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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 12:59 PM

To: Bakersfield College Curriculum Committee

Dear Members of the Bakersfield College Curriculum Committee:

My name is Patrick Lee Vaughan, I am a proud graduate and Rengade of Bakersfield College. This commitment to the Bakersfield College Curriculum Committee was greatly diminished when I learned that the members of this committee are considering subverting the teachings of the important history of the farmworker movement in our Central Valley.

My family has a long-standing history here in the Central Valley. We have been in Bakersfield for generations and have been involved in agribusiness and are contributors to this community. I married into a dedicated hard working farmworker family who worked under difficult conditions and struggled to make conditions better for the farm laborer along side the UFW.

Just as important to note, is that I am a farmworker Dust Bowl descendant and know many of the challenges my family endured. My wife, Linda and I raised two sons in Bakersfield instilling in them the importance of the farm labor and shared our experiences with our children at the dinner table.

Without the courage of my family, my wife's family and so many others who came before and after - who sacrificed and toiled to put food on our tables, this great Central Valley and certainly California would not be a leading agricultural contributor to our nation.

It is critical to teach those who are learning the rich history of our farmworker movement, to teach them OUR fullness of bygone days. There should be no fear to teach this history. Courage is found in the choices that are made by those who have faced fear and prevailed.

Please, do not make a decision which will keep the richness, the truth of our history of our great Central Valley farm working community from coming alive in an educational setting where I trust, open discussion, exchange of views and truth still remains a hallmark of our Bakersfield College education.

Sincerely,

Patrick Lee Vaughan

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 12:59 PM

Dear BC Curriculum Committee,

Do the courses pass the rigor of academia? Are they fit for an educational institution that inspires discourse and provides a true reflection of Kern County's history? Those should be the questions asked. The very idea that inflammatory and fear-mongering comments from an Associate Professor are monopolizing the conversation is shameful.

These comments perpetuate a mentality that students are unable to freely think or come to educated conclusions of their own accord; a grave insult to a student body that deserves more.

As the daughter of farmworkers, I could only have dreamt of a time throughout my educational career where courses like these were available for me to choose, to better understand the impact we have made in Kern County. And make no mistake this is true impact in Kern County, don't erase us, don't minimize us.

Curriculum Committee members, this is your opportunity to make the right choice, approve the courses, "Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Certificate of Completion" and "Landmarks in California History".

Sincerely,  
Paula De La Riva

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 1:28 PM

I'm writing this in support of the courses "Landmarks in California history " and César E. Chávez Leadership Certificate of Completion." This is about educating students on the history of human rights! Farm workers and advocates had to fight for proper tools, breaks, and many other conditional rights. All while being sprayed from above by pesticides and being sexually abused/assaulted by employers. It would not only be a shame but a detriment if an institution that educates about 70% Latino students denied any course acknowledging the struggle and achievements of OUR own people! This isn't about being left or right, it's about the oppression of a people's basic human rights!

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 3:38 PM

Curriculum Committee of Bakersfield College  
1801 Panorama Dr. Bakersfield, CA-CC 231

Dear Co-Chairs,

For the record, Latina Leaders of Kern County (LLKC) are in full support of the courses "Landmarks in California History" and "Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Certificate of Completion." As such, we respectfully request the approval of the Curriculum Committee for these courses.

We are aware of opposition to this effort. The Renegade Institute for Liberty at Bakersfield College, who have members on the Curriculum Committee, have reportedly stated on social media that the proposed courses are, "UFW

activist training courses” and that “students would become UFW zombies.” We find these statements to be alarming and inflammatory.

Many of LLKC’s members are Alumni of BC, and as such, we are greatly offended by those within the Curriculum Committee, who think so little of BC’s students that they could be easily transformed into mindless zombies. On the contrary, LLKC believes the student body to be bright, committed to learning, persistent, and objective. We believe that BC’s students can self-determine their interests and do so based upon an objective exploration and analysis of many life factors. We also believe that most of the Curriculum Committee feel the same as we do about the students, and we ask those members to stand up for their students and support these proposed courses.

Associate Professor Miller, a member of the Renegade Institute for Liberty at Bakersfield College, was the Curriculum Committee member who pulled the proposed classes from is the agenda and motioned to table the items. According to the Bakersfield Californian, Associate Professor Millers objects to courses that encourage one type of leadership. Yet her website discussing her expectations from one of her courses states, “This class will be and must be a safe place to engage in these ideas , ask questions, and express vulnerable opinions.” LLKC expects these same values to be present in the proposed courses under consideration. In fact, all courses at BC should have robust and varied discussions and opinions. LLKC believes in the excellence of BC’s faculty, and we rest assured that despite what she says to the contrary, Associate Professor Miller does not solely hold the key to a balanced course of instruction.

To be clear, the focus of the proposed courses is about California history and historical figures, this cannot be disputed. Further, it cannot be disputed that the leaders discussed in these courses had/have a profound impact on the social and economic fiber of our nation. Frankly, the leadership values of non-violence, social and economic justice, and human rights are worthy of being taught at Bakersfield College. In a class encouraging students “to engage in these ideas, ask questions, and express vulnerable opinions,’ the proposed classes will only improve the foundation of knowledge for our BC’s students.

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

Thank you.

Gabriela Gonzales  
President

Paula De la Riva-Barrera  
Secretary

Connie Perez, CPA  
Treasurer

Xochitl Garcia, Esq.  
Board Member

Leticia Garza  
Board Member

Lourdes Nilon  
Board Member

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 7:14 PM

Statement in regard to History of the Farmworker Movement:

Claiming that learnings will turn individuals into "UFW activists" is an egregious claim. Wouldn't stifling one's liberties be a direct threat to the word liberty itself? In fact, cherry picking a curriculum that fits your ideological and political leanings is not only morally corrupt but it is irresponsible. Growing up in the U.S. there was very little Latinx education available. My son, my relatives and La Raza deserve representation; to deny us of that is amoral.

-EJ Medellin

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 7:24 PM

To BC Curriculum Dept:

I urge you to APPROVE the Cesar Chavez Leadership Certificate program.

Robin Walters

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 7:36 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the two farmworker history courses. I definitely believe Bakersfield College should make available these courses as they will help educate people in Kern County concerning our rich labor and civil rights history. In the past Kern County has banned books like Grapes of Wrath and stood in the way of labor relations education. I hope the teaching of these two courses shows a more enlightened educational view presented by Bakersfield College declaring everybody's right to collective bargaining and a fair and healthy work life.

Paula Woodard

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To: bc\_curriculum@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Tue 10/18/2022 7:41 PM

Central Valley students deserve an opportunity to learn about their history. Bowing to pressure that prefers to ignore the valiant efforts of brave people working for their civil rights is repugnant and against the goals of college. The purpose is to educate. So do that.  
Kathy Harlan