

ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1
Commendation of Bakersfield College President Sonya Christian



Whereas, the College President has been recognized for her success both by the 2013 ACCJC Evaluation Team who commended “the College President for her enthusiasm, community spirit and speed in which she was able to bring the vast range of college services and educational programs into the conversations with local community and business leaders” and in a 2015 survey more than 90% BC administration, faculty, and staff who participated in the survey, indicated the College President was an “effective leader”;

Whereas, Bakersfield College received state and national recognition for its recent work including: the Bakersfield College’s Student Equity Plan which received the following statewide feedback, “One of the best plans – well constructed plans that could be used as a model for other colleges, and significantly, Bakersfield College was awarded “The Exemplary Program Award sponsored by the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges and the Foundation of California Community Colleges for its “Making It Happen” (MIH), “Making It Happen” (MIH) was also highlighted nationally at The Achieving the Dream Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on February 17-20, 2015;

Whereas, Bakersfield College at the direction and support of the College President has prioritized the development of extensive and targeted internal and external communication, including an effective Outreach Program, creation of relationships with various community businesses, and rejuvenated communication through entities like the Presidents Blog, the Communication Project, Renegade Talks, live streaming of various conferences and implementing SB1391 – Inmate Education- developing a statewide model for prison educational reform, all as a means of significantly connecting with the needs of the communities Bakersfield College serves and the internal community it nurtures;

Whereas, Bakersfield College is serving in a significant capacity for our state in a variety of ways including being selected as 1 of 20 California Community Colleges to participate in the landmark pilot program, “Community College Pathway to Law School,” 1 of 12 California Community Colleges to participate in the revolutionary statewide pilot program, “The Common Assessment Initiative,” and has been chosen as 1 of 15 California Community Colleges to participate in a historic pilot program offering a Baccalaureate Degree in vocational fields;

Whereas, Bakersfield College has increased its state and national rankings including ranking 5th among California Community Colleges for completion of Associate Degree of Transfers (ADT) and 6th in the country and 1st in California among two-year colleges on the Brookings Institute’s metric of value-added for post-graduation earnings;

Whereas, President Sonya Christian has enabled these innovations in student success to happen through a distributive, collegial leadership model that empowers educational leaders in the faculty, staff, and administration to experiment and improve initiatives developed organically in an environment of trust of the abilities of its employees following the example of the first president of Bakersfield College, Grace Van Dyke Bird;

Be it resolved, the Bakersfield College Academic Senate commends President Sonya Christian for her progressive, innovative, and visionary leadership, driving our institution to local, state, and national recognition as an exemplary educational leader.

Approved by the Academic Senate on June 10, 2015