



Bakersfield College President's Report to the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees Sonya Christian - July 14, 2016

Significant activity surrounds potential KCCD bond measure

Awareness and excitement is growing a result of the various presentations offered around Bakersfield. Faculty, staff, and community leaders are giving their time and talent to share information regarding our facility needs to different interest groups, clubs, and organizations.

Presentations have been well received and some have shown their BC pride, such as the Bakersfield West Rotary Club, who went all out with BC colors, including table decorations and traditional "flying saucer" cookies that have been a staple to BC for decades.

Other recent presentations have included the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Wounded Heroes Fund, Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (KCHHC), and Kern Tax among many others.

Tom Burke, Mayor Harvey Hall, Congressman Bill Thomas and Sonya Christian gave a presentation last week to the Chamber Government Relations Committee. GRC members unanimously voted to recommend an endorsement of the bond to the Greater Bakersfield Chamber Board. It is wonderful seeing our community so engaged and excited about the work being done.

Our Blue Ribbon Committee, chaired by Mayor Harvey Hall has been meeting regularly. Members have shown complete



Monday, July 11, 2016 The Bakersfield Californian

Viewpoints

College district to consider bond measure

Olivia Garcia

I caught up with Tom Gelder, executive director of the Bakersfield College Foundation, on a recent warm summer day.

The campus wasn't as busy with the usual fall and spring traffic, but the conversations about a proposed bond measure that would benefit the campus and two other colleges was flowing through the air.

On July 14, the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees will consider placing a proposed bond measure on the Nov. 8 ballot to make improvements on campuses of Bakersfield College, Porterville College and Cerro Coso Community College.

The proposed measure, which is estimated at \$27 million, would require a 55 percent voter approval for passage. If voters approve the measure, a temporary tax levy would be authorized to secure the bonds at an estimated \$25 per assessed property of \$100,000.

For Bakersfield College, the bond measure brings hope and excitement, said Gelder.

Although the BC campus opened its doors in 1913 at the Kern County Union High School campus with 13 students, it

moved to the Panorama campus in 1956, reaching about 1,300 students, campus officials said.

Today, the BC campus swells with a student population reaching 26,000, according to 2016 campus figures. Altogether, the KCCD serves about 60,000 students, drawing students from Kern, Tulare, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino counties, figures show.

Since then, the type of student services and its student population have expanded and evolved.

The campuses serve transfer students, two-year students, vocational students, veterans and active military students. In addition, while the college provides higher education and certifications, it

also serves as job training facilities for firefighters, 911 emergency responders and police officer agencies.

Serving veterans while continuing to provide students with affordable, high-quality education is one of the goals of the campus, and the bond measure could go a long way in helping, officials said.

Recently BC was approved to be one of only 15 colleges authorized to offer a baccalaureate degree.

In a recent blog, BC President Sonya Christian wrote:

"Our campus has over 30 buildings, many of which are aged and their cur-

The proposed bond measure would be used to repair and upgrade outdated learning spaces and facilities while expanding services in other areas of need.

rent condition cries out for expansion and modernization. Looking back, I wondered what care and maintenance had been done over the last 50 years... and looking forward for the next 50 years and beyond, we developed our comprehensive Facilities Master Plan.

"When you are talking about the needs of 153 acres and satellite locations, with buildings over 50 years old, and the needs adding up to over \$300 million, the challenge is finding a funding source. Our District Board of Trustees is seriously considering a potential bond measure."

Gelder said the proposed bond measure would be used to repair and upgrade outdated learning spaces and facilities while expanding services in other areas of need.

Some examples of proposed improvements include upgrading the Human-

ities, Family & Consumer Education, Fine Arts and Language Arts buildings, replacing the Science & Engineering building, and renovating Memorial Stadium.

Some of the expansion proposals include developing an Arvin/Lamont/Greenfield Facility and constructing a Veterans Resource Center, multi-purpose building and student center at the Delano campus.

Other initiatives include energy, campus safety, roofing and parking projects. Another big goal is to upgrade and expand its veterans services.

According to a website, A Better BC, created to raise awareness about the proposal, about 61 percent of individuals who participated in a commissioned independent survey agreed they would support it if placed on the fall ballot.

Now, for full disclosure, I have taught at BC for several years as an adjunct, and out of that experience, I can agree that there are buildings and classrooms in need of major improvements, and many of my students will agree.

However, the initial decision will be first left to the KCCD board to decide whether to move forward with the ballot measure, and then next, the voters who will consider supporting the proposed measure come November.

Email contributing columnist Olivia Garcia at oliviagarcia@outlook.com. The views expressed are her own.

dedication to this project by not only conducting community outreach, but by collecting information and important data, accepting constructive feedback from the community, and figuring out the ways in which we can most effectively build *A Better BC* (www.abetterbc.com)

In addition to Mayor Harvey Hall, we have a strong team including former congressman Bill Thomas, serving as the senior advisor, Norma Rojas-Mora, Jay Rosenlieb, Pastor Hayward Cox, Jay Tamsi, Michael Bowers, Karen Thomson, and Keith Wolaridge, among many more. Our e-newsletter series titled *Letters from BC* is reaching an audience without boundaries through the internet.

Our 4th letter has just gone out and explores what Governor Edmund G. Brown called in 1960, "the most significant step California has ever taken in planning for the education of our youth." – The California Master Plan for Higher Education. It was during that same time frame in history that BC moved to the Panorama Campus and the letter states that today, "it is our turn to innovate, contribute, and inspire the next 60 years of quality and accessible education for all."

Word is spreading like wildfire and the potential bond was also featured in an article last weekend. The Bakersfield Californian published, "College district to consider bond measure" – an article by Californian Journalist and BC adjunct professor Olivia Garcia. It is rewarding to see the hard work of so many be noticed in the community. All efforts for this project are sure to benefit the many students for generations to come.

Bakersfield College improves access for Arvin, Lamont community

To meet the growing demand, Bakersfield College is expanding the number of courses for students in Arvin. BC first offered 6-8 courses at Arvin High School in 2010-11 increasing the number of courses to 23 by 2014-15. We began implementing 1+1+2 Game Changer this year resulting in an even further increasing number of courses for fall 2016.

With limited space at the current Arvin High School location, BC is investigating alternative grounds to offer classes and services for the rising Arvin student body.

Possible expansion sites include local primary school classrooms, however these are not optimal and plans to add student support services (increased on-site assessments, counseling, administrative services, career and education advisement, and financial aid) will require permanent space.

We are leveraging high school counselors for support; implementing dual enrollment courses on-site; and planning the installation of interactive classroom technology to teach at a distance.

This plan has urgency as we discovered the high school is preparing for a 16% increase in freshman this fall. This makes Arvin High School the second largest school in the KCCCD service area. Arvin and Lamont are among the most densely populated townships in Kern County ranging from 3,500 to 4000 citizens per square mile and have a thirty-percent poverty rate that challenges any in our nation.

The education needs of rural Kern has been a strategic focus of Bakersfield College. Our focus positively impacted the Arvin/Lamont KCCCD participation rate



	2015 KCCCD enrollment for students living in Arvin/Lamont		
	Students	Enroll Count	FTES Sum Actual
BC*	988	5,023	831.68

going from 27.8 per 1000 residents in 2013/2014 to 33.9 per 1000 in 2015/16. The BC Arvin/Lamont area student headcount increased from 600-700 students in 2013 to 1,170 in 2016 – a 67 percent increase. **In 2015, Arvin/Lamont population accounted for approximately 832 FTES. (IR data)**

The biggest challenges currently faced are limited classroom space at the high school site, problems associated with sharing high school classrooms, and nonexistent space for counselors, advisors or administrators on-site. In spite of these, BC continues to reach out, granting access to our programs and services.

We are delighted to be directly aligning KCCCD, Bakersfield College, Building Healthy Communities and Arvin City Council strategic plans for the next five years.

Bakersfield College sees increase in headcount, FTES for Fall 2016

The July 13th enrollment report shows and increase in FTES for Fall. BC is up 2.5% for Fall 2016, with the district as a whole up 2.2%. The headcount for Bakersfield College is has increased by 2.8%, while the district's headcount is up 1.2%. There are 473 active sections at BC, an increase of 19.1%.

Bakersfield College (Westec Excluded)	Point-in-Time Comparison ¹ Fall - 12th Week Open		
	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	% Chg
Current Headcount	16,239	16,690	2.8%
Duplicated Enrollments	47,076	48,177	2.3%
Waitlisted Enrollments ²	6,316	6,444	2.0%
Current FTES³	5,804.5	5,949.9	2.5%
Workload (FTEF)	374.4	404.0	7.9%
FTES/FTEF ⁴	15.5	14.7	-5.0%
Active Sections	1,616	1,748	8.2%