



Bakersfield College President's Report

to the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees

October 6, 2015

Bakersfield College Receives Title V Grants to Support Students



A \$2.6 million federal grant will help Bakersfield College improve the success of the area's Hispanic students through the expansion of the college's innovative Making it Happen program. The U.S. Department of Education announced that Bakersfield College will receive nearly \$525,000 in each of the next five years under the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) program.

The Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions program grant will provide for the expansion of the Making it Happen program at Bakersfield College. As the primary educational option for Latino students in the area, Bakersfield College needs to continually address the needs of students who are increasingly high need and underprepared for college.

Overall, the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) grant will provide Bakersfield College additional means and resources to improve student outcomes and increase degree completion rates by underscoring student success in all areas of operation. Plans for the fund include expanding upon work already done through Making it Happen to develop a more holistic, integrate pre-collegiate pathway by:

- fully integrating student services and instruction in a design that helps retain students and prepare them to enroll in core coursework and complete a program of study;
- developing highly accessible online and hybrid learning opportunities and interventions, which make education more available to students across the college's service area;
- supporting faculty development and curriculum redesign to the benefit of students whose needs are varied;
- improving and documenting student progress and milestone achievement;
- and, nurturing college-wide sensitivity to ethnic and learning-style diversity.

A key aspect of the proposal is the strengthening of a partnership between Bakersfield College and the Kern High School District to provide early assessment of academic skills to students in their senior year of high school.

Bakersfield College, in partnership with California State University, Bakersfield, received a second grant in the amount of \$230,000 to increase the productivity of an engineering degree pipeline between the two educational institutions. This joint project will work to increase the availability and possibility for increasing engineering completion in an effort to help meet local industry demand for trained engineering professionals. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions is forthcoming and will outline roles and responsibilities for this new funding.

Coming Events

Saturday, October 10, 4:30 p.m.

Fundraiser for
Manuel Gonzales Jr Memorial Scholarship
Huddle-Gym

Saturday, October 10, 6 p.m.

Football vs. Citrus
Memorial Stadium

Thursday, October 15, 6 p.m.

Tortilla Heaven
*solo performance comedy about three generations
of Mexican-Americans trying to relate*
Indoor Theater

Pathway to Law School Launches at Bakersfield College

The objective of Bakersfield College's Pathway to Law School Program is to "... [enhance] opportunities and advancement in the legal profession for diverse populations, particularly those who have been underrepresented in the practice of law." These opportunities to progress and advance in the legal profession are available to all students, especially those students who are highly dedicated to contributing to the legal world. To date, 143 students have expressed an interest in Bakersfield College's Pathway to Law School Program, and 61 of those have completed the necessary requirements for admission.

Bakersfield College also has a Pre-Law Advisory Council comprised of local legal professionals. The Advisory Council includes Monica Bermudez, Hon. Steven Katz, Rebecca Murillo, Mark Pafford, Brett Price, H.A. Sala, Linda Sullenger, Hon. Robert Tafoya, David Torres, and Alekxia Torres-Stallings. Among them, the board members have several decades of legal experience in the Kern County area. They dedicate a great deal of time and effort to help students succeed in their journey to law school. The Pre-Law Advisory Council is supported by Bakersfield College's Pre-Law Leadership Team, including: Ed Borgens, Political Science; Charles Kim, Political Science and Pre-Law Student Club Advisor; Christian Zoeller, Criminal Justice; Marilyn Sanchez, Social Science; Rich McCrow, Administration; and, Manny Mourtzanos, Administration.

The courses offered in this program help students develop skills in logic, reasoning, critical thinking, and communication. These are all skills for successful contributors to the working world regardless of profession. Students enrolled in these courses also gain a greater understanding and appreciation for how society works. They learn about how they are able to successfully contribute to society as they learn about the different facets of law including criminal, corporate, family, tax, patent, and numerous other areas.

Practical experience is also available to pre-law students as they have the opportunity to become involved in an internship. Special internship opportunities are offered to students who are specifically registered in the pre-law program. These internships allow students to learn the ins and outs of the daily duties and responsibilities legal professionals have. It is a special opportunity for students to observe legal profession opportunities and gain valuable knowledge and experience outside the classroom.

In addition to the opportunity to participate in internships, pre-law students at Bakersfield College have several other options to become involved in order to learn more about the law profession. Students are able to take part in activities and services including mentoring, debate competitions, visits to law schools, and debate competitions. These are only a few of the several opportunities pre-law students have at Bakersfield College in order to become more involved and meet with other students who have similar expectations to attend law school in the future.
