

# Bakersfield College has Great Teachers *By Tom Moran*



*Bakersfield College's delegation stops to pose for a photo at the Great Teachers Seminar. Photo by Tom Moran*

In March, for the second year in a row, BC faculty members converged upon the UCLA Conference Center for a Great Teachers Seminar, which is “based on the premise that teachers learn teaching best from one another and that creativity in teaching is enhanced by mixing teachers of diverse teaching fields, experience levels, and interests.” Partially subsidized through the generosity of the SDCC, fourteen teachers from American Sign Language, astronomy, chemistry, geography, geology, health, history, mathematics, philosophy, professional growth, and psychology came together to work on ways to improve teaching and to improve the academic culture at Bakersfield College.

The UCLA Conference Center provided an ideal setting with private apartments, delicious meals prepared in their restaurant, and—this year—excellent weather. Lake Arrowhead was breaking records with highs in the 70s all three days. While much of their time was spent indoors in meetings, individual breakout sessions were held outdoors. Additionally, during the Saturday afternoon break, several faculty members hiked around the lake while others played tennis, ran, and engaged in all manner of outdoor activities.

This year's GTS was headed by becki whitson and Clark Parsons. Facilitators included Ralph Cazares, Tom Moran, and Janet Tarjian. As the agenda was crafted, it became apparent that this group wanted to focus on the academic and professional culture at Bakersfield College. Following the meetings, participants crafted action plans and scheduled follow-up meetings for their return. One of those meetings has already taken place with another scheduled shortly after spring break.

The Great Teachers Seminar is one of the best professional development opportunities offered at Bakersfield College. If you would like to join this dynamic, results-oriented activity, keep an eye out for next year's GTS.

*Bakersfield College Instructional Technology Chair, Clark Parsons, enjoys a presentation at the Great Teachers Seminar. Photo by Tom Moran.*

