



Chancellor's Update

August 1, 2023

Colleagues,

I hope you are all staying well hydrated while we brave the hot Bakersfield summer. I'm looking forward to the new academic year and excited for the opportunity to continue to serve our existing and incoming students. I sincerely hope you had time to refresh, spend time with your family, get much needed rest, or take a trip. As we wind down the summer, I wanted to give you a few updates on budget and some of the events I've attended.

Visit to NREL

Earlier this month, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) hosted our California Renewable Energy (CREL) team, along with staff from the Kern Community College District (KCCD), Bakersfield College (BC) and the Foundation for the California Community Colleges. During the visit, subject matter experts, technical partners, and leadership had an opportunity to collaborate on technical projects, including agrivoltaics, microgrids and battery storage, and participated in discussions on community connections, workforce development, and education and training in clean energy.



Special thanks to our NREL partners for providing an informative tour of their research support facility at the South Table Mountain campus, and for our visit to Jack's Solar Garden, the largest commercial agrivoltaics research site in the U.S., located in Boulder Colorado. We are excited to see these collaborations unfold as CREL continues to grow in their role in climate change on behalf of KCCD and our community.

Budget Update

The Governor has signed the State's budget and the good news is that community colleges are still coming out ahead. The budget uses a significant increase in the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 8.22 percent on the Student Centered Funding Formula, and is driving an increase in the revenues of the district. However, the District is concerned about the current projected state budget deficit of \$31.5 billion and that the 8.22% COLA is partially supported with one-time funds. This COLA has been assigned to a number of categorical programs, but unfortunately not all programs are seeing



an increase. The District has therefore opted to use a lower COLA in its projections of revenues associated with the SCFF. The COLA to be used in our adopted budget is inline with the LAO's suggested COLA of 5% to account for these one-time funds and is supported by our Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, the budget does claw back over 59% of the 2022-23 allocation for scheduled maintenance. In addition, many of the one-time items we've seen over the past several years have gone away as the State's revenue has not kept up with expectations. The Governor's roadmap for success has put a focus

on improved student educational outcomes, seeking to advance equity, expecting increased intersegmental collaboration, and seeking improved workforce preparedness. The 2023-24 budget for community colleges and KCCD should be considered a "win", and the finances of the District remain strong.

Vice President Retreat

Special thanks to Interim Vice Chancellor of Educational Services Gregory Anderson for holding the inaugural VP Council Summer Retreat in beautiful Kernville. Springlike weather welcomed the VPs of instruction and student services to strengthen district-wide collaboration, analyze data, advance institutional effectiveness, and recommit themselves *to delivering on the promise of student success with equity*.

I was happy to provide encouragement to the team, along with Deputy Chancellor Dadabhoy. The retreat topics and guests included:

- Campaign for Accessibility with guests Christine Fundell & Dawn Okinaka
- Data-Informed Leadership with guest Dr Bob Ngo
- Student Success with Equity with guest Dr Olga Rodriguez
- Accreditation and Planning with guests Melinda Day & Todd Coston
- Efficient and Effective Educational Technology with guest Todd Coston
- On the horizon: Climate, AI, Vision 2030
- District-wide Collaboration, Transformation, and Institutional Effectiveness



Thanks to all who supported this event, including the guests, the college presidents supporting district-wide collaboration, Genevieve Horton for arranging excellent food and lodging, and the vice presidents themselves.



California Community Colleges and Climate: Defining the Possible

June 27th was an exciting day for Kern Community College District's California Renewable Energy Laboratory Team at the California Community Colleges and Climate: Defining the Possible Summit held at West Los Angeles College (WLAC). Huge Renegade shout out to California Community College Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian for helping to address the greatest challenge of our time.

The team represented members from National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Bakersfield College and the Kern CCD.

Cerro Coso Community College Physical Education Outdoor Complex Renovation

I'm always excited when we have an opportunity to improve our facilities both indoor and outdoor. Cerro Coso broke ground on their Physical Education Outdoor Complex Renovation. A special guest for the ground breaking was President Emerita Jill Board. It was an honor to participate in the ground breaking ceremony and look forward to the completion of the project in 2025.



Porterville College - Education Master Plan



The Porterville team has been working hard to update the Educational Master Plan. The EMP Task Force met monthly to discuss the progress of the plan and to workshop a final draft. The group met this month to discuss the results of the development phases and to finalize the plan. The day was incredibly productive, and the group is confident that the plan will be a strong foundation for the future of Porterville College. The plan is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Trustees in September. Once the plan is approved by the board, it will be used to guide the college's strategic planning and decision-making for the next five years.

Bakersfield College Alumni Hall of Fame

Nearly 300 Bakersfield College supporters came out to celebrate the newest Renegades being inducted into the 2023 BC Alumni Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Steven Val Alvidrez (posthumous), Ryan Alsop, Max Becherer, Robin McNabb, and Jay Tamsi. They have all demonstrated to our community how Bakersfield College can be a catalyst and make a difference in one's life. You can visit <https://supportbc.org/bc-alumni-hall-of-fame/> to learn more about their journeys and how they were significantly impacted by BC.



Thank you for all of your hard work and I look forward to a new academic year!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Burke
Chancellor

