



Chancellor's Update

November 2, 2023

Colleagues,

I would like to share a few highlights from October from our district office. In this update is information on:

- Principal Partners' Day
- ACCT Regional and National Awards
- ACCT Pacific Chair Announced
- ACCT Program Pathways Mapper Presentation
- Cerro Coso Cyber Security Baccalaureate Degree
- CVHEC Summit
- CREL One Year Anniversary Celebration

Principal Partners' Day

I had the privilege of attending the Principal Partners Day held at Stockdale High School. The Kern High School District's annual "open house" is a half day event that begins simultaneously at 21 school sites. More than 400 local business, government and educational leaders spend the morning at one of the schools. It was a great opportunity to meet some of the leadership and get to know a little more about Stockdale High School.



ACCT Regional and National Awards



At the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress, Kern CCD was recognized for the regional Charles Kennedy Equity Award. *This award recognizes exemplary commitment by a governing board or governing board and president of an ACCT member two-year postsecondary institution board or state board for two-year postsecondary institutions to achieve equity in the college's education programs and services and in the administration and delivery of those programs and services.* As a recipient of the regional award we were put in the running for the national award. In true KCCD fashion, we sealed the deal and also took home the national award. This is a distinctive award and one that should make us all proud.

ACCT Pacific Chair Announced

The ACCT Leadership Congress is also a time when new officers and board members are elected. The Chairs are broken into several different regions and Kern CCD falls within the Pacific Region. I'm proud to announce that Trustee Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg has been elected for the Pacific Regional Chair. She will represent Kern CCD and all of the colleges in the Pacific region in this noteworthy role.



ACCT Program Pathway Mappers Presentation



Finally, a team from Kern CCD also presented at the ACCT Leadership Congress. I was happy to present with some of our Trustees (Trustee Agbalog, Trustee Scrivener, Trustee Jimenez) and Associate Vice Chancellor Coston on the Program Pathways Mapper. Our session was called, *"Program Pathways Mapper: A Visual Guide – Programs of Study at Kern"*. We described our session this way, *"The Program Pathways Mapper helps lay out the courses necessary for certificate, associate degree, and baccalaureate degree completion. It helps "clarify the path" for students and speed up their progress towards completion of their educational goal. The tool includes information on typical wages and labor market demand for each program, as well as a semester-by-semester path from entry*

to completion. This presentation highlights the benefits of the Program Pathways Mapper and how it supports the Guided Pathways initiative for California Community Colleges.” It was well attended and several in the audience were excited about learning more about the tool and how to get it implemented at their college.

Cerro Coso Cyber Security Baccalaureate Degree



The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) recently concluded the cycle three baccalaureate degree program (BDP) application program compliance and quality review process. In the letter we received from the state it said, “*The CCCCCO is pleased to announce that Cerro Coso College’s proposed BDP in Cyber Security Technology has been granted **provisional approval** status.*” *Provisional approval* means we

are only waiting on the intersegmental review and that would be followed by approval from the Board of Governors. Crossing our fingers the approval happens so we can meet this critical need for our partners in the Ridgecrest area and provide an amazing opportunity for their students.

CVHEC Summit

On October 20, 2023 I attended the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC) Annual Higher Education Summit. The focus this year was on “Student Success through Equity and Inclusion – Thriving in the Central Valley.” The summit spotlighted the regional efforts clearing the path to certificate and degree completion for our students. It was my honor and privilege to introduce the keynote speaker for the event, our very own State Chancellor Sonya Christian. In her comments she introduced the [Central Valley Pathways Project as a model for the state.](#)



CREL One Year Anniversary Celebration

The team behind our California Renewable Energy Laboratory, or CREL, celebrated their one-year anniversary with a breakfast event at the Levan Center on October 5. After some brief introductions from Sonya Christian and Steve Watkin, and Norma Rojas-Mora, the CREL team held a presentation

where they broke down the formation of their three Centers of Excellence focused on Clean Transportation, Grid Resilience, and Carbon Management. At the end of the event, CREL Director Lora Larkin recognized Blair Pruett, Tunde Deru, and Sara Sullivan for their diligent efforts in stewarding the project from concept to completion.

Thank you for all the amazing work you've done!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Burke
Chancellor

