

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 30, 2020

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE NAMED AS RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 CIQG QUALITY AWARD

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) International Quality Group (CIQG) has awarded Bakersfield College the *2019 CIQG Quality Award* at the annual plenary CIQG meeting in Washington, DC. The Council annually awards one community college internationally for outstanding performance of colleges and universities around the world who meet the rigorous standards set forth by CHEA/CIQG. The criteria calls for high-quality performance across seven categories ranging from the institution's impact on student outcomes to its impact on community and society.

In recent years, BC has garnered statewide and national attention for its innovative work leading to improvement in student outcomes. From expanding access to higher education with a nearly 50% growth in enrollment in five years to exponential growth in completion and transfer, BC saw its largest graduating class in May 2019, conferring nearly 5,400 awards. Graduates included the second class of those earning a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Automation degree and nearly 100 graduates earning an Associate's Degree for Transfer as high school seniors through Early College.

"It is beyond awesome that Bakersfield College is being recognized in an international arena for the transformational work that we embarked upon seven years ago," said BC President, Dr. Sonya Christian, who was in Washington D.C to accept the award. "BC's faculty and staff have courageously redesigned what we do and how we do it, to ensure at every step that the sole focus of our work is the success of our students. To be evaluated against CIQG's rigorous, high-performance standards and win this award is a validation of the quality and efficiency of our whole-college redesign effort. This recognition especially calls out the high quality, impactful work of our faculty and staff in specific programs such as Early College, Kern Promise, and the Program Mapper, as well as in the daily functions of the college." She concluded her comments with a shout-out to her team: "We are BC!".

On Tuesday morning, both presidents of CHEA and CIQG expressed enthusiasm in regards to the significant work accomplished by Bakersfield College to provide quality education with a focus on equity. Dr. Judith Eaton, president of CHEA congratulated Dr. Christian for being the "first community college to receive this award."

Following a thorough review of the performance of the entire institution, CHEA recognized Bakersfield College's leadership in integrating all college operations to improve student learning and achievement through its rigorous and supportive learning environment. Steven Holmes, BC's Academic Senate President reveled in the honor, stating, "From the time we borrowed our first-year curriculum from Berkeley in 1913, BC faculty have always upheld a tradition of excellence. Our faculty include researchers, artists, and scholars who came to BC to impact the lives of students, giving them the technical skill and critical thinking abilities to be successful in an evolving world. This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of our faculty to students, and I am proud to

stand among them.”

CHEA is the council that brings together the seven regional accrediting agencies, of which the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) – the body that accredits Bakersfield College – is a member. The practice of accreditation assures high quality as the institution carries out its mission. Last January, BC earned four commendations for exemplary practice and zero recommendations for improvement or compliance – an achievement nearly unheard of in higher education. The ACCJC’s commendations honored BC’s leadership and active engagement to advance student learning and achievement across its varied sites in Bakersfield, rural communities, and through Early College.

“Following a successful reaffirmation of BC’s accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges last year, it is an honor for BC to be recognized once again for being an institution of high quality on an international stage,” said Lesley Bonds, BC’s Director of Student Success & Equity.

To read more about the CIQG Quality Award, visit BC’s website at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/president/ciqg-quality-award.



Judith Eaton, president of CHEA; Sonya Christian, president of BC; Jamil Salmi



Sonya Christian and Jean Fuller



Sonya Christian and Concepcion Chita Pijano, president of CIQG

Bakersfield College provides opportunities for students from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds to attain Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer. Our rigorous and supportive learning environment fosters students' abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills in order to engage productively in their communities and the world.

#####