Happy Independence Day

Colleagues!

It felt good waking up to The Declaration of Independence in the Californian this morning. See the iphone image on the right and take a moment to quietly read each word. NPR’s morning edition celebrated Independence day by having stars like Steve Innskeep, Rene Montagne, Lakshmi Singh, Audie Cornish, Shankar Vedantam, Nina Totenberg, Linda Wertheimer etc. read excerpts. You can listen to this powerful 9:02 minute audio file as well as read the transcript at http://www.npr.org/2015/07/03/419692406/the-annual-reading-of-the-declaration-of-independence

Enrollments:

Our enrollment management team comprised of individuals from Instruction, Student Affairs, and Finance has been carefully monitoring the FTES for Fall 2015. The July 1, 2015 report, shows Bakersfield College’s FTES is 3.4%, 185.5 FTES, over same time last year, and districtwide growth at 0.3%, 22.1 FTES. The state allocation for growth includes funding for up to approximately 4% for KCCD. So BC is in the process of ramping up even more to ensure that KCCD can receive the maximum growth allocation from the state for 2015-2016.
Let me be clear. BC is not chasing FTES. On the contrary, BC is expanding in the areas where there is workforce need and student needs. And this is done with the complete focus that when the students come to us we make sure that they are matriculated and have a student education plan to ensure that their pathway to certificate or degree completion is efficient and effective.

Here is an example of how we are maintaining the focus on student success in addition to student access. BC has conducted several It's Possible events, see Chris Glaser our department assistant for the High School Relations Office. This event helps students become Renegades in one day, and takes a small village to pull off. Students can complete all matriculation...
steps and register for classes in one day and walk away with a class schedule for fall. If you can help, call Steve Watkin’s office at x4276.

Commencement 2015

The culmination of the academic year is the annual Bakersfield College Commencement. This year was particularly nerve wracking, with the crazy weather we were experiencing in the days leading up to the big event. Check out the dramatic photo that our own Francis Mayer took of lightning above Memorial Stadium the night before commencement! The weather certainly gave our commencement planning teams a pause or two, particularly when raindrops once again showered the campus just a few hours before the ceremony. Nick Strobel introduced Wunderground forecast to the commencement planning team as he briefed us regularly on weather updates. But we had Mother Nature on our side when the skies parted and a gorgeous spring afternoon greeted the nearly 800 students who participated in commencement. Our readers (Corny Rodriguez, Prima Arvizu, Manny Mourtzanos, and Michele Bresso) did an outstanding job getting those students through the line to receive their diplomas in a timely way that was lauded by family and friends in the stands. We were fortunate to also have two members of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, Kyle Carter and Romeo Agbalog, with us for the ceremony!

In my comments, I highlighted the accomplishments of the Bakersfield College Class of 2015. Look at how exceptional they are:

- 1,100 graduates
- 667 female
- 349 male
- 736 transferring to four-year colleges and universities
- 508 Associate of Arts degrees
- 320 Associate of Science degrees
- 200 Associate of Arts/Science for Transfer degrees
- 500 students have a GPA over 3.0
- 9 students have a GPA of 4.0

The full video of the commencement, along with photos and other videos, are available on the Commencement website. Make sure to check out student blogger Salvador’s first person point of view video, shot from a camera mounted on his mortarboard!

Let’s thank the Commencement Committee, who lead the effort to present a celebration of educational completion for each and every Bakersfield College graduate. Their effort makes the night special for our graduates and their family and friends. And a very special recognition to Amber Chiang, Jennifer Marden, Sue Vaughn, and Kristin Rabe.
Professional Development Institute Debuts

BC has, over the last two and a half years, focused even more so on the professional development of employees. We launched a new idea this summer with the “week after graduation professional development institute” primarily for faculty funded through our categorical budgets. We were unsure how many faculty would participate in an event after graduation and we were delighted to have approximately 100 faculty and staff participate. Over four days, the institute covered the following topics: data-informed planning and decision making, tying assessment and student learning outcomes together, program review, equity, and student support services.

Important to the Institute were tours and presentations from various student services areas, which helped those in attendance better understand the efforts and initiatives taking place across campus to improve student success.

You can read more in-depth on the Professional Development Institute on my recent blog post! [http://bcpresidentblog.com/](http://bcpresidentblog.com/). Thanks to all the leads for this event—Odella Johnson, Bryan Hirayama, Kimberly Bligh, Manny Mourtzanos, Kate Pluta, Kimberly Nickell, David Neville, Michelle Bresso and others. Thank you Janet Fulks for coordinating this project. And Thank you Leslie Bond (see picture) who helped with all the details.

Summer Bridge Helps Students Cross from High School to College

While formally called the Summer Pathway to Completion, we know it better as Bakersfield College’s Summer Bridge, and these specially-designed courses help students who are new to Bakersfield College, or those who need to better understand the resources and services available to them.

We’ve all seen the students who look overwhelmed on the first day of fall semester. Summer Bridge helps students jump right into their education by helping them understand what is available to them and how to access the help they need.

Summer Bridge takes place over three days, during which time students are provided information on a number of Bakersfield College-related topics, including: transitioning to college and overcoming barriers to success, understanding the college’s website and catalog, and
developing habits indicative of a successful college student. Students are also familiarized with the support services available to help them succeed.

Summer Bridge is under the watchful eye of Dr. Kimberly Bligh and Lesley Bonds, and helped more than 200 students so far this summer on their path to becoming successful Bakersfield College students! Check out BC’s Summer Bridge Facebook page for more details at https://www.facebook.com/summerbridgeBC

**Recycling on Campus Expanding**

Did you see the message from Maintenance and Operations earlier this week about blue recycling bins? I’m so thrilled that Bakersfield College is continuing to focus on Sustainability (another of our Core Values) and that our efforts are being recognized in the community – such as with our nomination for several Kern Green awards. Great work, team!

The Maintenance & Operations Department is excited to step into phase two of our Sustainability Program here on campus. You may have noticed a few new Recycle Kiosks around campus; these are securely locked in place and will prevent rummaging in our collected recyclables.

In addition we have received Three Hundred, 3 gallon, desk side recycling bins for our offices and classrooms, (attached, please see photo.) These bins are for all recycle materials and can be stored in a convenient location for individual use. These bins will need to be emptied by each individual who chooses to have a desk side bin. When bin begins to fill up, dump in nearest large BARC Recycling container. As always when a document is confidential that document should be placed in a BARC Shredding bin only.

Please contact M&O at Ext: 4221 or sylvia.hinojosa@bakersfieldcollege.edu to request a bin. Our custodian department will have it delivered to you within 48hrs. Bins will be available as long as supplies last.

**Putting the “Social” in Social Media**

If you follow Bakersfield College on social media, you will see that we are working to enhance and expand the conversation with our students and the public through a variety of posting strategies that are designed to keep the conversation fresh and relevant. Some posts are fun, some are informative, and others are just plain silly. But that’s the point of social media.

If you aren’t following Bakersfield College, I have to ask “Why not?!” Our posts to social media are a great way to stay connected to the college, learn more about what is happening, and see how you can get involved. Of course, if you want to see your Bakersfield College-related activity on social media, you need just let Amber Chiang know!
Mark Your Calendars
July 7 – It's Possible event
July 23 – Renegade Days registration/matriculation event
August 20th – Opening Day. College Closed.
August 24 – First Day of Fall Semester

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

With Renegade pride and collegiality,
sonya

See all issues of Renegade Roundup online