



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

August 22, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you had a restorative and energizing summer. As we begin this new semester, I'm inspired by the dedication and passion each of you brings to our mission of serving students. Every day, your work, whether in the classroom, behind the scenes, or out in our communities, creates opportunities that change lives. Together, we have the privilege of guiding our students toward their goals, and I'm confident that this year will be filled with achievements, growth, and success. Thank you for all you do to make our colleges a place where students can thrive. Let's make it a great semester!

**Passing of former BC President and Trustee Rick Wright:** The Kern Community College District is saddened to share the passing of Richard "Rick" Wright, former Bakersfield College president, and Kern CCD trustee. Serving as BC's president from 1983 to 1997, Wright was the youngest college president in the nation at his appointment and led the college through remarkable growth, increasing enrollment by 130% and championing shared governance with faculty. Known for his commitment to teaching, he continued to instruct psychology and neuropsychology throughout his career, later serving in district leadership and on the Board of Trustees. Colleagues remember him as a respected, approachable leader dedicated to student success and community engagement. His legacy of educational excellence and collaboration will continue to inspire KCCD's mission.



### The Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award Dinner and Lecture Series:

SAVE THE DATE!

Chancellor Bloomberg invites you to attend

## THE JACK HERNANDEZ PHRONESIS AWARD DINNER AND LECTURE SERIES

September 25, 2025  
5 PM

Cerro Coso Community College  
3000 College Heights Blvd., Ridgecrest



**Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award Recipients:**

Guck Ooi, CCCC      Claudia Sellers, CCCC  
Professor, Biology      Professor, Biology

Please submit your RSVP at  
<https://forms.office.com/r/w9p8vsS2eu>  
For any questions, contact us at [KCCDevents@kccd.edu](mailto:KCCDevents@kccd.edu)



**Fall Campus Conversations with the Chancellor:** The next round of *Conversations with the Chancellor* is coming soon! These sessions are an opportunity for faculty, classified professionals, and managers to share feedback, ask questions, and discuss ideas directly with me. Over the past year, these conversations have provided valuable insights that help guide our work, and I look forward to continuing this open dialogue at each of our colleges.

Bakersfield College – Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

District Office – Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

Porterville College – Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

Cerro Coso College – Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

**College Discovery Academy:** Kern CCD is launching the College Discovery Academy: *Explore, Imagine, Rise*, a new initiative aimed at introducing 3rd–8th grade students to college life through a four-week summer “mini semester” on campus starting in summer 2026. The program will offer grade-appropriate courses, promote early literacy and college awareness, and connect students with business and industry partners to explore career possibilities. Five partner elementary and middle schools have been selected for the pilot. Nicole Alvarez has been appointed interim Executive Director, bringing extensive early college experience and strong K–12 relationships. This effort builds on Kern CCD’s leadership in dual enrollment and expands the pipeline to begin fostering a college-going culture as early as elementary school.

**Next Bloomberg Briefing:** I’ll be talking about the Management Leadership Institute (MLI) and Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI).



Zoom link: <https://kccd-edu.zoom.us/j/86083365954?pwd=FfKztEwblpFXmsEjk3mzEYHkyIJDFh.1> (no registration required)

As with previous Bloomberg Briefings, I will be taking questions following my comments. Please make time in your schedule to join us, as your input and engagement are essential to our collective success.

Thank you for your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to our students and communities. Each of you plays a vital role in creating an environment where our students can learn, grow, and succeed. Your passion, creativity, and teamwork not only make a difference in

their lives today but also help shape a brighter future for our entire region. Together, we continue to inspire, empower, and transform lives through education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Bloomberg  
Chancellor

