition their courses and have since shifted gears into providing significant support to students through the Renegade Online Hub and their virtual office hours.

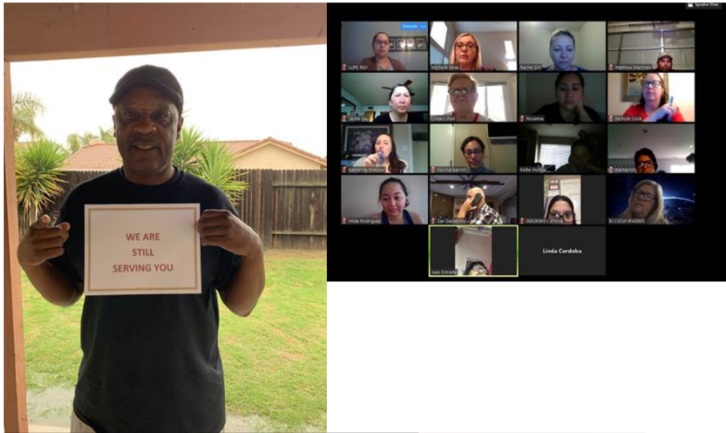


The **Student Affairs Leadership Team** has worked tirelessly to put more support in place than ever before as students face remarkably challenging times academically, personally, and financially.





Thank you to our Student Affairs team who continue to support students from a distance as they navigate the transition and register for summer and fall 2020 courses. **Admissions & Records, Outreach & School Relations, DSP&S, the VRC, Testing & Placement Center, Early College, Counseling & Advising, Financial Aid, EOP&S, Student Life, and the Health Center.**



Other student support services have [moved their programming online](#) and even hosted a virtual career fair. Thank you to **CTE, Student Employment, and the job placement team.** And thank you to the **Rural Initiatives** team for organizing a virtual virtual registration event for students from our rural communities.



Two BC faculty published Community Voices pieces in the Bakersfield Californian that capture the spirit of our faculty: a commitment to community and a deep care for the other.

**March 31, 2020**

[Surviving the Pandemic](#)



David Riess, Sociology

**April 7, 2020**

[Help your community in small ways](#)



Jeff Newby, History

Finally, I'd like to end with my gratitude for our health care workers and first responders. Among them, 69 of **BC's nursing students** stand united in the fight against COVID-19. To our students and to the faculty who have helped prepare them for this call: thank you, thank you, thank you.



That's all for now.  
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,  
sonya

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