



# Bakersfield College President's Report

to the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees

Sonya Christian - June 8, 2017

## Bakersfield College's 103rd Commencement Ceremony

The 2016-2017 academic year ended on a wonderfully high note.

On May 12th around the BC campus, various pre-commencement celebrations took place in anticipation of the grand event that evening.

The Delano celebration kicked off the morning with a reception for the Delano graduates and their families. That afternoon, the Chicano/Latino celebration took place in the outdoor theater while the African American celebration took place nearby at the indoor theater. Veteran graduates celebrated with family and friends inside the Renegade Room and all graduates came together for the biggest celebration of the day at Memorial Stadium.

Thank you to Trustee Kyle Carter and Trustee Romeo Agbalog for attending the commencement and to all Trustees for your support of the Renegades.



*The Delano Commencement Celebration*



*Platform Party for Bakersfield College's 103rd Commencement*

## Graduating Class Statistics

- Over 1,400 students were eligible for graduation.
- 903 are female.
- 497 are male.
- 823 earned an Associate of Arts degree.
- 577 earned an Associate of Science degree.
- 1,090 will transfer to a four year institution.
- Over 750 students had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.



*Bakersfield College's 103rd Commencement on May 12, 2017*

## Summer Bridge at BC

Summer Bridge to BC is an intensive day-long orientation program required of all incoming Freshmen.

Similar programs in most colleges are conducted by Student Affairs with some level of engagement from instructional faculty in various departments. But, at Bakersfield College, our program is unique because faculty across all disciplines are core to the architecture of the program beginning with the design of each student seminar to execution of the orientation.

Bridge sections have been nearly full each and every day and Dr. Kimberly Bligh shared in an email earlier this week, “if I need to, I can open more!”



## Leadership Matters:

Re-Imagining Leadership to Sustain  
Transformative Change Through  
Guided Pathways



The California Community College System of 113 colleges is advancing over two million students towards certificate and degree completion, many of them first-generation.

On Wednesday, May 24th, the BC campus had the pleasure of welcoming statewide Chancellor, Eloy Oakley and colleagues from across the state to collaborate on the changes that keep us moving forward. Thank you to Chancellor Tom Burke for providing a warm welcome. We had a packed indoor theater with 320 registered to participate in person and another 478 participating via live stream on the internet.

Providing leadership in this, the largest higher education system in the nation, is not a trivial task – shifting the mindset of individuals, rethinking systems to deliver the desired outcomes; improving what we do, resulting in significantly more students (and more historically disadvantaged students) completing their degree or certificate; and educating students who are creative thinkers and critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, creative and effective communicators, and engaged citizens who care about building economically strong and healthy communities.

In California we have systematically been working on this vision for over a decade. The work thus far has helped us know both what the vision is, and equally important, what it is not. It is as though we are sculpting this vision through the various initiatives and investments made in matriculation (SSSP), the focus on Equity, redesigning developmental education through acceleration and contextualization, recognizing prior learning with the use of Multiple Measures, placing students in freshman level composition and freshman math with co-requisites to ensure the success of students. The work has been precise, it has been done with many hands, many minds, and many hearts across our institutions and across the state... constantly focused on making this vision take shape.



## President's Whereabouts

- ◇ May 6, 2017 | CCLC Trustees Conference
- ◇ May 24, 2017 | Leadership Matters Summit
- ◇ June 6-8, 2017 | ACCJC Commission Meeting

