



The Messenger

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TWO BCC STANDARD BEARERS RETIRE

They may have left the campus but their presence still lingers. Two members of the BCC and Peralta families said farewell and began well deserved retirements. Our powerful icons, Juana Alicia Araiza and Allene Young Hegler have both retired after years of dedication to excellence in education and transforming lives here at Berkeley City College. They may be gone but their imprints to our community can be found all around us.

Architects in many ways, these trailblazers brought their respective visions to Berkeley City College - and what visions they were. Juana Alicia and Allene helped build programs and a culture and identity at BCC. Juana Alicia is not only special to the BCC family but she is celebrated throughout

the Bay area as an artist and an activist for social change. Juana Alicia Araiza came to BCC in 2008 and soon after founded True Colors Murals that trains young artists to design and create community murals with social and environmental justice themes. Through her teaching, Juana Alicia has helped to foster several generations of young muralists and activist artists. She is a muralist, printmaker, educator, activist, painter and visionary who has taught in some format for over thirty years in the community organizing to migrant and bilingual education to arts education, from kindergarten to graduate school levels. Her sculptural and painted public works can be seen in throughout the Bay Area and other parts of California, Nicaragua, Mexico, Cuba, Central America and Pennsylvania. She has taught at Stanford University, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis and San Francisco State University. We were honored to have learned from her and share her vision.

So what is her plan now? Always the artist, Juana Alicia plans to maintain her reputation as a prolific artist and maintain her work on projects throughout the Bay Area while splitting her time between homes in the Bay Area and along the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

In her last gift to the BCC family, Juana Alicia delivered the faculty address at the 2017 BCC commencement. In keeping with the theme of "Hope," Juana Alicia challenged the graduates to make real change and to be part of the solution. She reminded the graduates and the rest of those attending that while we are inspired by hope, "an important corollary to hope is action," she said. "However, hope has a critical corollary, without which, the effort of hoping it is an empty endeavor. That corollary is action."

After 18 years at BCC, Allene Young Hegler has seen a lot of changes at Berkeley City College. But her advice to students today is the same as it was when she first came aboard as a counselor. “Whatever it is you do, do it to the best of your ability. Give your best to whatever it is you set out to accomplish.” Friends, students and colleagues say that this advice could only come from a woman who lived by these words. If the line from *Hamilton* is true and “A legacy is planting seeds in a garden you will never get to see,” Allene’s legacy here at BCC is one that is sure to bloom for years to come. The force behind BCC’s Umoja Learning Community, Allene says it is but one of many sources of pride during her time here. BCC’s Umoja Scholars Program seeks to educate the whole student—mind, body, and spirit. The program actively serves and promotes success for all students through a curriculum responsive to the legacy of the African and African American Diasporas. This year saw the Umoja Learning Community continue to thrive and obtain a space of its own called the Umoja Village located at 2000 Center Street.

Umoja is just one of Allene’s many successes during her time at BCC. Success, she says, came each time a student determined that his or her education was important to the student themselves and not only to his parents, teachers and counselors. “To see the transformation in a student is something that is always gratifying to me. It is why I do this work.”

What’s ahead for Mrs. Hegler? Books, travel and technology. A book lover, Allene plans on finally enjoying the many books she has collected that have been staring back at her from her bookshelves at home. Now she can finally dive into the books that she purchased with such enthusiasm but that time has yet allowed her to enjoy.

Allene plans on enjoying retirement by traveling first throughout the United States with her husband Larence who is also retiring. Also on Allene’s list is tackling the i-Pad she received as a gift last year but that she has not quite mastered.

So when we begin to remember our colleagues in the days ahead, a quick trip to the atrium will find reminders of them both. Juana Alicia’s rich and powerful mural “From the Ground Up” can be found in BCC’s atrium. Look carefully and you will find within the mural Allene and her husband smiling back. Con abrazos (with hugs) and in the spirit of umoja (unity) we bid our beloved colleagues a warm farewell.



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