



MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

October 1, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Leadership Academy Projects

As part of the Kern CCD Leadership Academy, participants collaborate in teams to design and implement projects that strengthen our district. Two of these projects have recently gained momentum, secured funding, and are moving forward: **Hope Talks** and **Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Training**.

The **Hope Talks** were developed to provide encouragement and connection for individuals navigating mental health challenges. Through the powerful and courageous stories shared by faculty, staff, and students, attendees are reminded that they are not alone, that healing is possible, and that hope is real.



The inaugural event will be held on October 15 at 6:00 p.m. in Fine Arts 30 at Bakersfield College and we invite you to join us in person. For those at our remote colleges, the event will also be livestreamed [via Zoom](#).

Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Training is a self-defense program originally designed for women but adaptable for individuals of all genders. The program focuses on practical techniques for escape and defense, situational awareness, and personal empowerment.



RAD is already offered at Bakersfield College and was recently introduced at Porterville College, with the long-term goal of making it available at all three colleges. Upcoming sessions include October 10 in Delano and October 17 at Bakersfield College. Please watch your campus announcements for additional details.

Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award Dinner and Lecture Series

On Thursday, September 25, we celebrated the two most recent recipients of the Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award. The dinner and lecture took place at Cerro Coso Community College, where we honored Professors **Guck Ooi** and **Claudia Sellers**, both distinguished professors in Biology.



The recipients delivered an engaging and insightful lecture on the bees of the Mojave Desert, highlighting the remarkable diversity of these essential pollinators. They shared that

California is home to more than 1,600 species of native bees, underscoring both the richness of our state's natural environment and the importance of protecting it.

College Discovery Academy Press Event

In June 2026, Kern Community College District will launch the College Discovery Academy, a four-week summer program designed to help 4th–8th grade students envision higher education as part of their future. Building on the success of Kern CCD's Early College program, this pilot will offer a college-style "mini-semester" with engaging courses, career pathway exploration, and confidence-building experiences for students from five Bakersfield City School District partner schools. A press event will be held on October 7 at 9 a.m. at the Weill Institute to share more about this exciting initiative.

Porterville College President Finalists

The Porterville College President Finalists Open Forums will be held on October 6 and 7. We extend our appreciation to the screening committee for their outstanding work in thoughtfully narrowing the field of candidates to the finalists. These forums provide an important opportunity for the campus community to engage with the candidates and share feedback.

California Renewable Energy Laboratory Inaugural Fall Forum

Join community colleges, state leaders, researchers, and industry partners for a day-long forum on clean energy, climate, and resiliency in California. The event will take place on November 4 from 7:30a-5:00p at Bakersfield College in the Renegade Event Center. For tickets, agenda, and speaker biographies, [click here](#).



Forum Central Valley Mother Lode Vision 2030 Regional Convening

The Vision 2030 Regional Workshop is an opportunity to discuss, engage, and plan efforts that will support our statewide and local goals. Over the course of two days, district and college teams will have an opportunity to engage data sets aligned to Vision 2030, and to frame local plans and strategies in alignment with system goals. We will also leverage the strength of the regional consortium and embrace collective impact planning to develop unified strategies for addressing regional student success. The event runs November 5th at 8am to November 6th at 2pm (PST) and will be held at the Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center located at 801 Truxtun Avenue. [Click here](#) to register for the event.

Kern CCD Board of Trustees Meeting

The October 9th Kern CCD Board of Trustees Meeting will be held at Cerro Coso Community College in the Community Room. The main board meeting will begin at 1pm. Agenda and other details can be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Bloomberg
Chancellor

