

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

African-American Initiative (AAI)

Call to Action & Commitment

The leading members of the African-American Initiative (AAI), hereby commit and support the “Racial Equity at Bakersfield College: A Renewed Commitment to Equitable Access & Completion” document guided by our Bakersfield College EODAC.”

EODAC presented this document largely in response to the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) “Vision for Success Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force 2020 Report” and the June 5, 2020 CCCCCO Executive Office letter to California Community Colleges. As we defend and advocate for justice, due process, and the pursuit of happiness, we too support these commitments and the CCCCCO’s “Call to Action against Racism.”

Systemic racism exists and despite BC’s efforts, institutional, systemic, and other barriers impact our Black/AA students as well as other students of color.

The commitments will not make racism disappear. Through the racial equity commitments, BC faculty, staff, and administrators are making an intentional effort to have difficult conversations to address and combat racism and to put in place equitable systems for the benefit of our students.

Thus, we, the African American Initiative leaders are unified in our support of the “Racial Equity at Bakersfield College: A Renewed Commitment to Equitable Access & Completion” document outlined by Equal Opportunity and Diversity Advisory Committee, which outlines four commitments: a racial equity student success agenda, collective consciousness raising, faculty and staff diversification, and race conscious first responder training.

African American Initiative

Harlan Hunter