California Department of Finance
Awards for Innovation in Higher Education

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List of Participants
Cal-PASS Plus, Cal-SOAP, Delano Joint Union High School District, Kern High School District, California State University Bakersfield, Roll Global, NAACP, Kern Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Application Abstract
2013 was a year of institutional capacity building at Bakersfield College (BC) focusing on college-wide learning and leadership development. This set the stage in 2014, for substantial innovation and change driven by an urgent vision to improve student success. BC moved to disrupt the status quo and radically cultivate new approaches for educational progression from kindergarten through post-graduate employment by building durable and responsive networks with community partners. Fiscal sustainability, a focus on data, and research-based practices were fundamental to this work. To improve the 15% baccalaureate attainment rate in a community with staggering levels of poverty (22%), BC inserted itself into the entire educational continuum. No longer waiting to welcome or manage whoever shows up, BC is working in new and collaborative ways, with regional high schools as well as groups like the NAACP to foster generational shifts through dialogue with parents about the critical need to read to infants. BC is offering high-touch services for students who lack familial support structures. BC is using Multiple Measures to place students in higher levels of English and math, redesigning curriculum in basic skills to move students into college-level work sooner; in Career and Technical Education to ladder certificates to create degree pathways; in general education to reduce units so that disciplines can develop Associate Degrees for Transfer; and if approved, an Applied Baccalaureate in Industrial Automation. BC is positioned to realize these efforts because of a shift in leadership approach from hierarchical to distributed, aligned and grounded in connectivity.

Assurance and Signature
“I assure that I have read and support this application for an award. I understand that if this application is chosen for an award, my institution will be required to submit, for approval by the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education, a report indicating proposed uses of the award funds and, as the fiscal agent, will be responsible for distributing funds to any other participating entities. I also understand that, if this application is selected for an award, my institution will be required to submit reports to the Director of Finance by January 1, 2018, and by January 1, 2020, evaluating the effectiveness of the changes described in this application.”

Sonya Christian, President, Bakersfield College

January 9, 2015