

To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Mon 10/17/2022 8:58 PM

I would like to ask That this course not be included in the BC curriculum at any time.

Our students have lost an enormous amount of necessary educational training in the last two and a half years. This course is not one that will give them educational skills for their future, but cause yet more division in our area our state and our nation, which is very very sad.

There is much in our history it could certainly have been done differently. I would never discount that. However teaching young people to be antagonists and to fight the system, instead of working within the system to change things is not the way to go.

I hope you will give strong consideration to removing this from your current or future curriculum.

Thank you very much

Sue Layman

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Mon 10/17/2022 10:01 PM

Dear Curriculum committee,

My name is Ashley De La Rosa. I am the daughter of a former farmworker and granddaughter of a Bracero. I am a first-generation college graduate, who was not granted the opportunity to learn about her, her family's, or her ancestor's history. It was not until I went away for college to the University of California, Santa Cruz that I learned about the rich history of not only my family but of the Central Valley.

To deprive students and scholars of the history that exists in the Central Valley is a disservice to our education system and our future generations. I SUPPORT the proposed non-credit courses related to César Chávez and the farm worker movement and urge you to approve these courses.

Opposition to approving these courses is due to ignorance and a lack of understanding of true diversity and a commitment to social work. I ask that you do not tarnish the legacy of social activists who have only improved the lives of people like my family and because of his and many others' legacies, I am able to be a first-generation graduate and able to give back to my community.

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**Best Regards,  
Ashley De La Rosa**

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Mon 10/17/2022 10:29 PM

Esteemed colleagues, I can not come to see you in person, but this subject is close to my heart. The farm worker movement is part of the Central Valley's history. How can we teach history without sharing the rich history of the valley and the local impact the Farmworker movement has had on public policy, labor rights, human rights, working conditions and social change? For example; many of the former persons involved in the movement continue to work on environmental issues. The movement was essential to pesticide bans. The 1975 ALRA, Agricultural Labor Relations Act was a direct result of the protests and petitioning of the 70's. The ALRA gave farm workers the same rights that were given to the rest of the nation in 1933 with the NLRA . The National Labor Relations Act gave people the right to association, the right to collective bargaining, but excluded farm workers and domestic workers. It is part of American History. History that is relevant today. In only two other states, New York and Colorado have farmworkers recently gained the protection that California was able to achieve in 1975 because of the Farmworker labor movement. In the last two weeks legislation was signed that will allow mail-in- ballots for those "free and fair" elections covered in the 1975 and 1933 Acts.

Learning true American history; isn't that the purpose of our institutions of higher learning? Teaching the struggles, and victories of local families, of the Filipino brothers who lived in Agabani Village, a retirement village in Delano, or about the martyrs, like Nan Freedman an early morning picketer, Nagi Defula, that was beaten with a flashlight and dragged in the gutter and Juan de la Cruz that was shot in the head, all were killed for being involved in the movement.

I lived the Farm worker movement and it made me a far better person than I could have been. I learned about the courage of people, the power of our political system and the possibility of change. I have lived a life of service to the community, serving nine years on the school board in the Central Valley. I believe in the power of education. Please approve the non credit course on the farmworker Movement.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia D. Vazquez, Ed. D.

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Mon 10/17/2022 10:59 PM

My name is Maria Romero. I am a mother, an Indigenous Chicana, and an educator for over 25 years throughout California. I was born in Kern County, and am a resident of Kern County. The one staple ingredient I have found to be absolutely necessary for all individuals to feel a sense of identity, community and pride is when there is a connection to their history, their roots, and the history of the land in which they live. There is nothing partisan about that. The Central Valley is rich with examples of empowerment in the lives of everyday individuals. For historically marginalized communities including Latinx, Filipinos, poor, working-class, migrants and farmworkers, the history of the labor movement must be told and experienced through on-site visits of where it all took place. Empowerment should not be politicized. Factual history should not be erased. Culture should not be suffocated. Labor movement sacrifices should not be in vain. Our dreams for a better California should be realized. I urge the committee to allow for these proposed courses to be approved and allow BCC to lead the way in providing rich, local, non-partisan history that benefits ALL Californians. ALL histories matter!

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**Maria C. Romero**

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Mon 10/17/2022 11:38 PM

To whom it may concern,

Like many fellow community members, I am disgusted by the statements made by the Liberty Institute in their effort to quash the arguably overdue courses teaching the rich history of agricultural workers in the central valley. This history has been recognized by the Smithsonian with the Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields exhibit. Streets and schools around the nation honor both Huerta and Cesar Chavez' work in advancing civil rights. I find it shameful that classes teaching this history do not already exist at Bakersfield College, an institute that serves the very descendants of this movement. I also find it shameful that these classes do yet offer credit.

I am a former BC student. I am a tax payer. I am the daughter and granddaughter of fieldworkers who worked the land here in Kern County. I am a proud American and my family didn't just break their back to feed America, they helped create laws requiring more humane working conditions for the generations that followed. They are a part of the history and the development of America. Why are we still fighting that WE be taught about OUR role in history? Why are we fighting this here in Kern County, where these historical acts have taken place?

The answer to my question can be found by just glancing at the recommended reading lists of the Institute For Liberty on the BC website. If you're looking for an indoctrination of a political agenda, there it is. Let's call this group exactly what it is: A group of bigots and racists.

I suppose I should check to see if BC offers classes on civil rights movements involving racial discrimination and women's rights. I thought all institutions of higher learning taught these, but given the resistance to teaching our own civil rights history here in Kern County, I now have reason to doubt.

I urge BC administration to rethink keeping the faculty members that comprise The Institute For Liberty employed at BC. These faculty members stifle the creation of an environment that fosters free thinking and the teaching of factual history. They have no place in an institution of higher learning.

I'll be at the meeting on Thursday. The students deserve better faculty than those who are members of the Institute For Liberty.

Xochitl M. Garcia, Esq.

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To: Xochitl M. Garcia  
CC: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 7:42 AM

Yes! Use that brilliant voice.

Leticia

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 9:26 AM

Hello,

My name is Lisa V. Gali and I am an enrolled member of the Pit River Nation, Ajumawi band located in Northern California. I worked in the public school sector for more than 14 years until recently moving into a Director role for Indigenous Justice. Part of my role is to stand up for all underserved communities and to speak up about an injustice when I hear about it.

I am writing to express my deepest concern over two non-credit courses ("Landmarks in California History" and "Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Certificate of Completion") at Bakersfield Community College. The concern that I have is why are you not approving them to be included in the college curriculum? It is imperative that students have choices and different ethnic options for all ethnicities to benefit and learn from.

As a concerned citizen, I implore you to support diverse communities and the beautiful ethnicities that go to Bakersfield Community College. Bakersfield Community College serves 70% Latinx and is an educational institution that serves the Hispanic community. By supporting ethnic related courses, you are showing that you believe in equality and justice for all people groups.

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Sincerely,

Lisa V. Gali

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 9:38 AM

To whom it may concern,

Delano is the birthplace of the farm-labor rights movement -- a place where civil rights heroes and community leaders grew up with the credo "education of the heart." We work to better the world for others; we fight for those who can't fight for themselves. The movement for justice runs deep in our blood.

I never planned to run for public office. But I was raised by hardworking farmworkers who came to this country in search of opportunity. And doing right by them meant making sure that my community had the same opportunities they made possible for me. I ran for office because of the "Si Se Puede" philosophy that is ingrained in our valley. I learned about our Central Valley fighters who led the efforts of better working conditions for our farmworkers, such as Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz.

It is vital that we educate our youth and young adults on the rich history that has occurred in the Central Valley. I encourage the Bakersfield College Curriculum Committee to incorporate courses such as: "Landmarks in California History" and "Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Certificate of Completion" that will fundamentally impact our love and spirit of activism and civic engagement.

If we fail to learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.

Sincerely,

Salvador Solorio-Ruiz

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 9:57 AM

I am sending this email to urge you to do what's right and teach our students about our history!! We teach our students about Martin Luther king, Jr, Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa parks, etc. Why wouldn't we teach them about the farm workers movement and the impact it's had in our communities as well as how it paved the way for unionizing and fighting for human rights? I am a tax payer. I worked in the fields picking berries with my family as a youth. I want to see our journey as migrant farm workers in the history books. I want students to know about United farm workers! Please do the right thing and have our students learn and feel seen in the classroom and in the curriculum.

Sincerely,  
Alicia cruz

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 9:59 AM

To whom it may concern,  
Like many fellow community members I am disgusted by the statements made by the Liberty institute in their effort to quash the arguably overdue courses teaching the rich history of agricultural workers in the central valley. This history has been recognized by the Smithsonian with the Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields exhibit. Streets and schools around the nation honor both Huerta and Cesar Chavez' work in advancing civil rights. I find it shameful that classes teaching this history do not already exist at Bakersfield College, an institute that serves the very descendants of this movement. I also find it shameful that these classes do yet offer credit.



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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 10:14 AM

To Whom it may concern,

I am a life long resident of Kern County and find it disappointing these courses are not currently being taught at BC College. The statements made by the Renegade Institute of Liberty are disgusting and hold no merit. This is history as we know it here in Kern County and should be shared. My grandparents were part of the movement and helped fight for the rights of our farm laborers. Today, we still fight for the people placing food on our table across the United States and Internationally. The history should be shared, our children learn about Dolores Huerta, Cesar Chavez and Larry Itliong in elementary, i do not understand why the local college is having such a hard time providing such enriching history to our students and community. They were all pillars of this community and their achievements are a great part of our history here in Kern County.

I am a firm believer, this is history and should be shared with our community.

Thank you  
Yolanda Vega

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 10:31 AM

Bakersfield College Curriculum Committee,

My name is Veronica Vasquez and I am the current Mayor for the City of Delano. I am writing this letter in support of the classes being presented to you regarding Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, Phillip Vera Cruz and the Farmworker Movement. These courses are important to teach, especially here at Bakersfield College to educate our community of the rich history that took place in our very own backyard. Our community deserves to learn about their history and landmarks locally.

I went away to college and it was around the time Cesar Chavez was honored with a day to celebrate his work and the United Farmworker Movement. I remember learning in my college courses about Delano history, the UFW movement and labor leaders like Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. The difference between me and those students is I was born and raised in Delano. I had real life stories to share with my classmates. I brought books,

magazines, UFW flags and many other items to class because I was proud of where I was born and my upbringing. The class taught about the 40 acres BUT your class will actually have the opportunity to go to the 40 acres. I remember telling the class how the 40 acres had a medical area, about all the fundraisers held and important figures who go to the 40 acres.

I remember many of the students could relate to the history and had a connection to the movement. It gave them pride to learn about history that is related to them. When I would call home to talk to my family about my college experience. I mentioned to them what was being taught and how I shared our family experience with the UFW movement. My family was happy, proud and excited this was being taught. It was FINALLY being shared at the college level.

I guarantee many families will be happy and proud for this material to be taught locally. Our youth shouldn't have to learn this material away from home. This course is overdue to be taught in this area. Even though I went away to college I always knew I would return home to serve my community and that is why I always told people I was from Delano and would share the history of my community. Like me there are so many who do the same. We come from a community who has an amazing history that deserves to be shared.

I ask the committee to approve these courses to educate our community of our amazing history. Please do not deny our community their history. Our community deserves these courses..

In Unity,

Veronica Vasquez, MSW

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 10:46 AM

To whom it may concern,

Like my fellow community members, I am disgusted by the statements made by the Liberty Institute in their effort to quash the arguably overdue courses teaching the rich history of the agricultural workers in the central valley. This history has been recognized by the Smithsonian with the Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields exhibit. Streets and Schools around the nation honor both Huerta and Cesar Chavez ' work in advancing civil rights. I find it shameful that classes teaching this history do not already exist at Bakersfield College, an institute that serves the very descendants of this movement. I also find it shameful that these classes do yet offer credit.

I am a former BC student. I am a taxpayer. I am the daughter and granddaughter of the fieldworkers who worked here in Kern County. I am a proud American and my family didn't just break their back to feed America, they helped create laws requiring more humane working conditions for the generations that followed. They are a part of the history and development of America. So I ask that you please reconsider your stance on providing these courses in your campus.

Sincerely,

Ana Garcia

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 10:59 AM

Esteemed Members, Bakersfield College Curriculum Committee,

I have attended Kern schools most of my life and after college, my very first real job was as a newcomer 6th grade teacher in Delano. But even in all these years in Kern, I never had even one shred of exposure to the history of the Farmworker Movement, the history that literally surrounded me in Delano and South Kern, or the history that lives on in the students I still teach to this day as an adjunct instructor at BC. Sadly, whenever I include local history, it is almost always the case that my students have never heard it before either.

Denying future generations the opportunity to learn their own history, for which some on this Curriculum Committee advocated in the prior meeting and online, is one of the gravest harms I can imagine. As stated in an African proverb, "*Until the Lions have their historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the Hunter.*" Anyone motivated by the desire to glorify and continue enabling (and usually benefitting from) the Hunters, has no business rendering any opinion on the history of the Lions.

We must respect our students and our community enough to teach them this important history and to be honest with them about the power dynamics that created it. Even, and ESPECIALLY, when that means questioning the power structures we still live with today.

**I strongly support the non-credit certificate courses regarding the History of the Farmworker Movement proposed by Prof. Rosales and ask this committee to approve them.** No BC student should be denied the opportunity to learn their own history.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Pesante

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 11:26 AM

October 18, 2022

Dear Bakersfield College Curriculum Committee,

The Renegade Institute of Liberty states it supports “diversity of thought and intellectual literacy...” The actions they are taking to stop the courses designed by Professor Oliver Rosales clearly go against the ideals they claim to support. How can you have “open inquiry” and “free speech” when you stop students from having the opportunity to learn? Further, how do you prepare students to be independent and have free choice to select courses which they believe will enrich them when you try to stop them from having access to courses that teach factual history? Much worse, our own local history.

Cesar Chavez and the Farmworker movement are a part of the rich history of the Central Valley and California. This movement featured the tenants of non-violence, social justice, and equality, yet somehow The Renegade Institute of Liberty would have us believe that this is something to be feared.

Sadly, it is apparent that the Renegade Institute for Liberty thinks poorly of our students. They obviously do not believe our students have the ability to choose for themselves what they wish to do with their education. So much so, they believe they must choose for them. Where is the Liberty in that?

Finally, I will say that it is exceedingly wrong and incredibly appalling to deny the opportunity to students of the Central Valley, many of them direct heirs of the efforts and sacrifices that helped make this history, to have the right to choose to learn about it. This is their rightful inheritance. Do not take that from them.

Will you choose education and the right to learn or will you choose oppression of thought? Do not send a message to our students that they are incapable of choosing for themselves what to take away from their education. As a daughter of a farmworker, born and raised in Kern County, I can assure you this is not the case. Sadly, we have been called stupid for way too long. It is revolting to see some of those in charge of our education calling us stupid once again. We are not zombies. It is insulting to imply that by taking a couple of courses in college any student would be so influenced as to become mindless.

I urge you not to leave a legacy of oppression by denying students (students of the Central Valley no less) the right to choose to learn about a history celebrated all over our country and the world.

“There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect.” President Ronald Reagan

Please approve the courses, “Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Certificate of Completion” and “Landmarks in California History.”

Thank you,

Lourdes Nilon

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 11:27 AM

Dear Bakersfield College Curriculum Committee,

My name is Rosa Lopez and I'm a longtime resident of Kern County and a graduate of Arvin High School. I write to urge this committee to approve the non-credit certificate courses being proposed by Professor Rosales.

It's shameful that the first time I heard about the Farmworker Movement history was in college, at UC Santa Cruz. Both my parents are farmworkers and my siblings and I worked in the agricultural fields during summer breaks, but I unfortunately didn't know about the movement that started in our backyards and changed the lives of ALL farmworkers.

I'm very excited to learn that Professor Rosales is proposing the non-credit courses regarding the History of the Farmworker Movement. I strongly support the non-credit certificate courses and ask this committee to approve them.

It's time that we stop denying our students the opportunity to learn about this important history.

Sincerely,

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**Rosa Lopez**

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 11:41 AM

I am writing you today to tell you that you must approve these courses. It is paramount that these stories are told, shared and learned so we do not go backwards as a society. Anyone attempting to suppress these courses is working an agenda of lies and hiding the truth for their own benefit. California is watching, the whole country is watching, the world is watching! I like many many others are passing this information along to anyone willing to listen and there are so very many that care. We are all aware of the racist policies and procedures that infiltrate places of learning. Please, think about our future as a whole society, accepting truth and learning from it is how we move forward together and we need that now more than ever.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please do the right thing and approve these courses.

Gene Deruntz

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 12:10 PM

Bakersfield Curriculum Committee

Via: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Dear Bakersfield Curriculum Committee:

I am submitting this letter because I will not be able to attend your meeting in person as I will be traveling.

My name is Lori de Leon. I have resided in Bakersfield for over thirty-five years and a fifty-five year resident of Kern County. In the past I have attended classes at Bakersfield College and have supported many of its events over the years.

My mother, Dolores Huerta, cofounded the United Farm Workers Union (UFW). As an adult I served in many capacities and received Paralegal training to represent farm workers in Agricultural Labor Relations Act hearings. I also was a UFW National Representative.

A component of the Paralegal curriculum was the historical significance of the various farm worker ethnicities and the laws that shaped California's agricultural industry from the time of California's

induction into the United States. The first farm workers were the California Native Americans, of which I am a descendant as my grandmother was Miwok.

Most people are not aware of California's agricultural history, nor are they aware of how California influenced the enactment of the National Labor Relations Act that protects workers nationally but excludes farm workers, and the reasons behind the policy. Nor are students aware of the U.S. government support of farm labor historical recruitment of the Chinese, Filipinos, Arabs, Punjabis, and Mexicans and the history of African Americans and the Okies who migrated to California during the great depression.

As a result, today, Bakersfield and Kern County is made up of a diverse population, descendants of these populations. Their rich cultures shaped our great Agricultural industry in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout the State. A large majority of Bakersfield College students are children of farm workers but are not aware of the rich history of California's agricultural history.

Not only does Kern County have the three National Park historically land mark designations, the Filipino Hall and Forty Acres in Delano, and La Paz, Keene, CA it also has the historical town of Allensworth, established by African Americans, and the Sunset Weedpatch site in Lamont that was historically significant as the first State developed labor camp/housing for farm workers and where many farm workers reside today whose children attend BC. I was pleased to participate in the establishment of the annual recognition of the historical Sunset Labor Camp in 2000.

Kern County is historically rich, which should be taught. Albeit sometimes the historical truth can be painful but rewarded with long term gains that should be taught in a higher education institution is significant and should not be hidden or ignored as a result of fear by a few.

In 2009, I was invited by UCLA Chicano History Department, as a Community Specialist to teach a class for the Winter quarter on the above mentioned subjects. There were 108 students in my class by the end of the quarter. The eagerness and the response of the students was enlightening. This class did not serve to recruit any students to work for the United Farm Workers or other organizations. What it did was educate students on California's agricultural industry.

Bakersfield College should be on the forefront of teaching Kern's history, not denying it or its students of their significant background. One of my students was a young woman, a daughter of farm workers, who I knew from Bakersfield. She questioned why agricultural history wasn't taught in Bakersfield, and commented she had to go to UCLA to learn about her own community's history. This Curriculum Committee has the authority to expand students' knowledge and take advantage of the rich historical landmarks within Kern County. I urge you to approve the two class curriculum submitted by Dr. Rosales.

Lori de Leon