



MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

March 2, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

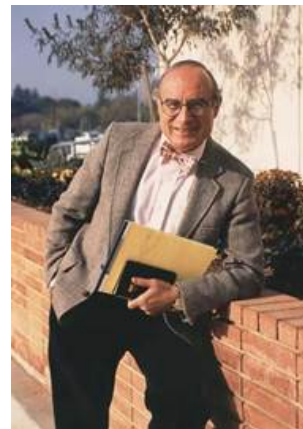
As we move further into the semester, I hope you are finding energy and purpose in the important work you do each day. Across our colleges and the district office, I continue to be inspired by the dedication, creativity, and care you bring to supporting our students. Your efforts, both seen and unseen, are what make a meaningful difference in their lives and in our communities.

This month's newsletter includes several updates and highlights that reflect the progress we are making together. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our shared mission and to the success of every student we serve.

2026 Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award – Call For Nominations

We are now accepting nominations for the 2026 Jack Hernandez Phronesis Award, established to honor a KCCD employee who exemplifies *phronesis*—the practical wisdom that drives meaningful impact in our campuses and communities. This distinguished award celebrates individuals with at least ten years of service who have applied their academic training and professional expertise to address real-world challenges and improve the lives of others. If you know a colleague whose work embodies this legacy of wisdom and service, [we encourage you to nominate them](#) by the March 31 deadline; information on the nomination process and criteria is available on the [KCCD website](#). Let's recognize those whose dedication reflects the values and spirit of this meaningful honor.

[Nomination Form](#)



Business Process Transformation

In my recent all-employee message, I outlined the next steps in our efforts to modernize and strengthen our business processes. As a reminder, I will be hosting open forum discussions at each campus to gather input and engage in meaningful dialogue about how we can improve the way we serve students and support one another. These meetings are open to all employees, and we will also be inviting colleagues from key functional areas such as Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, and Business Services. Following the sessions, Ellucian will prepare a report outlining recommended next steps and an implementation timeline, which I will share broadly so everyone understands how this work will move forward. Meeting dates are below:

Monday, March 2 – District Office (Bakersfield)

District and college executive and senior leadership planning sessions with Ellucian to align on objectives and approach prior to campus visits.

Tuesday, March 3 – Cerro Coso Community College (Ridgecrest)

Constituent open forums with Management, Classified, and Faculty, along with campus

leadership engagement. In addition, the Ellucian operational team will hold targeted small-group and individual meetings at the District Office focused on specific functional areas.

Wednesday, March 4 – Bakersfield College & District Office

Morning open forums at Bakersfield College (Faculty, Classified, Management), followed by afternoon sessions at the District Office for Classified and Management. The Ellucian operational team will also continue small-group and individual meetings at the District Office with designated functional area representatives.

Thursday, March 5 – Porterville College

Morning open forums with Classified, Management, and Faculty at Porterville College.

Hope Talks

Following the powerful and well-attended Hope Talks event at Bakersfield College, we are pleased to host a second Hope Talks at Porterville College in the theater on March 18th at 6:00 p.m. Hope Talks brings our community together to hear courageous and personal stories from speakers who share their lived experiences with mental health challenges, fostering understanding, connection, and hope. The evening will also include local mental health providers on site with information and resources for those who may be seeking support. For those unable to attend in person, a livestream option will be available. We encourage our students, employees, and community members to join us for this meaningful and impactful event.



Livestream link: <https://view.yololiv.com/live/1403430433089130496>

Conversations with the Chancellor

As I do each semester, I will be hosting town halls at each of our campuses as part of my ongoing commitment to open communication and continuous improvement. These sessions are an important opportunity for you to share your ideas, ask questions, and provide candid feedback about how we can better serve our students and support one another. I carefully review and reflect on the feedback shared during these conversations, and your input helps inform decisions and strengthen our district. I hope you will join me and together we can continue building a stronger KCCD.

Bakersfield – March 19th (2:00pm-Faculty, 3:00pm-Management, 4:15pm-Classified)

Porterville – April 9th (9:30am-Classified, 10:30am-Management, 11:30am-Faculty)

District Office – April 14th (2:00pm-Classified, 3:00pm-Management)

Cerro Coso – April 30th (9:45am Managers, 10:45am-Classified, 12:30pm-Faculty)

Thank you for the dedication, care, and professionalism you bring to your work each day. I am continually inspired by your commitment to our students and to one another. Together, we will keep moving forward with purpose, strengthening our colleges and expanding opportunity for those we serve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Bloomberg
Chancellor

