

Bakersfield College Equal Opportunity & Diversity Advisory Council
Commitment Statement
June 15, 2020

The Administrative, Classified, and Faculty Chairs of the Equal Opportunity & Diversity Advisory Council (EODAC) stands in solidarity with President Christian and protestors across this nation condemning senseless police brutality and killings of African Americans/Black Americans. The EODAC Chairs are committed to aligning our efforts to improve awareness and reduce racism at Bakersfield College and our communities. We share the sentiments of the California Community College Chancellor, Eloy Oakley that we are angry and hurt and stand alongside our African American/Black students, colleagues, and citizens in support of systemic change. Our students have the right to learn in an environment without fear of retribution, fear of losing their identity, or most importantly their lives. The status quo of silence at our college and in our society is no longer acceptable. Black Lives Matter and deserve justice, equity, truth, peace, and the opportunity to transform lives and communities by leveraging higher education.

EODAC has a responsibility to shape the cultural climate at Bakersfield College but more importantly the institutional and structural policies, programs, and practices that lead to substantive change for all African Americans/Black Americans. Our committee promises Bakersfield College students, employees, community, and in particular people of color to be proactive, active, and reactive in addressing racism in all aspects of college and student life by developing and employing actionable equity strategies. Bakersfield College EODAC will facilitate courageous, challenging, and uncomfortable conversations and actions that are proactive, active and reactive to the experiences and needs of African American and Black students. EODAC will ensure a culturally competent staff through frequent and intrusive external and internal training, workshops, community forums, and other formats. These efforts will create leadership that will bring an anti-racism culture to Bakersfield College and thereby improve the African American/Black community experience.