



Chancellor's Update

September 5, 2023

Colleagues,

I would like to share a few August highlights from around our district. In this edition you will find information on:

- Chancellor's Retreat
- Accessibility
- TALE Blog – Latest Entry
- Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award
- Campus Opening Days

Chancellor's Retreat



On August 2nd, Chancellor's Cabinet participated in a retreat to set the stage for the next academic year. Starting off the retreat we watched the State Chancellor's webinar and learned more about the Vision 2030 goals. We also had rich discussion looking at enrollment data, reviewing the budget and Student Centered Funding targets, Board goals, and Chancellor priorities. It was a great time of fellowship and camaraderie and I'm excited to work with this group over the next academic year!

Accessibility

On September 8th, Kern CCD's accessibility campaign will be launched. Key to the success of this campaign is our adoption of the Accessibility Capability Maturity Model. The ACMM will provide us tools and approaches to ensure all members of our community are offered an equitable experience. This work aligns with the statewide Vision for Success and supports our colleges' accreditation. Working with the state's Tech Center, our multi-college district will be the first to pilot the ACMM. Our collective work will lead to developing an accessibility plan and implementing key improvements including business processes, facility improvements, training, and communication. This work will call upon each of us to share responsibility in everything we do accessible to all—students, employees, and our communities. Making things accessible at community colleges helps everyone, including those with disabilities, to be part of everything the college offers. Everyone is encouraged to embrace and engage in this accessibility campaign so we can make a better learning and working environment for all.

Tale Blog

As our new school year begins, the Kern CCD Teaching-and-Learning Exchange (TALE) Blog starts off the new year with reflections and tales of educational insight with the reflections of Bob Simpkins that he wrote during the summer as he looked back on a few important experiences from earlier this year. I hope you have a few minutes to read 'A Dream of Disney, Holism, and Educational Creativity':



<https://kernccdtaleblog.org/2023/08/23/a-dream-of-disney-holism-and-educational-creativity/> .

Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award

On September 6th we will be honoring the next recipient of the Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award. The recipient will receive a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 and a plaque in his/her honor. The recipient will present a lecture that will be held in the Levan Center.

From the website, "Phronesis is the Greek word for "practical wisdom." The distinctive mark of phronesis, and thus the purview of this proposed award, is applying one's professional expertise, one's academic training and skillset, to practical matters in one's community." In 2022, Nick Strobel was the recipient and you can view his [lecture here](#). More information about the event and award can be [found here](#).

Opening Week at our colleges

The Bakersfield College Renegade Event Center was filled with a sea of red as faculty, staff, and administrators attended the annual opening day festivities on August 17, 2023. Interim President Steve Watkin addressed the crowd with a theme of “togetherness” and ensured this year would be a year of growth and prosperity for our students. Bakersfield College will celebrate its 110th Anniversary of serving students throughout Kern County and beyond. Over the course of the opening day ceremonies, there were many awards, performances, speakers, and more.



Porterville College began its fall semester with a remarkable 20% increase in returning students, totaling over 4,000 attendees. Despite the humid weather, the first day of classes proceeded smoothly, featuring student-faculty interactions, campus resource insights, and live music. The opening days also highlighted students' engagement with professors and the Student Services Department's provision of information and resources through various booths on campus during the initial two weeks of the semester.

Cerro Coso Community College welcomed students back to campus with our annual CC Rocks on August 18. We broke out the games, photo booth, and ice cream for students to have some fun while they met with staff members from all departments. Students also attended an orientation, took a campus tour, and had the opportunity to learn more about our scholarship programs. It was a beautiful day to be back on campus!



Thank you for such a smooth start to the new semester and I look forward to the academic year ahead!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Burke
Chancellor

