Renegade Roundup

Welcome back colleagues to what I suspect is going to be a great term for Bakersfield College. I had mentioned in my last Renegade Roundup that a team of us were working on the DOF Innovation Award Application. We submitted the application on January 9th and now await the results. Over 25 of your colleagues helped with the work. I would like to call out a few of them and extend a special thanks to them as they worked on the document from Hawaii, New Haven and other parts of the country: Kimberly Bligh, Michele Bresso, Amber Chiang, Anthony Culpepper, Janet Fulks, John Giertz, Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, Manny Mourtzanos, Kate Pluta, Oliver Rosales. Here is the 250-word abstract that captures the essence of the application. Sit back, read and enjoy BC’s work:

“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 (ADT); 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.”

Opening Day-January 14, 2015, in Delano. An historic event.

Here is a copy and paste from the December 9, 2014 Roundup about Opening Day.
The Spring 2015 Opening Day will be held at the Delano Campus on January 14, and I would like to see as many of us as possible there, supporting our faculty and staff colleagues who work in Delano. Here are a few points to note:

- The college will stay open for business on January 14th unlike the Opening Day in August.
- Start time: 11:30 a.m. at Delano with lunch. End time 4:30 p.m. in Delano.
- Transportation is being coordinated by Somaly Boles and Amber Chiang. Thanks to Nicky Damania who found this web 2.0 website to manager carpooling. You can “Add” yourself to be a driver or “Join” another driver and be a rider. [http://www.groupcarpool.com/t/4cgkse](http://www.groupcarpool.com/t/4cgkse)

Colleagues, this is a great opportunity for you to get familiar with our campus in Delano. I met up with Juan Torres at the Delano campus today, Sunday (here he is with his three boys), planning the layout to host all of you at Delano next Wednesday. He told me that he was excited and nervous about hosting a large group. So, make sure, when you see him at Delano on Wednesday you let him know that everything was just perfect.

BC has built a strong Equity agenda for the college where we have boldly stated that BC will strive to close the achievement gap for those of our student populations that are disproportionately impacted. Because of this commitment, we have identified the six surrounding cities of Delano, Shafter, Wasco, McFarland, Arvin and Lamont as a focus under our Rural Initiatives work. Rich McCrow has been providing the administrative leadership and oversight for this work. You will hear from him about what we have done and what we plan to do in the future. We will also hear from leadership in the Agriculture (Lynda Resnick, Paramount) and Petroleum (Gaurdie Banister, AERA) industries. Serving the central valley population, it is important for us to closely track the development in these two sectors. We will also unveil an opportunity for BC to play a leadership role in our community on issues of Equity and Justice via a faculty academy positioned to launch this spring. So, I invite you to set aside January 14th to be at our Delano campus and participate fully and completely in opening day.

I asked Oliver Rosales, who teaches history in Delano why faculty should take the time to drive north and spend 5 hours at the Delano Campus on Timmons for opening day. This is what Oliver said:
“There are so many reasons why Bakersfield College faculty and staff should physically be in Delano for opening day spring 2015. Where do I begin?

First off, the question you should ask yourself, is: when was the last time I was in Delano and why? The answer, from casual conversations I've had with faculty and staff in my last two years of service at BC, is probably either “never” or “I can't remember.”

BC Delano students are BC students. However, they face challenges and obstacles in even more pronounced ways than main campus students. And beyond the idea of barriers, there is a unique sense of family and pride that is unique to BC Delano students. As a BC faculty or staff member, you really should be a part of that spirit in some capacity. Come to BC Delano, see what BC Delano has to offer, why you should care about Delano, and how you can ultimately broaden your impact beyond the main campus to consider Delano into your daily work routines.

There are other reasons as well. As a historian, of course, history brought me to Delano. Fifty years ago this year, in 1965, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC), led by Larry Itliong and Filipino farm workers, and the National Farm Workers Association, led by Dolores Huerta and César Chávez and mostly Mexican farm workers, launched the great Delano grape strike. Lasting five long years from 1965-1970, the strike (and grape boycott) resulted in the first collective bargaining agreements for farm workers in the history of the United States. Around that same time, community leaders in Delano, recognizing the need to advance higher education opportunities to the children of farm workers and farm workers themselves, lobbied the Kern Community College District and founded the BC Delano Center on Randolph street (now Paramount Academy). I like to think that as a historian of civil rights in the American West, I am carrying out a mission to educate the people of Delano as a result of events set in motion decades ago. It's a legacy that I am very proud to be a part of. So I invite you as well to come and be a part of that mission and legacy.”

Here is the outline for the five hours we will be spending in Delano on January 14th:

11:00 - Lunch
12:00 - Welcome from the President
12:15 - Lynda Resnick, Co-owner of Paramount Farms will address us
1:00 - Gaurdie Banister, CEO, AERA will address us
2:00 to 3:00 - Focus on BC's Rural Initiative
3:00 to 4:30 - Launch of our Social Justice Institute; an update on the development of our new Strategic Directions; and remarks from the leaders of our employee groups

For those of you who cannot travel to Delano, Todd Coston will host the live stream in the Fireside Room here at the panorama campus. Chef Alex Gomez and team will prepare a simple lunch with wraps and sandwiches that will also be available at the fireside room.
I would like to point out that Ed Barton, chair of the English department, is holding the department meeting in Delano on January 14th from 10:00 to 11:00. Thank you English department! I encourage other departments to consider doing the same.

**Mark your Calendars**
Mark your calendars and join us for as many of these events as you possibly can. All the events happening on campus are posted online.

January 14, 2015: Spring 2015 Opening Day at Delano Campus
January 30, 2015: Sustainability Symposium
February 5, 2015: Learn@BC! Learning Technologies Conference. Keynote: Michael Wesch
April 23, 2015: Lean@BC! Equity and Inclusion Second Annual Conference.
May 6th, Wednesday: Chicano/Latino Commencement
May 7th, Thursday: Honors Reception
May 8th, Friday: Closing Day
May 15th, Friday: Commencement

That’s all for now..... Until next time.

With Renegade pride and collegiality,
sonya

[See all issues of Renegade Roundup online](#)