



MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

April 1, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the final stretch of the Spring semester, I want to take a moment to acknowledge your dedication and hard work in supporting our students and our college community. This time of year can be especially busy, so I encourage you to prioritize your well-being—whether that means taking a break, getting outside, or simply finding moments to recharge. Your wellness is essential, not just for your success but for the success of those around you. Thank you for all you do, and let's finish the semester strong together!

Wellness Survey

In keeping with the theme of wellness, I hope you have taken time to fill out the Employee Well-Being Survey. An email was sent out to all employees from our Associate Vice Chancellor of Institutional Research and Reporting, Emma Blackthorne, inviting you to participate in a survey. Your participation in this survey is crucial as it will provide valuable insights into the well-being of our employees and help us create a supportive and thriving work environment. The survey is anonymous, and the results will be used exclusively for research purposes to refine our focus areas and ensure we are addressing the needs and concerns of our staff. Responses are not required if you would like to opt-out. If you did not see the email but would still like to participate, please fill out the [Employee Well-Being Survey](#) by Friday, April 11th.



District Strategic Plan

Over the past year, a dedicated team representing each employee group across our three colleges has collaborated using the Strategic Foresight model to envision the future of Kern CCD over the next decade. Through this process, they have identified key drivers shaping higher education, analyzed potential scenarios, anticipated challenges and uncertainties, and ultimately arrived at a preferred vision for the district. This final scenario embraces the evolving landscape of education while remaining aligned with Kern CCD's core mission and vision.

The executive team is now building upon this foundational work, integrating it into a comprehensive and cohesive five-year strategic plan. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the individuals who contributed their time and expertise to this effort over the past year. Their dedication and thoughtful input have been instrumental in shaping this vision, and I am pleased with the progress and outcomes achieved.

Strategic Foresight Team

Team	Name	Title
Team Lead (DO)	Stacy Pfluger	Vice Chancellor, Ed Services and Student Success
Team Lead (DO)	Todd Coston	Associate Vice Chancellor, Planning & Educational Technology
PC Management	Michael Carley	Director of Institutional Research
CC Management	Corey Marvin	Vice President, Instruction
BC Management	Dan Hall	Director, Academic Technology
PC Classified	Kristi Covington	Educational Advisor/Outreach
CC Classified	Tanner Barnett	Admin Asst, Student Services
BC Classified	Timothy Mason	System Support Specialist I
PC Faculty	Bob Simpkins	Professor (Social Science)
CC Faculty	Yvonne Mills	Professor (English)
BC Faculty	Erica Giblin	Professor (Education)
PC Student	Itzel Vargas	Student
BC Student	Amy Jayasena	Student
DO Manager	Melissa Thornsberry	Interim CFO
DO Manager	Emma Blackthorne	Associate Vice Chancellor, Institutional Research & Reporting
DO Classified	Becky Beed	Purchasing Coordinator/Analyst

Leadership Academy

This is a milestone month for the Kern CCD Leadership Academy as our current cohort prepares to graduate. Over the past year, these aspiring leaders have deepened their understanding of our district, visited each of our main campuses, engaged in legislative advocacy, and collaborated on team projects. This month, they will present their project proposals to the executive team, followed by a final celebratory luncheon marking their official graduation from the program.

This cohort has been dynamic, thoughtful, and inspiring—demonstrating open-mindedness, innovation, and a strong commitment to leadership. It has been a privilege to work with them, and I invite you to join me in congratulating this outstanding group

As we look ahead, planning is already underway for the 2025-26 cohort. If you are interested in applying for the academy, please contact [Todd Coston](#) for more information.



Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Bloomberg
Chancellor

