

Opportunity to Address the Senate  
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Karen Cid Ibanez

Hello, Academic Senate. Thank you for allowing public comments. My name is Karen Cid Ibanez, I recently graduated from BC and transferred to CSUB, and my major is Psychology.

I am a DACA recipient, a community member, an activist for human and immigrants rights, and I am here to speak on behalf of the Latinos Unidos Por Educacion (L.U.P.E) StudOrg in support of the Racial Equity Commitments at BC, more specifically on Commitment #3 Faculty & Staff Diversification

I grew up in Lamont, a small town where the majority of the residents are Latinos, agricultural, Immigrants, and hard-working families. Growing up I do remember having a Hispanic teacher in kindergarten and in my eighth-grade year I had a substitute who was black. Not too much diversity. However, if I had the support of a diverse faculty I would have felt more comfortable, appreciated, and welcomed.

My parents only spoke Spanish, and they struggled to help me learn a new language. I also faced bullying because of my broken English and my skin color. I had to navigate college by myself after high school. Gladly I met beautiful people at the EOPS program that helped me succeed. That is why we need more dedicated folks like Manuel Rosas, Rafa Centeno, Imelda, Patricia, and MORE faculty, staff, and directors of color that genuinely care for our future. Having a diverse campus will improve cultural awareness, including teaching philosophies by faculty, and will improve race relations on the entire campus between staff and students. Minority and disadvantaged students will witness that people of color are represented well at Bakersfield College. I believe it will also help inspire students to pursue their profession with more confidence.

It will be extremely important to expand the Dreamers Resources Center at BC. First of all, it will create more job opportunities for recent graduates. It will help them evolve in their professional career.. It will create a safe environment for all students that come from different backgrounds because everyone will be welcomed.

In closing, I think it would be really important to establish a learning community for the undocumented/AB540/ Dreamers at BC. It will help students to develop a strong supportive environment, become more engaged on campus, and ultimately, achieve academic success.