August 2009

Dear KCCD Employees:

One of my most important roles as Chancellor of the Kern Community College District is to help create the best possible environment for everyone in the District. We should also have the comfort of knowing that we have a safe, secure, and ethical workplace. Every person, regardless of position, shares in the responsibility of promoting a positive environment.

As part of our accreditation process in 2006, all campuses were made aware of the important need for an ethics policy to compliment our mission, vision, and values. With the assistance of representatives serving on the KCCD Consultation Council and input from a cross-section of employees, the development of this policy began in Spring 2007. The District Consultation Council moved this statement through all necessary channels to produce a final product that was clear and useful. The Employee Code of Ethics Policy was finalized in May 2008 and approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2008.

Additionally, KCCD recently installed EthicsPoint, a new phone and Internet-based reporting service to enhance communication and empower you to promote safety, security, and ethical behavior. This new system allows you to communicate your concerns and enables you to remain anonymous if you so choose. EthicsPoint will manage the reporting system for us. They have gone to great lengths to ensure that reports entered into the system are completely confidential.

Your input is essential for us to ensure that we maintain a positive, productive workplace. Please know that when using the EthicsPoint Reporting System, you can report any misconduct that you observe, or request clarity on whether or not something is cause for concern. You have my promise that all reports will be reviewed and there will be an appropriate response.

The EthicsPoint Reporting System is here for all of us. It is a completely confidential reporting structure that can benefit our entire District, but only if we use it.

Sincerely,

Sandra V. Serrano
Chancellor
Kern Community College District

Kern Community College District (KCCD) serves communities over 24,800 square miles in parts of Kern, Tulare, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino counties through the programs of Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso College and Porterville College. Governed by a locally elected Board of Trustees, the district's colleges offer programs and services that develop student potential and create opportunities for our citizens.

KCCD is geographically one of the largest community college districts in the United States, serving 26,000 students. Our students represent a diversity of religions, economic backgrounds, sexual orientations, abilities, and ethnicities.

While the Kern Community College District was established as a separate entity in 1968 to respond to the changing needs of our communities, educational services have been provided to residents for many years: at Bakersfield College since 1913; at Porterville College since 1927; and in the Ridgecrest area since 1951 by what is now Cerro Coso College. All three colleges are proud members of the California Community College System and are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Today, education centers and sites in Delano, downtown Bakersfield, the Mammoth Bishop area, Edwards Air Force, and the Kern River Valley offer additional convenient, localized instruction for thousands of residents. KCCD's commitment to distance learning and other technological advances is creating increasing opportunities for education through the internet, satellite, and cable television to individuals across our broad service area and beyond.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Kern Community College District is to provide outstanding educational programs and services that are responsive to our diverse students and communities.

Kern Community College District Strategic Plan

http://www.kccd.edu/
MISSION • VISION • VALUES

THE KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
ETHICAL STANDARDS
Bakersfield College, Porterville College,
Cerro Coso College

CODES OF CONDUCT
RESPECT FOR PERSONS AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM
FAIRNESS AND HONESTY
COMPETENCE
“Circumstances do not make a person, they reveal him.”
James Allen

“Being truthful when you know it will cost you is the true test of honesty.”
Dave Weinbaum

“Always tell the truth. That way you don’t have to remember what you said.”
Mark Twain

“The highest form of treason: to do the right thing for the wrong reason.”
T. S. Eliot

“Vision is the art of seeing the invisible.”
Jonathan Swift

“There’s a world of difference between truth and facts. Facts can obscure truth.”
Maya Angelou

“To exercise good character daily is to be morally fit for life.”
Ayn Rand

“Truth is not only violated by falsehood; it may be equally outraged by silence.”
Henri Amiel

Table of Contents

Vision and Mission........................................................................... Page 2

Values ............................................................................................. Page 3

Code of Ethics ................................................................................ Page 4

Respect for Persons and Academic Freedom .................................. Page 5

Fairness and Honesty...................................................................... Page 5

Competence...................................................................................... Page 6

Conclusion......................................................................................... Page 7

The Binding Nature of Ethical Standards of
Kern Community College District.................................................. Page 7

Definitions.......................................................................................... Page 7-8
VISION
The Kern Community College District will be recognized as an exemplary educational leader, partnering with our communities to develop potential and create opportunities. Successful students will strengthen their communities and, along with the faculty and staff, become life-long learners.

MISSION
The mission of the Kern Community College District is to provide outstanding educational programs and services that are responsive to our diverse students and communities. We accomplish this mission by:

• Providing academic instruction to promote fulfillment of four-year college transfer requirements and encourage degree and/or certificate acquisition in our surrounding communities.

• Providing work-force skills training through vocational/technical/occupational programs.

• Providing basic skills education and student services programs to help students become successful learners.

• Establishing partnerships with businesses and governmental entities as well as other educational institutions to advance economic development.

• Improving the quality of life of our students and communities through broad-based general education courses.

• Preparing students with the skills to function effectively in the global economy of the 21st century.

• Anticipating and preparing to meet challenges by continually assessing and prioritizing programs, services, and community needs.

VALUES
The Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff of the Kern Community College District, in implementing the Mission of the District, subscribe to the following values. The “Student Value” is listed first to emphasize the importance of the District’s responsibilities to students. The other values are listed in alphabetical order.

• STUDENTS—Student learning is our primary mission. When students attain their educational goals, both their communities and society as a whole are the beneficiaries. To accomplish this mission, we must maintain an outstanding learning environment, including such resources as an excellent faculty and staff, student support services, and appropriate instructional facilities. Further, that environment should encompass a balanced approach to educational programming as well as respect for and support of individual student goals.

• ACCOUNTABILITY—Accountability is the ongoing process of assessing the effectiveness with which Kern Community College District meets the standards and expectations that have been established by the State and Federal governments, accrediting agencies, and the Board of Trustees. Further, all KCCD employees have a mutual responsibility for the quality and scope of our services as well as for honest stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

• COMMUNITY—We are best able to provide high quality instruction and support services that promote and enhance life-long learning and human potential by working closely with our communities to establish mutually beneficial relationships with both public and private entities. We do this by assessing and prioritizing community needs and by addressing those needs through joint efforts. Thus, our colleges and communities in which they exist are shaped by their reciprocal relationships.

• DIVERSITY—We recognize and celebrate the similarities and differences in our students, staff, communities, services, programs, and ideas. We value diversity because it promotes learning, enriches our relationships, and enhances our ability to solve problems and make decisions.
EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS—The Kern Community College District faculty and staff will strive to provide effective and responsible stewardship and management of its responsibilities and of KCCCD resources by maintaining an open decision-making environment, participating in collaborative action, developing mutual respect among employees, making decisions in a timely manner, and achieving student goals.

EQUITABLE RESOURCES ALLOCATION—The Kern Community College District is committed to providing equal access to relevant learning opportunities across its service area. It is important that the resources necessary for student, system, and institutional success be distributed in a manner that supports this commitment.

FACULTY AND STAFF—We are committed, at all levels, to recruitment, retention, and promotion of the highest quality personnel; to employee satisfaction as indicated on periodic surveys; to professional growth and learning opportunities for all employees; and to a positive work environment. Excellence is realized through the energy and talents of our faculty and staff; therefore, appreciation is expressed for their contributions, mutual trust and respect are fostered, and an environment exists which is enriched by a diversity of people and ideas.

Respect for Persons and Academic Freedom
The inherent dignity of all persons requires that we conduct ourselves with civility in all circumstances of our professional lives. This means that we do not participate in or accept, condone, or tolerate physical or verbal forms of aggression, threat, harassment, ridicule, or intimidation. The District is an institution of higher education and especially values a spirit of free inquiry and free speech. The District encourages the expression of a range of points of view, but we expect all expressions of content to be conducted in a manner respectful of persons. The District nurtures an atmosphere of mutual respect by treating everyone with dignity, even when the values, beliefs, or behavior of a person or group is different from our own. The District recognizes this foundation of mutual respect to be the basis of civil discourse in an academic environment.

The District further protects the dignity of persons by maintaining the boundaries of both necessary and appropriate confidentiality, and by prohibiting the exploitation of all persons through sexual harassment or financial, professional, or any other form of exploitation. The District seeks to develop policies, procedures, and practices which are both compassionate and fair. In order to assure that we are fair in our policies, procedures, and practices regarding the dignity and worth of persons, the District specifically prohibits discrimination based on race, color, ethnic group identification, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, and physical or mental disability. While this prohibition is necessary, it is the genuine valuing of diversity that serves to create the general atmosphere in which persons can thrive and realize their potential.

Fairness and Honesty
- The District desires to participate in a healthy work environment which emphasizes the achievement of our common purpose and the development of our potential as individuals and as an organization.
- The District will actively work to build the trust necessary to conduct its mission through open, honest, and fair practices and communications at all levels.
- The District values and practices the sharing of information, transparency of policy, and consistency of practice in all its dealings.
CONCLUSION

- The Kern Community College District celebrates its existence as a unique institution for the realization of human potential in the geographic area it serves and through the global connections fostered by its online programs.

- The District prizes most highly the education and achievements of students, and the fostering of lifelong learning throughout its organization.

- The District allows this value not only to direct our positive behavior and limit our potentially negative behavior, but to inspire us with a sense of shared purpose and a willingness to cooperate with one another in developing the highest potential in individuals and communities.

THE BINDING NATURE OF ETHICAL STANDARDS OF KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

This statement of ethics articulates mutual expectations related to the employment or participation in providing services in the District, including service on the Board of Trustees and community advisory boards, and as volunteers and contracted service providers.

DEFINITIONS

- BIAS—a partiality that prevents objective consideration; influence in an unfair way.

- CIVIL DISCOURSE—engage in courteous and polite conversation intended to enhance understanding: a moral interaction that presupposes ethical standards.

- CIVILITY—courtesy; politeness.

- COMPETENCE—the act of performing tasks and roles to an expected standard based on the possession of required skills, knowledge, qualifications, or capacity.

- DIGNITY—bearing, conduct, or speech indicative of self-respect or appreciation of the formality or gravity of an occasion or situation; the quality or state of being worthy of esteem or respect.
• DISTRICT—the Kern Community College District (referred to as “we” or “our”) is a political subdivision of the State of California and includes all Colleges, Centers, satellites, online, and all sites and persons governed by the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees.

• ETHICAL STANDARD—the principles and norms of proper professional and moral conduct concerning the rights and duties of professionals themselves and their conduct toward others.

• ETHICAL STATURE—The reputation for achieving and maintaining the highest level of professional and moral conduct.

• ETHICS—a system of moral principles; moral principles, as of an individual; a set of principles of right conduct.

• EXPLOITATION—the act of using another for personal gain; the practice of treating someone badly.

• INHERENT—existing in someone or something as a permanent and inseparable element, quality, or attribute; existing as an essential constituent or characteristics; intrinsic.

• JUST—guided by truth, reason, justice, and fairness; done or made according to principle; equitable; property.

• REPUTATION—the estimation of which a person or thing is held by others; the state of situation of being held in high esteem.

• RIGHT—in accordance with what is good or proper; in conformity with fact, reason, truth, or some standard of principle; correct in judgment, opinion, or action.