

Bakersfield College Mission Statement Questions for Consideration

Source of feedback & general comment: Feedback from about 25 campus leaders, mostly faculty, few classified and admin) April 4, 2014

This group felt our current Mission statement only addresses the Standards in stating its broad (but nebulous) purpose and they liked that it acknowledged a rapidly changing world.

And that our mission statement is missing:

No mention of equity/diversity

No evaluation or measurement

No definition of educational purpose

No measurement of learning opportunity

No differentiation between student achievement and student outcomes

No definition of institutional components

1. What are Bakersfield College's broad educational mission and purposes?

a. What is the one thing or idea that you think must be included in the Bakersfield College mission statement?

Diversity

Basic skills, vocational, transfer, personal enrichment to improve socioeconomics of our community

We have the phrase "excellent learning opportunities" but we only measure or evaluate these opportunities on student scores and "success". We do not have a way to measure learning opportunities except when learning occurs in the classroom end lined up with SLOs (see comments below)

Promote, foster, support diversity

Convey encouragement to all people groups

b. How would you word it?

Meeting the varied needs of our student population through a diverse faculty & staff

Tailor language to first gen students and family

Tailor language to the targeted audience 1st gen students and their families

2. How can Bakersfield College best articulate its commitment to student success, learning and achievement?

a. How can Bakersfield College best articulate its commitment to student success?

Creating commitment: greater access to support where students are rather than rationing support services in a single location. Articulating that commitment.

Committed to guiding students to the services and supports necessary to achieve their goals.

Services, programs, people funding

Bakersfield College is committed to student success, learning and achievement through our diverse course offerings and programs and services

The school regularly monitors student progress towards completion; the institution includes a pathway of success

Make language clear & accessible to our student population in particular our 80% first generation. Make plans easy and accessible to students & staff

b. How do you distinguish between student learning and student achievement?

Student achievement is much easier to measure than student learning.

Achievement is an end-point result while learning is a process

Grades vs knowledge acquired X2

Student learning may not be measurable because being with other students, becoming familiar with college out-of-class

Achievement is measurable and is usually associated with specific classroom outcomes and activities

Student achievement reflects students attaining the goal they set for themselves – CTE training or certificate, job skills, transfer, etc.

Student learning is having students acquire knowledge or skills that they had not possessed before “learning” it/them.

3. Define Bakersfield College’s geographic service area. Describe BC’s intended student population.

a. Who are our students?

Members of our greater community

Greater Bakersfield Area

Diverse first gen, ethnic minorities, crazy lives, juggling

Southern San Joaquin Valley

First generation

Largely Latino

Largely unsure of their academic or career goals

Returning students

First gen

Largely Latino

Largely unsure of their academic or career goals

Returning students

HSI college

67.5% latino

80% first gen

75 (actually 68)% on financial assistance

b. How would you characterize their needs?

Many and varied

Affirmed, welcomed, understood, respected

Vast

Pre-collegiate, college prep (therefore very difficult to create a learning environment is a class that meets a vast range of preparation

They need to realize what it takes for success at this level. Most will take some time to make the transition to college. Some never will. Some may learn from others/us so that transition is easier. Others will learn by experience.

Prepared by Janet Fulks, April 4, 2014

Send your responses to Kate Pluta at kpluta@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Or fill out the survey online at <http://committees.kccd.edu/bc/mission-review-team>

Kate Pluta, April 2, 2014