



Chancellor's Update

October 2, 2023

Colleagues,

The semester is well underway and I would like to share a few highlights from September from our district office. In this update is information on:

- 2023-24 Kern CCD Leadership Academy
- Kick-off of Accreditation ISER Development
- District Office Employee Engagement Event
- Accessibility Campaign Kick-off
- DEIA Conference
- Nursing Apprenticeship Grant
- Porterville State of the College

2023-24 Leadership Academy

September 8th started the latest cohort for the Kern CCD Leadership Academy. This group will spend one day a month learning about the different nuances of each college and the district. The experience includes a trip to Sacramento to engage in advocacy with our state legislators. The Academy also includes time spent on a group project with final presentations at the end of the Academy. Best of luck to this cohort and I look forward to your presentations at the end!



Kick-off of Accreditation ISER Development

We say we are 'kicking off' the accreditation Institution Self Evaluation Report (ISER) development but really our colleges are working on accreditation all the time. We are about one year away from submitting our next self-evaluation and all three colleges are already working on initial drafts, gathering evidence, and engaging all of our employee groups in the development of the self-evaluation. Our board subcommittee has been given a preliminary update and timeline and we are moving forward. I would strongly encourage all of you to get involved in the self-evaluation process. We each have a perspective from our area that can be a helpful contribution to accreditation.



District Office Employee Engagement Event



On September 12th the employees of the district office got together in-person, with some participants virtual, to get to know each other and get updates from the various departments. The event is also an opportunity to share in some camaraderie and laughter. We enjoyed welcoming some of our new employees as well as engaging in some trivia about our district.



Accessibility Campaign Kick-off



As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, we are excited about our Accessibility Campaign. On Monday, September 25th the team from the State Chancellor's Office kicked off the event at Cerro Coso college, followed by a kick off on Wednesday at Porterville College. Thursday afternoon the campaign was kicked-off at Bakersfield College. We are learning a lot and the team from the state is our partner in helping us better understand "how" to make our processes, technology, software, procurement and other areas more accessible. Please join me in embracing the Accessibility Campaign and learning about ways we can each contribute and improve accessibility in our areas.

DEIA Conference

Kern CCD was well represented at the DEIA Conference in San Diego. Our very own Trustee Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg led a presentation on *"Trustees Role in Advancing Student Equity"* and Liz Rozell and Todd Coston co-presented with Antelope Valley College President Jennifer Zellet and Dean of CTE, Gregory Bormann on *"The Equity Imperative of the Bachelor Degree Program: Cases Studies of Successful Implementation"*. It was a great conference and very helpful in improving our understanding of the equity challenges we still face moving forward.



Nursing Apprenticeship Grant



The Kern Community College District has received a \$3.4 million grant from the California Community Colleges' Chancellor's Office to enhance apprenticeship programs in nursing, public health, industrial technology, and business. The funding is distributed as \$1.1 million for a registered nursing apprenticeship program, \$1.5 million for an industrial machinery mechanics apprenticeship at Bakersfield College, and the rest allocated for pilot apprenticeships in public health informatics, perinatal and neonatal nursing, and staff services

analysis. This grant will enable Kern CCD to provide 232 apprenticeships to students annually across these programs. The funds aim to expand apprenticeship opportunities in high-demand areas of the labor market, such as nursing, and align with the state's goal of adding 500,000 apprentices by 2029 as part of the Apprenticeship Initiative New and Innovative Grant Program.

Porterville State of the College

September 18th I had the privilege of attending the Porterville State of the College event. It was a wonderful event with great energy and a very enthusiastic team! President Habib was a wonderful host and I was able to share the experience with Trustee Corkins, Trustee Jiminez, student Trustee Guzman, Deputy Chancellor Dadabhoy, and Vice Chancellor of Finance, Mike Giacomini.



Thank you for all for everything you do to make our district great!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Burke
Chancellor

