

Proposal to Restructure the Applied Science and Technology Department

The Applied Science and Technology (AST) Department has grown significantly in enrollment, faculty, and program complexity. With this growth has come increased responsibility for academic leadership, scheduling, curriculum, faculty support, laboratory and equipment needs, and student success. I believe the department has reached a size where restructuring into two departments would provide more focused and sustainable leadership. I propose dividing the current AST Department into the following two departments:

(Proposed New) Industrial Automation (INDA)

- Electronics, Process Technology, and Industrial Automation
- 628 students (Spring 2026)
- 7 full-time faculty
- 6+ adjunct faculty
- Room Priority
 - Automation and Electronics (IT5, IT6, IT7A, SE151)

Applied Science and Technology (AST)

- Automotive Technology, Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC), Water Treatment, Apprenticeship
- 359 students (Spring 2026)
- 9 full-time faculty
- 3+ adjunct faculty
- Room Priority
 - Automotive (AT1, AT2, IT3, IT4, AMTF)
 - HVAC (DST1 and HVAC Lab in Delano)
 - Water Treatment (N/A)

With the addition of two new full-time faculty hires and eight additional sections, I expect the Automotive, HVAC, Water Treatment, and Apprenticeship department's enrollment to grow from 359 to approximately 520 students when Fall 2026 headcount is published. The proposed restructure is consistent with other departments at the college that have been established with similar student enrollments and faculty FTE. The programs included within the proposed new departments are also longstanding components of Bakersfield College and are organized similarly at colleges such as Joliet Junior College and Greenville Technical College. The primary benefit of restructuring would be more focused academic leadership for the programs. Two Department Chairs would be able to devote greater attention to the specific scheduling, curriculum, laboratory, equipment, faculty, and student-support needs of their respective programs. This would also create a more balanced organizational structure and provide greater capacity to support continued enrollment and program growth.

I intend to continue serving as Department Chair for the restructured AST. Two full time faculty have expressed interest in serving as Department Chair for the proposed Industrial Automation Department (INDA).

The growth of these programs demonstrates their importance to Bakersfield College and the workforce needs of our region. Restructuring now would better align our organizational structure with the current size and complexity of the programs while creating a more sustainable model for future growth. For these reasons, restructuring the current Applied Science and Technology Department into two departments is recommended as a strategic organizational change that will strengthen academic leadership, improve operational effectiveness, and better position these growing programs to meet the student's needs.

AST Department Restructure Timeline

- August 2026 The CTE deans Rozanne Hernandez and Anna Melby were consulted and expressed support this restructure.
- 9/10/2026 An email was sent out to the current department to request feedback and to provide an opportunity for faculty to voice their concerns. The department was unanimously in favor of the restructure.
- 9/17/2026 The Union was consulted and there were no concerns raised by Pam Boyles, Shawn Newsom or Ann Tatum.
- 9/28/2026 A department wide meeting was held along with VPI Jessica Wojtysiak
- 9/28/2026 Proposal was sent to Rebecka Zepeda and Tarina Perry