

Renegade Roundup



Trustees Approve BCSW-CSUB Co-location!

February 24, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

On Tuesday, February 12, 2019, the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees voted to approve BC's co-location with CSU Bakersfield. I apologize for my delayed communication to you on this historic moment for Bakersfield College and KCCD.

However, our Academic Senate President, Steven Holmes, sent a timely communication to BC Faculty that very same day:

Today at a special KCCD Board of Trustees meeting the trustees unanimously approved two contracts to allow BC to move forward in offering classes at the CSUB site. Beginning in Fall 2019, courses will be held in approximately 20 modulars until the 60,000 sq. ft. building is completed. Completion could be as early as Spring 2020.

Also, scheduled for the March Board of Trustees meeting will be an agreement to continue to offer classes at our current Southwest Center through Summer 2019 (accordingly an MOU has already be signed)

Congratulations to our Admin. team (Sonya, Liz, Mike, and maybe Zav) whose hard work and persistence starts a new era of educational access.

Steven

In addition to this important action of the KCCD Board, the Bakersfield College Foundation Board of Directors at the February 7th meeting approved a \$5.5M investment in the building that will house BC. This means that the lease money that BC will be paying for the BC-SW location will benefit one of the owners, the BC Foundation, which in turn supports BC and its students. This smart and innovative financing model was also the brainchild of former Trustee Bill Thomas.



The site, located on Camino Media in Southwest Bakersfield beside the campus of CSUB, will offer students a unique college experience where they can not only *Finish in 4* but attend both BC and then CSUB in one central and shared location. This facility will be a game changer in efficiency and savings for Renegades living and working in the southwest.

Kern County is a place of innovators, big ideas, and bold action to make it happen. I am proud of the Board's decision to embrace this opportunity and I am humbled by the tremendous support shown by faculty, staff, students and leaders throughout the community in publicly endorsing this vision.



The search for our future BCSW location started in 2017, when BC entered into a sub agreement with Fresno Pacific to offer courses at the facility on Stockdale Hwy to better serve students living and working on that side of town.



The location was a success with more and more students per semester signing up to take courses at the location.

Historical Enrollments:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Summer 2017 | Enrollment reaches 8.7 FTES |
| Fall 2017 | Enrollment reaches 79.0 FTES |
| Spring 2018 | Enrollment reaches 129.1 FTES |
| Summer 2018 | Enrollment reaches 102.7 FTES |
| Fall 2018 | Enrollment reaches 219.7 FTES (178% increase from prior year) |

As our numbers grew, former Trustee and retired Congressman, Bill Thomas had a vision that would not only offer adequate space for the future growth but also offer students an unparalleled one-of-a-kind collaborative learning environment at the University Office Center at CSUB. By the end of July, 2018, BC had a proposal in hand from Gregory Bynum and Associates for the colocation and presented it formally to the Board of Trustees in September.

The Bakersfield Californian’s Joseph Luiz has been closely following the development and progress. He reported on February 12th in his article, “[Board approves new home for Bakersfield College SouthWest](#)” that students are expected to be able to begin using the new facility in spring 2021.

Within the article, he quoted KCCD Trustee, Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg as saying, “I think the



board made an excellent decision in finalizing a location for the southwest center. The more interaction and interface we have between BC and CSUB, the smoother the degree pathway is going to be for all students in Kern County.” Luiz ended his article with a quote from Chancellor Tom Burke, “I would like to thank all the staff involved at Bakersfield College and district office for this historical event,” he said.

“This is a new chapter for the Kern Community College District and Bakersfield College.”

In a follow up article, “[Bakersfield College, CSUB partnering to share resources for BC Southwest](#),” both CSUB President, Dr. Lynnette Zelezny and BC’s Vice President of Instruction, Liz Rozell were quoted with positive and supportive remarks. To quote the piece directly, “CSUB President Lynnette Zelezny said the university is eager to develop a stronger partnership with BC. ‘We’re really excited to be collaborators,’ she said. ‘We think this is a partnership that’s going to be a game-changer for Kern County. It makes sense that Kern County should be on the map for being innovative and collaborative.’”

The article also touches on the collaborative efforts of BC and CSUB faculty and staff who will work in partnership on instruction and curriculum, even participating in professional development activities together for the benefit of Kern County’s students.

Our Collaborative Goal for Students to Finish in 4!

According to data reported by the California Department of Education, Kern County's educational attainment rates are of significant concern, with adults over 25 years of age earning bachelor's degrees at roughly half the statewide rate. In some surrounding rural communities, rates substantially drop to less than 2%. In a study of 98 of the 100 largest metro regions in the country, researchers at the non-profit Measure of America found that Kern County has the highest rate of disengaged youth in the country. With 21.2% of those ages 16 to 24 neither in school nor working, over 26,000 young people in Kern County are completely disengaged. Low educational attainment and high disengagement paralyze social and economic mobility across our county, affecting the health of the communities we serve.

Through the Finish in 4 project, Bakersfield College aims to:

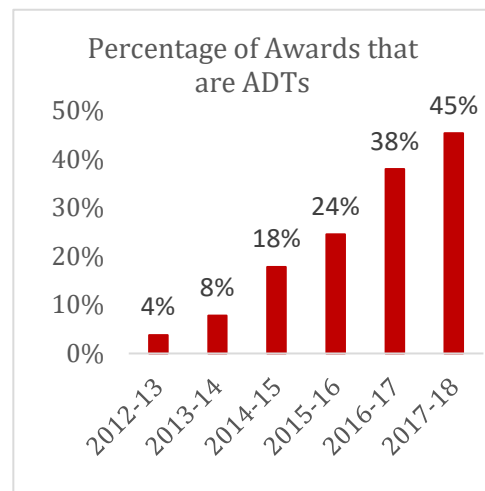
- Improve associate degree completion
- Increase transfer rates
- Decrease excess unit accumulation
- Reduce equity gaps across all measures and reduce regional achievement gaps

The Finish in 4 project is an unprecedented partnership between higher education institutions to support baccalaureate completion within in 60 semester units at BC and 60 units at CSUB over four years. Through the MOU with CSU Bakersfield, BC students are then guaranteed admission to CSUB in a similar major and junior-level standing.



Measurable Progress

In our integrated framework, BC has kept laser focus on the end objective: improving baccalaureate attainment rates throughout Kern County. As such, our high-touch work with our primary four-year university partner, CSU Bakersfield, has resulted in at-scale improvements for transfer-intent students. Evidence that demonstrates how our high-touch strategies of structured conversations with a key four-year partner can improve access to baccalaureate completion include:



- Grew Associate Degrees for Transfer pathway offerings by 900%; recognized by the Campaign for College Opportunity in June 2016
 - BC offers 30 Associate Degrees for Transfer
- Grew Associate Degree for Transfer awards by over 1,400%, contributing to overall degree completion by 58.8% since 2012. ADTs accounted for 45% of all BC awards in 2017-18.
- Average unit attainment for students pursuing the ADT is 83 compared to 97 for the AA/AS general pathway.
- Increased overall transfer student rate significantly in the past four years: 57% to the UC and 43% to the CSU
- Increased transfers to CSU Bakersfield by 36.2% in the last 5 years, with a total of 78.82% of all CSU transfers choosing CSUB. The majority of transfers are Latino.
- Increased two-year baccalaureate completion of BC transfer students at CSUB from 31% in 2010 to 48% in 2014, exceeding CSU's *Graduation Initiative 2025* goal.

With focus on strengthening curricular alignment from high school through the Associate Degree for Transfer to baccalaureate attainment, BC has leveraged our partnership with CSU Bakersfield to improve outcomes throughout our region which will only grow stronger with the colocation at BC-SW.

Acknowledgements:

There are several minds and voices that came together to make this dream a reality.

Thank you to the KCCD Board of Trustees for approving the BC-SW co-location with CSUB.

Thank you to the numerous faculty, staff, students and community leaders who publicly endorsed this project thereby signaling the importance of such an investment to the educational advancement of our region.

Thank you to Manny Mourtzanos and Fernando Lara who have been on the bleeding edge of developing the BC-SW presence.

Thank you to Castle and Cook and Bynum Associates for working through all the complexities of having BC as a tenant.

Thank you to Tom Gelder and the BC Foundation, particularly Karen Thompson and Jeff Bell, for investing in the BC-SW facility.

Thank you to Mike Giacomini, Liz Rozell, Zav Dadabhoy, Debbie Martin, and Eric Mittlested for responding diligently to the numerous questions from some members of the KCCD Board from September 2018 to February 2019.



Thank you to our Academic Senate President Steven Holmes who put in countless hours making the case on why the co-location was going to transform our community.

Thank you to Chancellor Tom Burke for his steadfast support of BC being co-located with CSUB.



And mostly thank you to the visionary who came up with this grand idea and who also helped work through the detailed implementation, former trustee Bill Thomas. Well.... that's what he does... Makes things happen.

My dear colleagues, thus far, BC SouthWest has been an asset to our community serving a growing number of students per semester. **The pipeline of Renegades to Roadrunners grows stronger each semester and Kern County will enjoy the benefits of this work for generations to come.**

We are BC! Somos BC!

That's all for now.
Until next time.....

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

sonya

[See all issues of Renegade Roundup online](#)