



[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

99th SESSION
2023-2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE SOUTH WEST PANTRY ESTABLISHMENT

IN THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

DECEMBER, 2023

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR ARAFAH

A RESOLUTION

Bakersfield College South West Pantry Establishment

WHEREAS, Bakersfield College’s Mission states “Bakersfield College provides opportunities for students from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds to attain Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer”, emphasizing providing opportunities for students from diverse economic backgrounds.

WHEREAS, Bakersfield College has a diverse community, and puts emphasis on values such as inclusivity, equity and accessibility and provides educational opportunities for students

of all backgrounds and beliefs, as supported by the Bakersfield College Student Government Association (BCSGA);

WHEREAS, in 2009, BCSGA recognized a pressing demand for essential products, including canned goods, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and more. This recognition prompted the establishment of monthly food basket distribution, which, over the course of two decades, evolved into the establishment of a dedicated basic needs center known as the Renegade Nexus. The success of this initiative also led to the extension of this vital resource to BC's Delano Campus.

WHEREAS, during the academic year 2022-2023 according to BC Unique Headcount Dashboard by Institutional Research Office there is a total of 14,425 students who attend classes fully in-person. During the same timeframe, the Panorama Campus pantry recorded 43,709 visits. This is indicating a vital need for pantry services for our students. Similarly, at the Delano Campus, which held 1,203 students during the same academic year, the Delano campus Renegade Pantry witnessed 1,087 total visits, highlighting the significance of this resource for the campus community.

WHEREAS, The Bakersfield College Southwest Campus (BCSW) witnessed a student enrollment of 3,231 in 2019 to 3,621 in 2023, reflecting steady growth. Despite this enrollment growth, the BCSW Campus lacks a designated space for basic needs, where students have access to food, beverages, hygiene products, clothing, cleaning supplies, etc.

Addressing this gap is crucial to ensuring the well-being of our growing student population at the BCSW Campus.

WHEREAS, The distinctive enrollment figure for BCSW Campus stands at 3,625 students. Examining the student demographic brought by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness reveals that 39% of the student body at the South West Campus qualifies for Pell Grants. These grants are designed for undergraduate students demonstrating noteworthy financial need and who have not attained a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. Additionally, 37% of the students fall under the category of being economically disadvantaged, as defined by California Community Colleges.

WHEREAS, It is imperative that students receive comprehensive wrap-around support services to ensure their academic success. This assistance should extend beyond academic matters to encompass various needs that may not directly relate to education. By addressing a spectrum of concerns, colleges can facilitate a conducive environment for students to thrive and advance in their academic journey, fostering a sense of security and confidence in their pursuit of knowledge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BCSGA supports the establishment of a basic needs center at the BCSW Campus to provide essential resources for students in meeting their academic success.

AND FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED by BCSGA That this resolution shall be forwarded to Bakersfield College President Mr. Steve Walkins, BC Facility and Sustainability Committee Chairs, Program Manager for BCSW, and the Office of Student Life.

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