



[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

100th SESSION
2024-2025

S. R. ##

TURNER INITIATIVE

IN THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

DEC 06, 2024

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR **TURNER** TO THE COMMITTEE ON **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
COAUTHORED BY LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGER **ELISE MILLER**

A RESOLUTION

Turner Initiative

1 *Whereas, Bakersfield College provides a vibrant and inclusive learning environment that*
2 *actively empowers students from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds,*
3 *ensuring access to Associate and Baccalaureate degrees, certificates, valuable workplace*
4 *skills, and comprehensive preparation for transfer to four-year institutions¹²; and*

5

6 *Whereas, Bakersfield College fosters a rigorous and supportive educational atmosphere that*
7 *emphasizes equity and diversity, recognizing that incorporating multiple perspectives not*

¹ California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. (2020). "Student Equity."
<https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Educational-Services-and-Support/Student-Service/What-we-do/Student-Equity#:~:text=Equity%20plans%20are%20focused%20on,addressing%20disparities%20that%20are%20discovered.>

² <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about/index.html>

1 *only enriches the educational experience but also cultivates critical thinking and a more*
2 *nuanced understanding of the complexities of our global society³⁴; and*

3

4 *Whereas, Bakersfield College is deeply committed to the holistic well-being and success of*
5 *all community members, and actively cultivates an inclusive campus culture where all*
6 *students—regardless of their backgrounds—can thrive academically, socially, and*
7 *personally⁵⁶; and*

8

9 *Whereas, research indicates that providing educational opportunities to formerly*
10 *incarcerated individuals significantly decreases recidivism rates, thereby enhancing public*
11 *safety and contributing positively to the well-being of California’s communities, underscoring*
12 *the transformative power of education⁷⁸; and*

13

14 *Whereas, formerly incarcerated students often demonstrate remarkable academic potential,*
15 *frequently achieving higher grades and graduation rates compared to their peers, with*

³ <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about/index.html>

⁴ National Education Association. (2016). “National Education Association Policy Statements 2022-2023.” <https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/nea-policy-on-safe-just-and-equitable-schools-2022.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/about/index.html>

⁶ Florida Online Journals. “Examining the Tie That Binds: The Importance of Community to Student Success in Online Courses.” <https://journals.flvc.org/jpss/article/download/131190/134896>

⁷ Brookings. (2024). “A better path forward for criminal justice: Training and employment for correctional populations.” https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/6_Better-Path-Forward_Ch6_Training-and-Employment.pdf

⁸ <https://irle.berkeley.edu/publications/student-publication/benefits-of-higher-education-for-formerly-incarcerated-people/>

1 *numerous studies confirming that education plays a crucial role in reducing the likelihood of*
2 *reoffending, thus benefiting individuals and society as a whole⁹¹⁰¹¹; and*

3
4 *Whereas, Bakersfield College proudly hosts the Rising Scholars Program, which provides*
5 *incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals with critical access to higher education,*
6 *promoting both personal and academic growth; this program has demonstrated success in*
7 *increasing educational attainment, fostering personal development, and significantly*
8 *reducing recidivism rates among its participants¹²; and*

9
10 *Whereas, formerly incarcerated individuals often encounter substantial challenges in*
11 *demonstrating community ties, due to the constraints imposed by their prior incarceration;*
12 *successful parole plans are essential for establishing these connections and supporting their*
13 *reintegration into society¹³¹⁴; and*

14
15 *Whereas, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilitates the transfer*
16 *of parolees to other states where they can receive family support, highlighting the critical*
17 *importance of such support in achieving successful reintegration into communities and*

⁹ Lois M. Davis, Robert Bozick, Jennifer L. Steele, Jessica Saunders, Jeremy N. V. Miles. (2013). "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education: A Meta-Analysis of Programs That Provide Education to Incarcerated Adults." RAND Corporation. https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/Publications/RAND_Correctional-Education-Meta-Analysis.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbeseq/2021/07/01/postsecondary-education-in-prison-benefits-communities-and-saves-taxpayer-dollars>

¹¹ <https://scholarworks.calstate.edu/downloads/5712md01w?>

¹² Rising Scholars Program Overview. (2024).

<https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/academics/rising-scholars-program/index.html#:~:text=The%20Rising%20Scholars%20Program%20is,for%20personal%20and%20academic%20growth.>

¹³ California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (2006). "Preventing Parolees From Returning to Prison Through Community-Based Reintegration." <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0011128705282594>

¹⁴ <https://www.psu.edu/news/social-science-research-institute/story/how-do-formerly-incarcerated-individuals-navigate-community>

1 *enhancing overall public safety*¹⁵¹⁶;

2

3 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the Bakersfield College Student Government Association,*

4 *a) that the Bakersfield College Student Government Association strongly urges the*
5 *administration to recognize parole plans as legitimate evidence of intent to remain in*
6 *California for the purposes of establishing California residency and qualifying for in-state*
7 *tuition;*

8 *b) that the Bakersfield College Student Government Association recommends that the*
9 *college administration collaborate with local community organizations and policy makers*
10 *to advocate for the recognition of parole plans as part of the broader effort to provide*
11 *formerly incarcerated individuals with equal access to higher education opportunities;*
12 *and*

13 *Be it further resolved by the Senate of the Bakersfield College Student Government*
14 *Association,*

15 *a) that the Bakersfield College Student Government Association calls on the California*
16 *community college system to adopt policies that acknowledge parole plans as valid*
17 *documentation of community ties, ensuring that formerly incarcerated students are not*
18 *unfairly disadvantaged in their pursuit of education and career advancement;*

19 *b) that the Bakersfield College Student Government Association calls on the California*
20 *Community College system to commit to continuing advocacy for policies that support*
21 *access to higher education for all students, regardless of their background, in order to*
22 *foster an inclusive and equitable academic environment.*

23 *Be it further resolved by the Senate of the Bakersfield College Student Government*
24 *Association,*

25 *a) That this resolution shall be forwarded to Bakersfield College President Mr. Jerry*
26 *Fliger, the Office of Admissions and Records, and the SSCCC.*

¹⁵ California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (2020). "Transition Programs."
<https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/rehabilitation/transitions/>

¹⁶ <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/parole/housing-live-in-residence/>

