

## Renegade Roundup



During turbulent times

August 6, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

Today, we live with the unfathomable reality and sadness that in the past week, 31 people have died in three separate and unrelated mass shootings in Gilroy, El Paso, and Dayton. Many others were badly wounded, and families and communities are in shock. Again and again, we struggle to understand why, and in the 20 years since tragedy struck at Columbine High School we have adapted to the grim reality of mass shootings - at schools, shopping malls, clubs, concerts, festivals, churches, mosques, and synagogues.



Without immediate solutions, our first responsibility is to be vigilant. I am proud of BC's Public Safety team, BC's Student Life Team, BC's Students of Concern Team, and BC's faculty and staff for the many, many ways in which student and campus safety is strengthened. I ask everyone to attend the Active Shooter Response Training led by our Public Safety Officer Jason Mattheus in order to continue to sharpen our sensibilities to recognize signs for early reporting as well as responding to serious incidents.

A recent Op-Ed piece in the LA Times, [“We have studied every mass shooting since 1966. Here’s what we’ve learned about the shooters”](#) explains that while all mass shooters are not alike, there are commonalities among the perpetrators. The first similarity is that a vast majority of shooters experienced early childhood trauma and exposure to violence at a young age. Second is the experience of crisis in the time leading up to the shooting. Third, shooters study other shooters and learn from them to model their actions after their predecessors. Lastly, shooters all had the capacity to commit to their actions.



*Sonya Christian, Billie Jo Rice,  
Zav Dadabhoy, Mike Giacomini*

What we can also do - what we must do - is deepen our culture of inclusion and tolerance for our students and our community. Education opens us up to differing worldviews and provides the space needed for us to coexist and thrive. This is what we do at BC for by living and teaching our core values:

- We insist that diversity be valued and promoted, recognizing that multiple perspectives lead to a better education and knowledge of the world.
- We foster curiosity, inquiry, critical thinking, and creativity within a safe and rigorous academic environment.
- We continue to develop and follow an ethical and moral consciousness which places the collective wellbeing and health above the self.
- We believe health and wellness to be integral and foundational elements, and we understand that a holistic education improves all aspects of the individual and the society including the mind, body, and spirit.
- We commit to the wellbeing of all members of our community; we maintain strong ties with the surrounding community, and we respond to their needs by serving as an open institution which engages all students, faculty, and staff

I asked the following individuals to write a statement to the campus community in light of these devastating tragedies.

Let's hear from:

Steven Holmes, on behalf of the Academic Senate

Samantha Pulido, on behalf of our students

Tommy Tunson, on behalf of the Public Safety Instructional Program

Nicky Damania, on behalf of the Public Safety Officers

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### **Statement by Steven Holmes, Academic Senate President**

It's important in today's world to challenge students to think in inclusive ways, and is a goal of Bakersfield College. Empathy and tolerance are life skills taught in every BC classroom where students explore their own values and ideas. In listening to others' ideas and cultures, sometimes these ideas may clash.

This truth is punctuated by the fact the shooters in El Paso, Dayton and Gilroy ranged in age from 19 to 24, the age of many of our students. Preparing students for life and the sometimes violent conflict which emerges, means being better prepared ourselves.

As Academic Senate President, I encourage faculty to learn more about conflict resolution, emergency preparedness, and team problem solving skills through FLEX and



*Senate President Steven Holmes*

other activities. Your every meeting with students is an opportunity to model the understanding we hope students will exhibit.

*-Steven Holmes, Bakersfield College Academic Senate President*

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**Statement by Tommy Tunson, Public Safety Training**

BC's mission of student success includes students' safety, something BC's Public Safety Training Program faculty teach every day. In this era of active shooters, BC takes very seriously its critical role in keeping students safe by preparing future first responders. Our Public Safety faculty are among the nation's best to provide exemplary training. Each are practitioners in Police, Fire, or Emergency Medical Services. Knowing how to stay safe is an important part of our training. Remember, prior to attending an event or going to the mall, establish an emergency assembly area for family members. If shots are fired, listen to where they are originating. If safe, evacuate in the *opposite* direction of the shots. If evacuation isn't possible, find cover. Put a barrier between you and the shooter. Lock yourself in a secure location and stay alert.

*-Tommy Tunson, Director of Public Safety Training*



*Harlan Hunter, Rich McCrow, Tommy Tunson, Brent Burton  
Janet Richardson, A.J. Clark*

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**Statement by Samantha Pulido, BCSGA President**

This past weekend, tragedy hit our community and nation with two shootings. On Saturday, twenty-two people lost their lives and more than two dozen were injured in the shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas. Then early Sunday morning, nine other individuals lost their lives and twenty-seven were injured in the shooting at Ned Peppers in the Oregon District of Dayton, Ohio. It is important to recognize the people who have lost their lives in these horrific



events; therefore, I will list the names of the individuals that were killed during this devastating time:

On Saturday, August 3, 2019, Walmart shooting in El Paso, Texas:

- Gloria Irma Marquez	- Jordan Anchondo
- María Eugenia Legarreta Rothe	- Andre Anchondo
- Jorge Garcia	- Arturo Benavides
- Elsa Mendoza de la Mora	- Javier Rodriguez
- Ivan Manzano	- Sara Ester Regalado
- Juan de Dios Velázquez Chairez	- Adolfo Cerros Hernández

ON Sunday, August 4, 2019, at the Ned Peppers shooting in the Oregon District of Dayton, Ohio:

- Lois L. Oglesby Megan K. Betts	- Nicholas P. Cumer
- Saeed Saleh	- Thomas J. McNichols
- Derrick R. Fudge	- Beatrice N. Warren- Curtis
- Logan M. Turner	- Monica E. Brickhouse

**To honor the lives of the people who were murdered and injured during these tragedies, Bakersfield College Student Government Association will be hosting a candlelight Vigil on the Bakersfield College Campus in front of the Library tomorrow Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 5 p.m. I encourage fellow Renegades to come and to invite their families and friends to this vigil.**



As a fellow Renegade, I know these times can be tough. Please seek assistance. Bakersfield College has Mental Health Providers who can assist you personally. Schedule to meet with a counselor by making an appointment at the Student Health and Wellness Center or calling (661)395-4336.

Together we stand for the safety of all.  
 -Samantha Pulido, 2019-20 SGA President

**From Nicky Damania, Public Safety Department**

Keeping our students, faculty, staff, and community safe is an ongoing and constant effort through both seen and unseen measures. BC's Department of Public Safety is committed to making every person on our campus safe through education, prevention, and awareness.



Nicky Damania, Isabel Gonzalez

In light of recent tragic events, I want to remind everyone of BC's motto, "If you see something, say something, so we can do something."

You can report suspicious activity, noticeable behavioral changes, suspected criminal behavior, or ask for help by calling or texting BC's Public Safety for any of our locations.

<u>Panorama Campus, Levinson Hall 23</u> - Phone: (661) 395-4554 - Text: (661) 747-3808	<u>Weill Institute</u> - Phone: (661) 336-5060 - Cell: (661) 747-2037
<u>Delano Campus</u> - Cell: (661) 747-1601	<u>BC SouthWest</u> - (661) 747-6076

Active Shooter Response trainings are offered so that both our campus and community can be familiar with the best practices, drills, exercises, and preparation. To meet the needs of incoming faculty, staff, and students, Public Safety is offering two training sessions during Flex Week for faculty:

- August 19 at 9:30AM in L147
- August 21 at 1:30PM in L160

Additional trainings are available for the general public and community:

- September 5, 2019 at 12:00PM in BC's Levan Center
- September 11, 2019 at 12:00PM in BC's Levan Center
- September 26, 2019 at 12:00PM in BC's Levan Center
- October 8, 2019 at 12:00PM in BC's Levan Center

- October 17, 2019 at 12:00PM in BC's Levan Center

A resource video is also made available online. You can visit this video [here](#) and the password you will need to enter is: Renegades with a capital R.

You may have seen billboards around town, but I also encourage everyone to create a Smart911 profile to help plan ahead for any incident in case of emergency. More information is available at <https://smart911.com>.

I highly encourage students, staff, and faculty to utilize the services we offer such as Public Safety escorts, where our cadets or officers escort people to class or wait with them as they are waiting for transportation. Students may find information in the [Campus Safety Booklet](#), provided to the entire Kern Community College District. No matter where you are, these safety tips, emergency contacts, medical service contact info, crisis center hotline details, or more can be a tremendous, one-stop resource for you.

*-Dr. Nicky P. Damania, on behalf of the Public Safety Officers*

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We must all do our part to ensure a safe and positive learning and working environment, so "If you see something, say something, so we can do something."

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

With much grief and sadness,

Sonya

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