

## 2013-14 Program Review

### Best Practices Form

Instructions: Submit this form as a separate attachment with your completed Program Review. Programs often do something particularly well; usually they have learned through assessment—sometimes trial and error—what solves a problem or makes their programs work so well. These are often called Best Practices and can help others. Please share the practices your program has found to be effective. The contact information lets others know whom to contact for more information. This part of Program Review is linked to the Student Success Strategic Goal: “Become an exemplary model of student success by developing and implementing best practices.” For examples of Best Practices visit the Program Review Committee’s website.

Program/Department: Political Science

Name of Chair/Director/Manager: Robert Torres

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#### Best Practice(s):

The Political Science faculty offers a holistic approach to instructional material, meeting the diverse learning styles of Bakersfield College students. To compliment the holistic method of instruction, faculty members have collaborated on the development of a customized American Government text book. The customization of the text book creates a consistency of material within our POLS B1 American Government sections. The customized text has further produced a cost effective book, reducing the text from approximately \$125.00 to \$83.00, making it possible, and encouraging, for every student to acquire this source of material to improve their success. The customization also allows faculty to control the development of new editions, typically American Government text books are on a two year edition cycle. Through the customization, the faculty have committed to a four year edition cycle. This commitment will allow students greater length of opportunity to resale their text, further reducing their overall educational cost.

Outside of the classroom, the Political Science faculty continues their “Best Practices” by being involved with the Center for Kern Political Education. This non-profit agency provides an avenue for Bakersfield College students to receive hands on experience in the political arena, establishing internships with locally elected official, placing students in candidate’s political campaigns and even going as far as taking students to our State Capitol for a full-day of political awareness.

Submitted by Steven Holmes