

From the Chancellor's Desk



Vaccinations Update, Campus Highlights, Seminar with Student Services

August 20, 2021

KCCD Colleagues:

Can't believe that it is already Friday. This week has been such an active week with faculty getting back to campus for flex and in-service activities. I attended the Opening Day events for all three colleges and soaked in the energy and positive outlook of KCCD colleagues as we gear up to start another unusual semester.

Seminar:

I invite you to register for the next Chancellor's Seminar on August 24th @ 4:00pm. Here is the registration link: https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yPz29bOkQ9-yPSeQkyZobw

The Chancellor Seminar Series:
Fall 2021 – Caring for the Campus Community

Sonya Christian
KCCD Chancellor

Todd Coston
Associate Vice Chancellor,
Planning and Educational Technology

Heather Ostash
Vice President, Student Services
Cerro Coso Community College

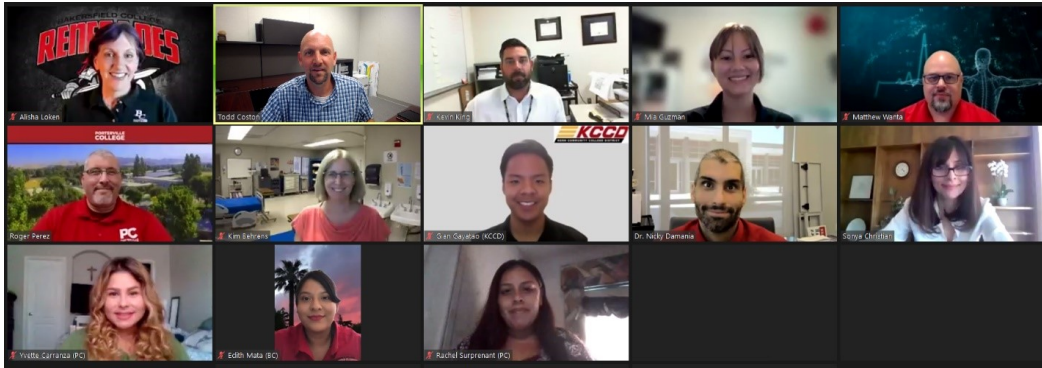
Manny Mourtzanos
Vice President, Student Affairs
Bakersfield College

Primavera Arvizu
Vice President, Student Services
Porterville College

August 24, 2021 4:00pm

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

Please join us for an engaging discussion with our Vice Presidents of Student Services and other members of their teams. As we begin a new semester still in the midst of a global pandemic, our student support services become even more critical. If you haven't seen it yet, we would highly recommend you check out some of our previous Chancellor's Seminars but especially this [Q&A segment with our students](#) on August 10th.



A full list of Chancellor’s Seminars can be found [here](#).

Campus Highlights:

[In my blog last Saturday](#), I shared some of the great work that has been happening across the district as our campuses prepare for students to return to campus for in-person instruction this fall.

Porterville College welcomed the newest class of PC Promise Students to campus for a four-day, in-person orientation event. The students learned about the campus, heard from motivational speakers, and attended panels that provided tips for success. The Porterville College Promise Program helps first-time college students navigate their first year.



PC President Claudia Habib with the Porterville College Promise Students

At Cerro Coso Community College, the POST Academy was excited to welcome back two prior POST Academy recruits to speak at the orientation for the incoming fall recruit class. Thank you to Sunny Hasnian of McFarland Police Department and Zach Page with Tehachapi Police Department for giving guidance and sharing your experience. The program's graduation and placement rates for the last class were outstanding - 97% success and 75% employed.



And at Bakersfield College, students have been participating in the statewide Get Out The Vaccine project, utilizing canvassers to share vaccine knowledge, information, and awareness.

Last week, local officials including Kern County Supervisor Leticia Perez, community partners such as Dignity Health and Kern Health Systems, and BC students and nursing program joined forces to offer on-the-spot vaccinations in certain Bakersfield neighborhoods.



Make sure you stay up-to-date about what's happening throughout the Kern Community College District. Follow my blog at <https://sonyachristianblog.com/> to see some of how KCCD continues to #DareMightyThings.

COVID Update:

Biden Administration Unveils Plans for Booster Shots; Kern Vaccine Sites to Start Providing Boosters for Immunocompromised

US health authorities are recommending that individuals 18 years and older receive a booster shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, [according to the Wall Street Journal](#). The booster shot is the same as the Pfizer and Moderna doses and has already been approved for immunocompromised individuals. The FDA is expected to authorize the extra dose for everyone starting Sept. 20.

[President Biden announced the booster shot recommendation](#) at a press conference on Wednesday, August 18. In Kern County, vaccination sites will begin offering a booster shot for immunocompromised individuals, organ transplant recipients, people undergoing cancer treatment and other individuals with medical conditions that would benefit from an additional dose, [according to Kern County Public Health](#).

Tulare County: Kaweah Health Reaches Capacity

Kaweah Health Medical Center, the largest hospital in Tulare County, has announced that it has reached full capacity and will have to triage the COVID-19 patients that receive priority treatment, [according to the Visalia Times-Delta](#). On Monday, August 16, Kaweah was currently taking care of 340 patients, with a waitlist of 63 patients seeking admission. Among those 340 admitted patients, 99 were COVID-19 positive. To meet the increased demand, patients are being treated in overflow areas by nurses from other hospitals.

California Requires Vaccination or Negative COVID test for Large Events

Beginning September 20, Californians will need to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test to attend indoor events larger than 1,000 people. [The California Department of Public Health updated its policy on Wednesday, August 18](#), which had previously stated a vaccination requirement for events of 5,000 or more. Additionally, a self-attestation of vaccine status will no longer be accepted, and event officials will need an official record of vaccination status.

At KCCD:

Joe Grubbs and Dena Rhoades have been meeting regularly with the districtwide COVID Response team. I have noticed that they update the Q&A document almost on a daily basis.

You can find the link here:

<https://www.kccd.edu/chancellors-office/coronavirus-update>

It might be helpful if you bookmark the page on your browser so you can keep up with current information and regularly update your students.

Thank you, Johanna Fisher from HR, for updating the vaccination rates, every two weeks, for the KCCD service area.

I was happy to see that the vaccination rates have gone up in the last two weeks.

Kern from 35.1% to 37.5%

Ridgecrest from 41% to 44%

Tulare from 34.4% to 35.9%

I am pleased that our KCCD community is at a much higher vaccination rate. The survey administered by Bob Ngo shows that 77% of KCCD's employees and 65% of our students are vaccinated.

In the meantime, please get out the word to your students, colleagues, friends, and family members.

Let's all remember to take care of each other by staying safe: get vaccinated, wear a mask, wash your hands.

I look forward to seeing you at the next seminar on Tuesday, August 24th at 4:00 p.m. Here is the registration link again https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yPz29bOkQ9-yPSeQkyZobw

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](#)

Vaccination Information

Vaccination Rates in KCCD Service Areas

As of August 17, 2021



Kern County
331,299
fully vaccinated



Ridgecrest
12,398
fully vaccinated



Tulare County
205,932
fully vaccinated

As of July 29, 2021:



Kern County
316,059
fully vaccinated



Ridgecrest
11,551
fully vaccinated



Tulare County
193,281
fully vaccinated



