

From the Chancellor's Desk



Honoring and Recognizing our Veterans & Other Updates

November 11, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Let's honor and recognize our veterans today and everyday.

We don't know them all, but we owe them all – Unknown

Our student veterans at KCCD

Over the last 8 years KCCD Colleges have enrolled 3,538 Veterans, 1,151 Active Military, and 6,155 Children of Veterans or Active Military. Some of these students have been registered as both when they were active military and then afterwards when they were veterans.

Gender wise, 55% of this group are Men, which flips the traditional gender distribution at our colleges. This distribution is even more pronounced among African American and Hispanic Veterans/Active Military/Children of Veterans, where there are even fewer men than women enrolled in the general student population.

Over fifty percent of this group are first-generation students whose parents highest level of education is less than an associate's degree.

Our Veteran/Active Military/Children of Veterans or Active Military have loftier educational goals as 57% of students have transfer to a 4-year university as an ed goal.

During this time, KCCD has awarded 1,402 degrees to 663 veterans, 425 degrees to 194 Active Military servicepersons, and 3,068 degrees to 1,447 children of veterans/Active military.

To our student veterans at our three colleges – we honor you and we are grateful that you have selected BC, PC and CC as your home.

Statewide study of student veterans in California Community Colleges

The Research and Planning Group completed a 2021-22 study of student veterans in California Community College. Key findings from this [2022 study](#) reflect:

- **Reported rates of illness, injury, and disability** are very high among student veterans, even slightly higher than what was found in the [2018 study](#).
- Student veterans **struggle to maintain an appropriate school-life balance**.
- While many VRCs offer comprehensive services to help students, the pandemic **impacted students' awareness of and access to these valuable supports**.
- Student veterans **face the unique challenge of navigating college administrative processes while coordinating with the Veterans Administration** to initiate and maintain their benefits.

Agriculture/Water/Energy Webinar

Agriculture/Water/Energy (AWE) Education Series


Climate Smart Agriculture

November 15, 2022
3:00 PM (PT)


Registration Link:
<https://bit.ly/AWEClimateSmartAg>

Hosted by
the Valley Strong Energy Institute
and Kern CCD Chancellor's Office


Featured Speakers:








Dr. Allegra Mayer
Post Doctoral Researcher,
Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory



Danny Royer
Farm Coordinator,
UC Merced CITRIS Group



Dr. Jason Todd
Chief Technology Officer,
Tasteful Selections & RPE

The Valley Strong Energy Institute's Ag/Water/Energy (AWE) Education Series continues at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15. with a focus on climate smart agriculture. Panelists will discuss new developments in soil science, as well as data analytics in food processing, that would help the state meet its climate goals.

To register for the AWE Education Series webinar on November 15, [fill out the registration link](#).

For more information, [visit the Valley Strong Energy Institute website](#).

Teaching and Learning

Porterville College's Leslie Pelon wrote the [newest entry in the Kern CCD TALE](#) (Teaching and Learning Experiences) Blog, "Building Community 15 Minutes at a Time."



She shares that when we went into lockdown in spring of 2020, she was looking for ways to connect with students, and began one-on-one virtual meetings with her students.

"After starting to require these meetings, I have seen my students' success improve drastically. They do better on the assignment when they meet with me because I can explain it to them and answer questions one-on-one. They show up to student/office hours more often throughout the semester. Because my student has had the chance to get to know me, they have been eager and willing to ask me for help and share their insights. And best of all, I have seen them feel more confident participating in class and engaging with their peers."

The TALE Blog provides a virtual space for faculty, staff, former faculty, and others within the Kern Community College District to contribute their writings that describe provide insights rooted in experiences in teaching and learning, their implications for ensuring that learning occurs with intentional outcomes, and their relationship to faculty engagement and innovation, and student success.

Subscribe to the blog at <https://kernccdtaleblog.org/2022/11/02/building-community-15-minutes-at-a-time/>

Blog Post with Dr. Martin Keller

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Director Martin Keller and I [co-wrote this piece](#) on the Workforce and Economic Mobility blog ahead of the Economic Pre-Summit that KCCD hosted a few weeks ago. The blog highlights the work that we are doing to evolve our energy systems to focus on climate resilience.

"Our organizations, the [U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory \(NREL\)](#) and [Kern Community College District](#), are working together in partnership to

ensure energy remains a primary economic driver in Kern County and continues to create



good jobs for all residents going forward as it has until now. To us, the way to do that is clear: by harnessing the significant investments coming from the state and federal governments and working with local industry and government to maximize renewable energy generation while making legacy fuels as clean as possible. And doing so in a way that prioritizes the creation of good jobs that can support families and equitable benefits for all residents of this community.”

Subscribe to the blog at <https://jobsdemandededucation.com/>

Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) Degrees

On September 21, 2022 [Insider Higher Ed published a piece I wrote](#) about the importance of community colleges offering baccalaureate degrees. Our three colleges are committed to advancing AB 927, the legislation authorizing California Community College baccalaureate degrees.

“CCBs must now be leveraged to rebuild the middle class. We can skill up our nation in a rapidly developing technological environment by making baccalaureate programs available at the neighborhood community college.”

Bakersfield College’s baccalaureate degree in Industrial Automation was approved in 2015 when SB 805 passed allowing 15 community colleges in California for the first time to pilot a bachelor’s degree. Recently, under AB 927, BC was approved for a second baccalaureate degree in Research Laboratory Technology. Both PC and CC are actively exploring baccalaureate programs that will fill the workforce needs of the region.

To stay in touch with the happenings at the three colleges at KCCD subscribe to my weekly blog <https://sonyachristianblog.com/>

The future remains bright at KCCD!

With much warmth and collegiality.
sonya

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#KCCDDaringMightyThings

