

EARLY COLLEGE

A proposal where every high school student will graduate with college credits



Across our nation, states like California are grappling with the increased need for access, efficiency, and excellence in education to rise above the projected shortage of 1.1 million workers within the state holding a bachelor's degree by 2030. Implementing complimentary strategies to increase graduation rates, reduce time to completion, and grow transfer services, while expanding access to college will be vital for our nations success.

Case in Point: Kern County

Kern County continues to rank among the lowest in educational attainment in the nation. The Bakersfield Californian, in a recent piece entitled "Bakersfield must break free from list of least-educated cities," lifted up the work of Bakersfield College by stating, "One of the strongest weapons Bakersfield has in fighting its way out of the educational basement is the Kern Community College District – notably its Bakersfield College."

What makes BC notable is the innovative partnerships with local industry and its new Baccalaureate Degree in Industrial Automation. Equally remarkable is BC's outreach into outlying rural communities, the expansion of programs, and bringing college closer to home for distance students.

Integrated into these initiatives are the dual enrollment programs, as well as Early College programs connecting youth with career pathways. The average dual enrollment class has 19 students registered, yet the average high school class size is 30 students. This means on average, classrooms have 11 students missing out on college credit despite completing the coursework. By instituting these programs as the norm, Bakersfield College knows it could be serving more students.

So, that's just what the College is doing.

Early College Will Ensure:

- every educational pathway is clear and defined from K-12 to community college and into 4 year institutions
- every high school student has an opportunity to earn at least 9 college credits by the end graduation
- every high school student understands what it takes to earn a certificate, associate degree or complete their chosen college pathway

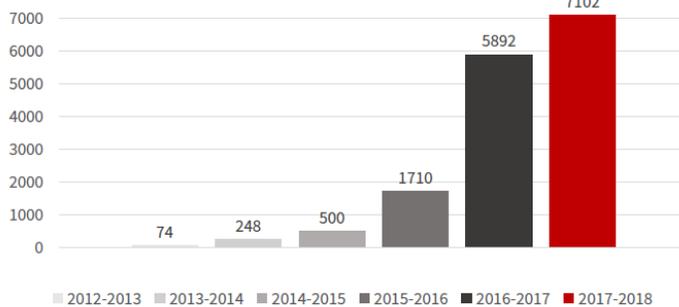


Early College Enrollment

Across seven high school districts in Kern County, Bakersfield College had a 40% increase in sections offered and served approximately 4,000 students during the Fall of 2018. The Early College model was launched in partnership with local charter schools, including Wonderful Ag Career Prep, which introduces many first-generation college students to higher education course material during the summer prior to 9th grade.

Since its introduction, BC has intentionally expanded the Early College Program as the groundwork for systemic change. Located in a hub of homeschooling activity, the college also partnered with Valley Oaks Charter School, a local homeschool academy. Strengthening these partnerships has resulted in explosive growth of Dual Enrollment over the past five years.

Bakersfield College – Dual Enrollment Growth
of Students



Additionally, Bakersfield College is recognized as one of the top dual enrollment programs in California, ensuring student success all the way from K-12 to college completion with its intentionally designed Guided Pathways and student support.

What About the Results?

Students, parents, faculty, and the community involved with the Early College project at Bakersfield College support the programs growth. Students are performing at or near the same level, and in some cases, at a higher level than traditional college student peers.

A 2013 study by the American Institutes for Research found that students enrolled in Early College Programs were significantly more likely to graduate from high school and enroll in college than students who were not. Additionally, Early College students are more likely than their peers to graduate from college, and they do so with maximum efficiency in regards to time and resources.

Early Success for Students of “Early College” High School Initiative

Early College students were more likely to enroll in college and earn a college degree.

ENROLLED IN COLLEGE BY THE END OF HIGH SCHOOL



GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE (Associate’s degree or higher)



Source: early College, Early Success: Early College High School Initiative Impact Study, American Institutes for Research | air.org

A key finding of the study shows that “up to one year past high school, 21% of Early College students earned a college degree, compared to only 1% for comparison students.”

Using the Early College model, Bakersfield College successfully awarded 38 Associate degrees in Agriculture Business to high school students in May 2018 and continues to strengthen the program with incoming cohorts of 9th graders throughout Kern County.



By guaranteeing all high school students the opportunity to enroll in college courses, Community Colleges around the country will make a positive impact on our degree attainment rates, employment stats, and economy.

#WeAreBC

www.BakersfieldCollege.edu

EARLY COLLEGE PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR ACCESS AND EFFICIENCY TO ACHIEVE A COLLEGE EDUCATION LIKE NEVER BEFORE.