

## From the Chancellor's Desk



Spring 2022

January 22, 2022

KCCD Colleagues:

We are just into the spring semester and after what was for me two hectic weeks - first with the ACCJC Commission meeting, followed by the first week of classes and the Board Retreat, I am finally catching my breath and thought I would drop you a note.

### COVID readings

As usual, I will share with you what I am reading related to COVID and omicron. In Kern County, [8,737 positive cases of COVID-19 were confirmed over MLK weekend](#). The county continues to average 2,000 new cases per day, and the state of California is averaging 110,214 new cases per day, which equates to about 270 cases per 100,000, [according to a report from KERO](#).

Tulare County reported a new weekly record of 7,270 COVID-19 cases, and the case rate of 146.8 infections per 100,000 is the highest in the area since March of 2020, [according to the Visalia Times Delta](#).

Nationwide, the seven-day average of new cases has fallen 8 percent over the last three days, [according to Johns Hopkins data reported by CNN](#). Although some parts of the Northeast are beginning to see a plateau of infections, cases are still rising in Oklahoma, Wisconsin and many other states, which is why US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murphy is continuing to urge caution and emphasizing that the Omicron variant has not yet peaked across the country. [The Wall Street Journal](#) is reporting that hospitals in early Omicron hot spots like New York, Washington and Connecticut are beginning to see patient numbers decline as well as fewer sick staff members.

In light of [new CDC guidance recommending that everyone wear an N95 or KN95 mask](#), prices for the medical-grade respirators are surging worldwide. [An article from Bloomberg](#) reports that a pack of 40 KN95 masks went up to \$79.99 from just \$16.99 in late November. However, [the Biden Administration will be distributing 400 million N95 masks to the public for free starting next week](#), which will be available at local pharmacies and community health centers. Thank you Earl Parsons for compiling this information.

## Chancellor's Seminar Series:

Todd Coston and I took some time over the break to think through the Spring 2022 seminar series. We will probably have a seminar weekly during the semester and mostly these will be scheduled on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. We tried to organize the topics around four themes:

- Getting to know our people: these seminars will be focused on different departments around the district and the work they are doing.
- Informational seminars: these seminars will be focused on key information that is relevant to all campuses (i.e COVID, budget, etc.)
- Students: these seminars will focus on our students.
- Chancellor's Seminar sponsored events – these will be other events co-sponsored by the Chancellor's Seminar.

Our first seminar is on Tuesday, January 25th and falls under "Getting to know our people." You will be hearing from our Information Technology (IT) staff who are usually behind the scenes working on keeping our technology running smoothly for us and our students. Please take a moment to [register here](#).

**The Chancellor's Seminar Series:**  
IT Infrastructure And How It All Works

**Sonya Christian**  
KCCD Chancellor

**Eddie Alvarado**  
Director of IT Infrastructure  
District Office

**Mike Campbell**  
Director, Information Technology  
Cerro Coso Community College

**Todd Coston**  
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor  
Planning & Educational Technology

**Jay Navarrette**  
Director, Information Technology  
Porterville College

**Brett Redd**  
Director, Information Technology  
Bakersfield College

January 25, 2022 - 4:00pm

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

## Board Retreat on Jan 20, 2022

On January 20th, the KCCD Board of Trustees had their annual retreat titled Advancing Student Success & Equity with Fiscal Intelligence. Some of the retreat highlights were presentations on Early College Enrollments, Adult Learner Recruitment, Supplemental

Allocation Review, Facilities Space Utilization and Planning, and College and Foundation Resource Development.

We've uploaded all the presentations to [the KCCD website](#).

### **Update on AB 927**

In my Dec 21st communication I shared with you my surprise at the memo from the State Chancellor's office inviting applications to be submitted for a baccalaureate on January 15, 2022. I am happy to let you know that on January 15th, we submitted an application for Bakersfield College for the Bachelor of Science degree in Research Laboratory Technology.

Here is a copy and paste from the application:

As technology continues to advance, it is also becoming more complex. Instrumentation and processes require additional training and knowledge for new laboratory technicians to be prepared for success in research settings without needing extensive on-the-job training. Some of the key skills needed in rapidly expanding fields related to chemistry, biology, environmental science and geology need technicians capable of using modern instrumentation for qualitative and quantitative sample analyses, following "good lab practice" (GLP) cleaning and laboratory maintenance, and documenting OSHA and other laboratory regulations and standards. Technicians are expected to be able to use computer systems to support program management and reporting.

Bakersfield College's Baccalaureate Degree Program in Research Laboratory Technology will train students with these skills and a foundation in science theory and practice to be ready for many laboratory technician careers in science and 21st century emerging energy areas.

That's all I have for now.

For more about updates from our KCCD colleges, sign up for my blog at <https://sonyachristianblog.com/>

The future remains bright at KCCD.  
With much warmth and collegiality

sonya

See all issues From the Chancellor's Desk

#KCCDDaringMightyThings

