

## From the Chancellor's Desk



Update – Seminars, COVID, CA Higher Ed Bills

October 25, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

It's been a month since I dropped you a note and there has been a lot happening in our district as well as on the higher ed front in Sacramento and Washington DC.

For example, the KCCD Board adopted a resolution recognizing Porterville College President Claudia Habib and Porterville College staff for their invaluable service to the region by being a site for those who were evacuated during the fires. Genevieve Horton snapped this photo of Trustee John Corkins, Dr. Claudia Habib, and Dr. Arlitha Harmon at the October 19th Board meeting.



To keep up with the happenings at KCCD, “follow” my weekly blog via email. You can do so by entering your email address in the field at the right top corner of the blog. Once you subscribe you will receive an email every time a new post is published.

<https://sonyachristianblog.com/>

### Chancellor’s Seminar Series:

Also, there are two virtual seminars that I invite you to attend.

October 26th at 4:00 p.m. – A COVID Protocol conversation with Employee Leadership

Registration link:

[https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mfK2u3zBTzebgYIHE0tdlw](https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mfK2u3zBTzebgYIHE0tdlw)

**The Chancellor’s Seminar Series:**  
A COVID Protocol Conversation With Our Employee Leadership

**Sonya Christian**  
KCCD Chancellor

**Matt Crow**  
President, KCCD CCA

**Tina Johnson**  
President, BC CSEA

**Manny Mourtzanos**  
President, KCCD Management Association

**Primavera Arvizu**  
VP Student Services  
Porterville College

**Resa Hess**  
HR Manager  
Cerro Coso Community College

**Todd Coston**  
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor,  
Planning and Educational Technology

October 26, 2021 4:00pm

**KCCD** **BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE** **PC**

The second is actually a webinar being hosted by the Energy Technology Transfer and Workforce Development Program on Carbon Management Opportunities. At KCCD we are prioritizing Workforce and Economic Development activities and this particular webinar is looking at an emerging economy related to carbon management that could impact California and the Central Valley. We have a KCCD development team tracking the large investments coming our way through the federal and state stimulus packages. As and when I see something that is valuable for our entire KCCD community to be familiar with, I will co-sponsor that activity.

So, this second webinar is on November 9th, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

Registration link:

[https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_oao8UCxiRai68VaGTrfsfA](https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oao8UCxiRai68VaGTrfsfA)



The webinar is focused on carbon capture and storage projects, which have increased more than 50 percent worldwide in the last 9 months. Within the last two weeks, the US Department of Energy announced grants of \$20 million and \$45 million, respectively, to support research and implementation of carbon capture and storage technologies.

Panelists will include Steve Bohlen, Emily Wimberger, and Chris D. Gould.

### **COVID news:**

As the vaccinations have increased, the new cases of the virus have started to slow down across much of the country. A recent article in the Washington Post suggested that even though cases are slowing down, as we go into the cold weather, we may see cases start to increase again. Some states that are already experiencing colder weather, like Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and North Dakota, are starting to see an increase in the number of infections (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/10/19/covid-delta-variant-live-updates/>).

In a separate news story, Fox LA announced that California is the only state to improve to the yellow "moderate" COVID-19 transmission level. More on this can be found on the CDC site [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases\\_community](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_community)

The Kern Community College District continues to encourage our students and employees to get vaccinated.

(Please remember to join us for a conversation about COVID-19 Protocols with our employee leadership at our next Chancellor's Seminar Series on October 26th at 4pm.)

## CA Higher Ed Bills

Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law several bills to increase access and affordability in higher education.

Assembly Bill 927 makes permanent the community college baccalaureate program that allowed 15 colleges throughout the state - including Bakersfield College - to offer a baccalaureate degree for their students. Signing the bill into law makes the 15 pilot programs permanent and allows all of California's 116 community colleges to apply for bachelor's degree programs through a process to be developed by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Assembly Bill 928 aims to make transfer easier for our students by requiring the CSU and UC systems to create a single general education pathway to transfer admission, and for use by California Community Colleges as well, to place students who declare a goal of transfer on an ADT path for their intended major.

Assembly Bill 1111 requires community colleges to adopt a common course number system for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathways courses. The bill would require the common course numbering system to be student facing, ensuring that comparable courses across all community colleges have the same course number.

Senate Bill 169 will, for the first time, fund student housing for California Community Colleges.

California has announced a \$47.1 billion investment in the state's higher education system, including ongoing base funding to California Community Colleges and the UC and CSU systems, as well as expanding the Cal Grant program to make college more affordable for more students.

I appreciate our students, faculty, classified staff and managers for all that you do to keep our working and learning environment vibrant and safe. KCCD #InItTogether.

That's a wrap for now.  
The future remains bright at KCCD!

With much warmth and collegiality  
sonya

[See all issues \*From the Chancellor's Desk\*](#)

#KCCDDaringMightyThings

