Levan Center Mission
The mission of the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities is to provide programs that focus on and foster greater appreciation of the humanities, explore the relevance of the humanities to the practice of medicine, examine and support ethical behavior in business and the professions, recognize and encourage scholarship and intellectual exchange among Bakersfield College faculty and students, and involve the Bakersfield community in examining the importance of the humanities in the lives of people.

Contact Us
For information about the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities contact Jack Hernandez, Center Director, at 661-395-4334 or jhermand@BakersfieldCollege.edu.

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The Norman Levan Center for the Humanities

The Levan Center is a 4,400 square foot facility that houses a 1,450 square foot seminar hall that can accommodate an audience of 120.

The seminar hall has a moveable wall that can divide the room into two smaller seminar style spaces. Additionally, there are two outdoor seminar areas, which allow for informal gatherings.

This facility is designed with function as well as form in mind. A large foyer also doubles as a reception area. The 250 square foot Levan Library provides an area for casual discussions and spontaneous meetings. Three offices are also provided: one for visiting scholars, another for the Levan Center's director, and one honorary office dedicated to Dr. Levan.

Levan Center Programs

- Faculty Colloquia
- Lectures
- Panel Discussions
- Topical Seminars
- Scholars-in-Residence
- Humanities Book Discussion Groups
- Support for Campus Humanities Programs
- Collaboration with Community Organizations
- Humanities Essay Student Scholarships
- Faculty Summer Scholarship Grants
- Conferences
- Retreats

About Dr. Norman Levan

Dr. Norman Levan is professor emeritus and former chief of dermatology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree in 1939. After serving in the Army Medical Corps in World War II, he began a long and distinguished career in medicine. He established the Hansen's Disease Clinic for Leprosy at the Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center in 1962 at the request of state and federal health officials. Dr. Levan still sees patients in his Bakersfield medical practice. He now practices one day a week, seeing elderly or specialized patients.

Made possible by Dr. Levan's generous gift, the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities at Bakersfield College is unique among community colleges. As Dr. Levan has said:

"Bakersfield College is an excellent school and one of the pearls of the Central Valley. It is deserving of support for that reason. Bakersfield College students leave stronger for their educational and career futures."