

**From:** Sonya Christian  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2016 5:34 PM  
**To:** Lesley Bonds  
**Subject:** [BULK] Letters from Bakersfield College

**Importance:** Low

## Letters from Bakersfield College



**Friends of Bakersfield College,**

May 19, 2016

It was April 30th, 1953, that Bakersfield College broke ground and began construction on this empty, barren, *probably very dirty*, and dusty 153-acre lot on the Panorama Bluffs.

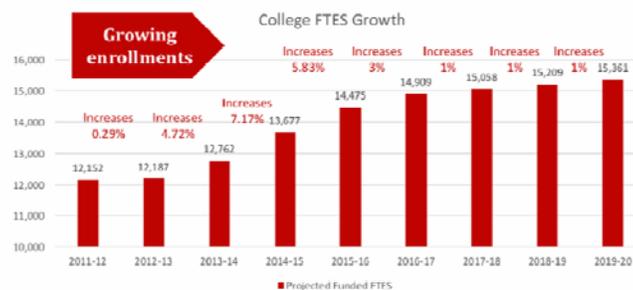
The thriving, alive, and robust BC campus we have today is because these forward thinkers had a vision of providing for future generations. Breaking ground on our beloved campus, overlooking the prolific Kern River oil field was *just the beginning* of a rich history at 1801 Panorama Drive.



Kern County is known as one of the largest agricultural and oil producers in the country – so, it's no wonder Bakersfield College has an expansive and growing list of vocational, technical, and career driven degrees and certificates for students to obtain. The fact that [BC was selected as one of only 15 community colleges in the state to offer a four-year baccalaureate degree program](#) speaks volumes to how established and well-respected our programs are.

Bakersfield College chose to structure a degree in industrial automation because the skills, education, and training in completing such a degree is a direct benefit to local business... and anything that makes Bakersfield better, makes for *A Better BC*.

## 9 YRS. COLLEGE GROWTH



The needs of Kern County and the future success of our students has been the highest priority for the past 103 years. On opening day in 1913, Bakersfield College began with 13 students. Thirteen students who went on to achieve skills and education necessary to make a better life for themselves and give back to their community.

Today, our enrollment numbers are upwards of 25,000 students – *and we continue to grow*. We are serving over 14,475 full time enrolled students across a campus which has expanded to online and satellite locations.

Today, BC students are making a difference in your life. Our hospitals have BC nursing graduates, our law enforcement is filled with our BC-Westec graduates, our firefighters, our auto technicians, our journalists, our child educators, our welders, our construction engineers, our oil field engineers, our agricultural researchers... ***We Are BC***. Our students also stay within our community, ensuring we keep our best and brightest at home. [A recent study showed BC as the best in California and 6th in the nation for value for its alumni](#). Now, *that's a statistic we can all be proud of*.

The 1950's were fruitful years - some of the best decisions in history were made and our leaders capitalized on creating necessary improvements for a better today. President Eisenhower's decision to create the interstate highway system was an investment in our nation's future that paid dividends for the next fifty years.

Investments such as these, have paved the way to strengthening our communities, our country, our businesses, our students, and our families. The education accomplished at Bakersfield College impacts the quality of life for men, women, and children in Bakersfield and Kern County for generations to come.

In the last three years the college has been meticulously reviewing our facilities needs and planning for the next 50 years. Just like the community leaders of the 1950s planned the facilities for the students of today, it is our turn to plan for the students in 2066. In 2016 looking towards 2066. An even better BC!

Thank you for being a part of it; ***A Better BC***.

That's all for now.

Until next time.....

With Renegade pride and collegiality,

sonya

<http://bcpresidentblog.com>

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**BAKERSFIELD  
COLLEGE**

[Bakersfield College Website](#)



Bakersfield College | 1801 Panorama Dr. | Bakersfield | CA | 93305

This email was sent to [lesley.bonds@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:lesley.bonds@bakersfieldcollege.edu) by [sonya.christian@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:sonya.christian@bakersfieldcollege.edu)

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