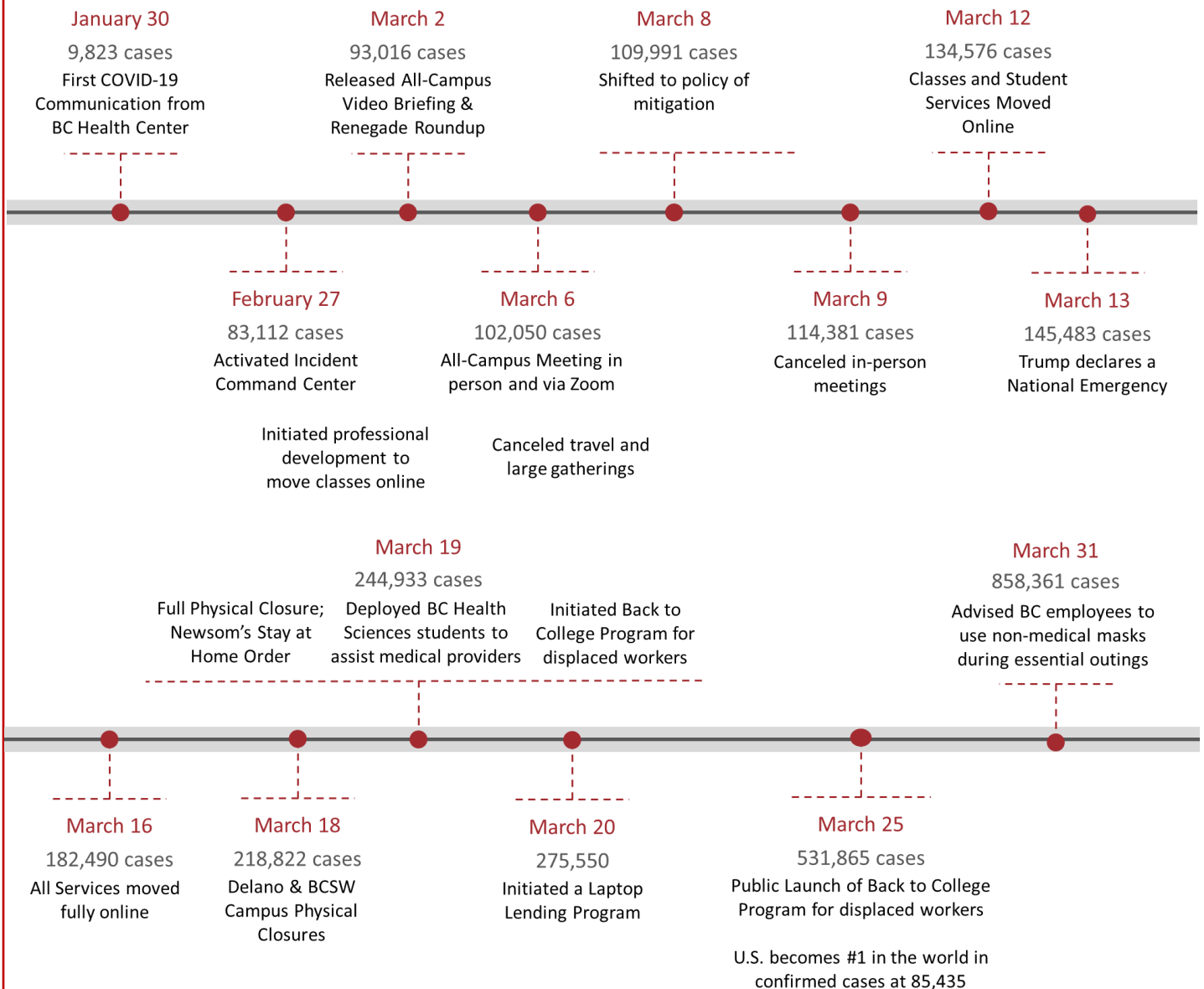


### COVID-19: Ahead of the Curve

In late January, Bakersfield College began closely monitoring the COVID-19 Pandemic, launching a communication and education campaign, releasing a Pandemic Response Plan, and hosting daily forums across campus. Anticipating the likelihood of a closure, BC began transitioning the first wave of 1,000 courses to an online environment in early March while supporting faculty in getting the necessary training to transition all 2,500 courses offered at BC in spring 2020. **By Thursday, March 19, BC had moved 100% of its courses fully online, 100% of its student services and academic support fully online, prepared all employees to work remotely, and closed the physical campus.** Below is a snapshot of BC's COVID-19 response timeline:



*Ahead of the Curve... Playing where the Puck is Going to be*

## COVID-19: Ahead of the Curve

BC is great – not just good – because, as Wayne Gretzky said, we have been playing to where the puck is going to be, rather than where the puck is. Always, ***ahead of the curve***.

BC was ***ahead of the curve*** when our Incident Command team began meeting daily starting on February 27, drafting a full pandemic response plan and [holding daily Zoom forums](#).

BC was ***ahead of the curve*** when we started in depth [professional development](#) for our faculty in February to systematically move courses online. Not one day of preparation, but 3 weeks.

BC was ***ahead of the curve*** when we started the approach of [cancelling travel and large gatherings and events](#) on March 4, moving to a primarily virtual teaching and support environment in waves to ensure minimal disruption to student learning and success.

BC was ***ahead of the curve*** when we instituted a shelter in place strategy by getting our employees off campus and working remotely.

BC was ***ahead of the curve*** when we closed our physical campus in the interest of public health hours before the Governor announced his statewide stay at home order.



*BC faculty training with Academic Technology to transition their courses*

## Flattening the Curve: BC as a Public Health Ambassador

In my virtual forums and Renegade Roundup, I provide near-daily updates on the spread of COVID-19. Closely tracking several dashboards, including the [Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#) and the [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Dashboard](#), Bakersfield College faculty and staff are engaged in examining the data as public health ambassadors, equipped with knowledge of both the exponential growth of the virus and the latest CDC and Kern County Public Health advisories to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our community. This snapshot shows the growth of the cases since my first COVID-19 Renegade Roundup update on March 3 to date.

	March 3	April 8	Difference	Percentage
<b>World</b>	93,016	1,513,358	1,420,342	1,527%
<b>U.S.</b>	124	430,376	430,252	346,977.4%
<b>California</b>	14	18,752	18,738	133,842.9%
<b>Kern</b>	0	309	309	30,900%+

## Staying in Community Virtually

Even though the 153-acre Bakersfield College campus on the hill at 1801 Panorama Drive has gone quiet over the past four weeks, there is an energetic buzz of activity happening in the new, virtual environment.

To keep us in connected to the Renegade family, I have been hosting almost daily virtual forums on various topics ranging from teaching and learning at a distance to addressing how to organize your workspace to be effective working from home. I start each forum with a short briefing on where BC is given the evolving nature of this epidemic and then move onto the topic of the day.

### COVID-19 President's All-Campus Forum: Political and Community Leaders



Vince Fong  
California State Assembly



Jean Fuller  
Retired State Senator



Sonya Christian



Nicky Damania



Richard Chapman  
CEO, Kern Economic  
Development Corporation



Romeo Agbalog  
Kern Citizens for  
Sustainable Government

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

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By maintaining regular communication with faculty and staff, my goal is to ensure BC faculty, staff, and students maintain its sense of community. The Virtual Seminar Series curriculum helps BC faculty, staff, and students stay connected and discuss best practices online, and gives us space to talk about healthy habits, self-care, and wellness.

### COVID-19 All-Campus Forum: Let's Hear from our Students



Karen Cid Ibanez  
Sociology Major



Gian Gayatao  
Business Major



Sonya Christian



Nicky Damania



Emma McNellis  
Political Science Major



Maria Jaimes  
Sociology Major

March 31, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

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Averaging over 250 attendees per seminar, the All-Campus Virtual Seminar Series takes place on Zoom. You can see archived recordings of all of the seminars on our website: <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/covid19>

## Join My Next Virtual Forum

April 13, 2020 at 3 pm

### Community Leader Panelists:



Rudy Salas  
California State Assembly



Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg  
KCCD Trustee



David Bynum  
Attorney at Law

Join the Zoom Seminar:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/700274650>

Phone: +1 669 900 6833  
Meeting ID: 700 274 650



## Data Snippet: Access to Technology

Based on a survey of 972 BC students that ran from March 20-23, there is an acute need to help BC students better access their classes right now.

- **14%** say their internet access is inadequate for them to fully participate in their online classes.
- **21%** access their classes primarily via their phone
- **23%** use their cellular service as their primary internet service

This indicates about one in five BC students would benefit from improved access to technology.

## Nursing Students on Healthcare Frontline

On March 19, Bakersfield College initiated a partnership with Kern Medical, Dignity Health Systems, and the Bakersfield Heart Hospital to meet Kern's local health care needs while ensuring a landing place for BC's nursing students who are near completion. As a result, BC has worked with these partners to place **69 of BC's level 4 registered nursing students** – senior students in their final semester – into externships alongside registered nurses to provide direct care to a team of patients in the face of COVID-19.



This partnership will not only meet pressing demands in health care during a pandemic on a scale we have never witnessed in our lifetime, it will ensure students who have been working for years toward their goal will not see their achievement put on pause indefinitely just eight weeks before their expected graduation. Be sure to read the [Bakersfield Californian's coverage](#) of this partnership.



## Meeting Student Needs

To keep students on path, Bakersfield College has established a ***laptop loan program*** with the generous support of Greg and Mary Bynum for students affected by the transition to a fully online environment due to the COVID-19 threat. These 500 Chromebooks will be equipped with the necessary technology to ensure students are able to complete their college-level requirements.

In addition, BC has transitioned to a ***Drive-Thru Renegade Pantry*** to ensure student safety.



## Back to College

While many organizations are closing their doors to create physical distance in the face of COVID-19, BC understands our responsibility now more than ever to open our doors wider.

In response to rapidly rising unemployment and in anticipation of an increased demand in the coming weeks and months, BC has launched a late-start, five-week semester to bring these individuals [Back to College](#) immediately. Check out [KGET's coverage of this news item](#).

***Courses begin Monday, April 13.*** The program will feature 6, 7, and 13 unit options with financial aid available to cover the cost of courses and materials. Back to College courses will not only support students entering or reentering higher education after experiencing job loss, current BC students who may have withdrawn from a class as they adjusted or are ready to take a higher unit load due to a shift in their personal or work life may benefit, as well.