

March 24, 2022

**Subject:** Baccalaureate Degree – Police Science (PSCI) – Proposal Submission

**Purpose:** To inform and gain the support and endorsement from the Bakersfield College Academic Senate for a PSCI Baccalaureate degree proposal being submitted by Bakersfield College's Public Safety Department

**Discussion:**

- New legislation allows community colleges to submit proposals for new bachelor's degrees to the California Community College Chancellor's office during two annual cycles and will target fifteen programs per cycle.
- Proposals will pass a review process by the chancellor's office, California State University and University of California systems administrators, and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.
- The number of baccalaureate degree programs offered by a community college district must be fewer than a quarter of the number of the district's associate degree programs. Bakersfield College is currently significantly below this threshold and is eligible to submit proposals for additional baccalaureate degrees following CCCCCO guidelines.
- Recently enacted AB-89 establishes minimum qualifications for specified Peace Officers and guidance for a modern policing degree program. AB-89 states better educated officers receive higher supervisor evaluations, have fewer disciplinary problems and accidents, are assaulted less often, and miss fewer days of work than their counterparts. It also establishes minimum education requirements for Peace Officer employment to include a modern policing degree program and bachelor degree.
- Bakersfield College is a leader in the Transformational Policing Model and adopted modern policing courses and degrees and has the capacity and expertise to provide courses pertinent to law enforcement, which include psychology, communication, history, ethnic studies, law, and development of critical thinking skills and emotional intelligence.
- The Bakersfield College service area includes approximately fifteen Public Safety/Law Enforcement agencies employing over 7,800 uniformed officers to include 2,041 Peace Officers – most failing to meet the minimum qualifications established by AB-89.
- A PSCI Baccalaureate degree meets a critical need recently established by law and has immediate relevancy to our local law enforcement industry.
- Our proposed PSCI program will prepare individuals in the science of policing to include forensics, investigations, public relations, community policing, witness interviewing, evidence collection and management, advanced crime prevention methods, report preparation and other law enforcement responsibilities.
- The Public Safety pathway currently has a consistent 1,600 unduplicated students in the Criminal Justice program – a local degree in which students are meeting the lower level

requirements for the proposed PSCI program. This includes approximately 800 first generation college students per year – Note: AB-89 directs focus on underserved populations that often are first generation college students.

<i>BC Criminal Justice AA Year</i>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<i>Unduplicated Enrollments</i>	1,578	1,450	1,569	1,642	1,533
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Gen College Students</i>	902	845	818	788	661

- Bakersfield College’s Early College/Dual Enrollment program demonstrates a continuous pipeline of students with potential interest in advanced policing. Bakersfield College has over 240 high school students enrolled in the Administration of Justice pathway and estimate approximately 35 additional students per year. Early College leadership projects the first ADT graduates in 2024 – qualifying them to enter the PSCI program as juniors.
- Initial cohort headcount, FTES, and revenue projections include the following:

<i>PSCI Year</i>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
<i>Unduplicated Head Count Projection</i>	20	40	40	50	60
<i>FTES Projection</i>	20.6	63.8	86.4	96.7	118.3
<i>Apportionment Projection</i>	\$126,432.00	\$393,955.00	\$535,046.00	\$598,262.00	\$732,024.00

- EMSI data indicates there are no Baccalaureate degree programs offered for CIP code 43.0701 Police Science in California.
- PSCI will prepare students to perform advanced law enforcement duties as police officers, sheriff deputies, public/private security officers, and other local, state, and federal law enforcement positions. The curriculum includes patrol and investigative activities, public and community relations, witness interviewing, evidence collection and management, crime prevention methods, computer forensics and investigations, legal statements and report writing, forensic psychology, and other law enforcement career activities.

**Recommendation:** Recent changes in law enforcement requirements and community expectations creates significant demand for education and training that goes beyond the traditional Police Academy or Criminal Justice curricula. The law now demands a deeper understanding of the science of policing and Bakersfield College is positioned to meet this need in our community. The new degree will provide advanced technical policing knowledge and skills and meet the need created by the significant legislative changes. The Public Safety team highly recommends the Bakersfield College Academic Senate formally support and endorse the submission of the Police Science Bachelorette degree program proposal.

