

From the Chancellor's Desk



July 23, 2021

KCCD Colleagues:

I enjoyed writing my blog this past weekend which I titled "It is summeryet, KCCD is on the move". And yes, indeed, we are on the move.

Here are some examples:

Porterville College has hired Division 1 standout and former pro-athlete Amaurys Fermin as its new head men's basketball coach – or the "PC Pirate Fleet" campaign, which features cars and trucks "wrapped" with branded decals promoting the college -- and I'm so proud of the work PC has done on water conservation.



Cerro Coso has launched a new Digital Marketing Certificate that teaches skills that should be universally in demand -- and I was delighted to see the Police Academy relaunching in Tehachapi!

Bakersfield College's first cohort of auto tech students focused on electric vehicles completed its introductory course -- I'm also excited about BC's three free summer academies for students interested in music, theater and arts -- and I'd like to join the Early College Industrial Automation Summer Academy in thanking the community partners that opened their doors to students this summer.

To read more, follow my blog at: <https://sonyachristianblog.com/>

If you would like to feature a story or a creative piece of work in the blog, plz email ChancellorOffice@kccd.edu. Also, you can keep up with the happenings at the three colleges by following the twitter accounts - [@PCollegePirates](#), [@cerrocosocoyote](#), [@BAKcollege](#), [@KernCCD](#). Don't have a twitter account? Get one today!

Chancellor's Seminar Series

Please mark your calendar right away and plan to tune in for the next seminar in the Chancellor's Seminar Series, from 4 to 5 p.m. on Monday, August 2. Jennifer Serratt will send a calendar invite with the link soon.

Randy Rowles and our facilities team have been extremely busy getting our physical locations ready to safely conduct in-person learning and on-site work. They will share with us the work completed so far and what will happen in the months to come.

Chancellor's Seminar Series

Returning to our physical locations - A Look at Facilities



Sonya Christian
Chancellor



Todd Coston
Associate Vice Chancellor,
Planning and Educational Technology



Randy Rowles
Associate Vice Chancellor
Construction and Facilities Planning



Cody Pauxtis
Director, Maintenance & Operations
Cerro Coso Community College



John Word
Director, Maintenance & Operations
Porterville College



Marcos Rodriguez
Executive Director, Facilities & Operations
Bakersfield College



Don Birdwell
Building Facility Manager
KCCD District Office

August 2, 2021 4:00pm

#KCCDLearns



KCCD continues #DaringMightyThings

The District Office has also been humming with activity. Chief Information Officer Gary Moser and team are gearing up to expand the technology infrastructure to support our students through the two-year initiative on Enrollments, Student Success and Equity.

Vice Chancellor John Means and Associate Vice Chancellor Trudy Gerald have been ramping up our efforts in economic and workforce development to position KCCD and its partners to compete for the one-time windfall of funding in the governor's budget, and for federal grants. Snapped a photo of some of our colleagues who participated.



COVID updates

Vaccinations are on my mind Here is [a 50-second video to encourage our communities to get vaccinated](#). I invite you to do the same and create a short 30-second video that you can post in Canvas or social media or send to coworkers, family and friends to invite them to get vaccinated as well.

More than 99 percent of recent COVID deaths are from unvaccinated people

As new cases and hospitalizations continue to rise due to the delta variant, [a report from NPR](#) indicates an overwhelming majority of people facing the most adverse reactions from COVID are unvaccinated. The article quotes Dr. Anthony Fauci and CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, who note that 99 percent of COVID deaths since May were individuals that weren't vaccinated, and also that unvaccinated people accounted for 97 percent of the COVID hospitalizations.

Similar statistics apply locally. [The Bakersfield Californian reports](#) that since mid-January, 99.4 percent of COVID cases in Kern County have occurred in people who have not been vaccinated.

Vaccinations at Colleges and Universities:

The American Association of Medical Colleges [is urging medical schools and teaching hospitals](#) to mandate COVID-19 vaccination for their employees.

Local Governments Across State Encouraging Everyone to Continue Wearing Masks, Even if Vaccinated

The Los Angeles County of Public Health [reinstated mandatory masking](#) indoors effective July 17. All individuals in LA County are required to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Other areas of the state are without an official order are encouraging continued masking. In Fresno County, [the Department of Public Health is “strongly recommending” that all individuals wear masks indoors](#) whether vaccinated or not. Every county in the Bay Area and the city of Berkeley have issued similar recommendations, [according to ABC 7 News](#).

Statewide news:

California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Oakley to join Biden administration

California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Oakley is joining the Biden administration in a temporary role to provide advice on higher education.

Deputy Chancellor Dr. Daisy Gonzales will serve as acting chancellor when Oakley begins his new position on July 26, until his return sometime in late fall.

Oakley has overseen the California Community Colleges system since 2016.

I look forward to seeing you at the next seminar on Monday, August 2nd at 4 p.m.

That’s a wrap for now.

The future remains bright at KCCD!

With much warmth and collegiality,
sonya