BCC Alum Larry McDaniel, Jr. is Going Places

Call it an epiphany. Or, the moment when the light came on. You might even call it an “aha” moment. For Larry McDaniel, understanding the value of a college education came in 2010. Since graduating from high school in 2002, Larry had worked in retail while sporadically attending classes at Berkeley City College. But things began to look up for Larry when he fulfilled a childhood dream and landed a job in the video gaming industry. The job satisfaction he experienced faded quickly when he was laid off by his employer. It was at this time that he began to think seriously about his future. “This recession can put me back into retail,” he thought. And indeed, it did. It was after accepting a job at Sprint in Emeryville that he came to a stark realization. “I need an education. I am still stuck in the same place as when I was 18 with no savings and no plan.”

In 2010, he lost the job at Sprint. He had wandered in and out of Berkeley City College since graduating from high school. It became a revolving door of sorts. He would enroll in classes without fully committing to an educational goal and he was dismissed from BCC four times over an 8 year period. “I was 26 with nothing to show for my age.”

But rather than repeat the mistakes of the past, Larry thought about the success stories that were a part of his inner circle and solicited their advice on the best path forward for him. He decided to seek counsel with a few friends who had already completed college and had established careers. “They told me to go for it and return to college and to do it right, this time.”

Armed with a sense of purpose now, Larry decided to commit to completing a college education. But even being admitted to BCC had become a challenge, especially after he had been rejected by Berkeley City College for admission four times for having a grade point average of 0.81. He was ordered to write a letter to the Dean of Student Services as to why he should be offered admission. BCC gave him one final chance. This was the turning point to a better life but not without facing many challenges.

“I was broke. I couldn’t afford to pay for an $1,800 PG&E bill and I studied in the dark. This went on for the fall, spring and summer sessions,” he said. He didn’t have gas or electricity. But instead of giving up, Larry decided to take advantage of the lighting, computer access and comfortable study areas that BCC offered. He made sure that everything for which he would need gas or electricity was handled before he came home. His living condition was something he kept from virtually everyone. “Although they found out later, I never told my parents that I had no lights or gas or electricity,” Larry said. Having no power, also took a serious toll on his social life.

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Did you know?

Friday, October 20
Last Day to File Petitions for AA or AS Degree/Certificate

Thursday, October 26
Professional Day – No Instruction

Friday, Nov. 10
Veteran’s Day – Holiday Observance

Wednesday, Nov. 15
Last Day to Withdraw from Regular Session Classes and Receive a “W”. All outstanding fees are due even if classes are dropped on this day.

Wednesday, November 15
Attendance Verification Day – Instructors Verify Enrollment

Thursday- Sunday Nov. 23 – 27
Thanksgiving – Holiday Observance

Saturday, December 9
Saturday Instruction Ends

Sunday - Friday December 10-15
Final Examinations

December 15
Fall Semester Ends

Meet BCC Alumni Larry McDaniel, Jr. (from p. 1 column 2)

“I couldn’t have friends over. I was never home. I couldn’t date,” he said. “It was rough trying to build something from the ground up and coming home to a cold, dark apartment,” Larry said.

But through his struggles, Larry managed to earn a GPA of 3.86 and several academic honors at Berkeley City College. But what was it that first made education illusive for Larry? And what was it that changed? What made the difference?

“I didn’t grow up with ideal circumstances”, Larry said. It was a drifting situation in which he attended schools in Oakland before completing high school at Berkeley High School. The counselors there made sure he didn’t fall through the cracks. “The academies I attended in high school might have made me employable but not educated.” Larry said college was not emphasized but aimed to make students job ready, an important goal for many students. After completing high school he had no motivation to pursue a college education. “If someone would have pointed out to me why we don’t see professionals in my community? Why marginalized communities are where they are,” Larry said. “No one made the connection for me between the condition of the folks in my community and education.”

Education was always emphasized by Larry’s parents. But his parents were not able to help him to navigate the educational systems or know how to support him in the classroom or with his counselors.

Larry thrived at BCC, and has fond memories of the supportive environment created by faculty and one special counselor. “Allene Young-Hegler never gave up on me. She encouraged me and made me work harder,” he said.

Since graduating from BCC, Larry has gone on to graduate from UC Berkeley with a degree in Sociology and he recently completed a master’s degree at the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education. Today you can find Larry on the UCLA campus where he has embarked on a new challenge this fall. He is attending the doctoral program in the Department of Higher Education and Organizational Change.

If hindsight is 20/20, Larry can offer valuable advice to young people who find themselves without focus or direction. “Even if no one is explicitly making the connection between a college education and success, go seek it. Seek the information about why college is important. Don’t be passive but make things happen for yourself. I try to share my story in the marginalized community and I hope to inspire others to pursue their educational goals.” Hats off to you, Larry McDaniel.
A Conversation With Berkeley City Councilmember Kate Harrison

Berkeley City Councilmember Kate Harrison was sworn into office in March after winning the District 4 seat vacated by Jesse Arreguin who was elected Mayor of Berkeley. Berkeley City College lies within Harrison’s District, so we talked to her about her vision for the District, the City and BCC’s role in that vision.

What was the catalyst for you that made you want to run for this office?

I was a student activist while studying at UC Berkeley. I was always involved. I have served on various commissions including housing advisory commissions and the waterfront commission. My motivation was affordable housing. I worked on large projects in San Francisco and it really deepened my resolve to make a difference in Berkeley where I live. I began testifying on Berkeley issues as part of my work.

What has been the most important lesson you have learned about your position since you were elected?

I think learning how to work with City staff and talking and learning about what they have already done and the importance of tearing down barriers.

You have been in and around Berkeley since your college days at UC Berkeley. What has been your interaction with Berkeley City College on a personal or professional level?

I actually took classes in Economics and Financial Management at Vista while pursuing my undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley and it was great. This was an important education in seeing the big picture of financing real estate and really helped me as I moved forward in my career.

BCC has partnered with the City of Berkeley and other partners as part of the 2020 Vision initiative. How do you see this initiative impacting Berkeley going forward?

It is important to produce graduates and to ensure diversity and equity. Colleges should look like the population. And BCC plays a critical role in making sure that this happens. BCC offers a great opportunity to go to school and work and has an impressive high transfer to UC Berkeley and other colleges which is an absolute asset to our city.

Berkeley City College has one of the highest transfer rates among California Community Colleges to UC Berkeley. As the council representative for this district how might that information be useful in attracting both businesses and residents to Berkeley?

As a workforce, businesses can better employ an educated workforce. An educated workforce makes incubators possible, for example. Berkeley has been the starting place for a number of nationally known businesses. Some have gotten their start in one of our business incubators. We have a program started by the city and UC to get low cost loans to small businesses. Students are a really important part of who we are as a city. There is vibrancy if a town makes more exciting and interesting place to live and students bring that vibrancy.

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Barbara Godoy Continued from p. 3

design the architecture and leverage social media platforms to keep students and the community engaged in our rich suite of academic and student centered programs. The fewer students need to be waiting in line the more access we provide through common online tools.

Another significant challenge is the absence of technology that allows us to make data informed decisions in advance.

The third challenge area as it relates to serving students and enhancing enrollments is the current staffing model. Enrollment management in its true sense is about each member of the organization understanding their role with executing, monitoring and meeting their assigned key performance indicators within the framework of the strategic plan. Enrollment management is not just about meeting FTE and head count but also about retention, matriculation and student satisfaction. Student satisfaction is a shared responsibility. The current student service model and how front line staff in admissions, financial aid and other areas approach serving the students is not integrated and highly siloed district wide. I believe it is timely to begin to question the current staffing model, explore what is working and what is not to begin to transition current practice from being heavily process oriented and move towards qualitative and results oriented.

What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure as Dean of Enrollment Services?

I hope to be able to influence change by enhancing the student’s enrollment experience to feel more personalized but also automated so student’s do not have to make multiple trips to our campus. I look forward to partnering with my team and colleagues to expand our external partnerships, leverage our alumni and ensure we work collectively to execute our continued integrated planning with SSSP, Student Equity, and BSI.

Learning Communities Thrive at BCC

The Learning Communities are an integral part of academic life at Berkeley City College. Recently representatives of the Learning Communities at BCC attended the 19th Annual National Summer Institute on Learning Communities. The theme of the conference was creating a collaborative environment for learning communities faculty and staff of two- and four-year institutions to help design and create a two-year action to take back to the campus. BCC Today spoke with Andre Singleton, Interim Associate Dean, Educational Success to find out more about the conference and what we can expect from the Learning Communities in the upcoming year.

What are your reflections on the setting of the conference?

The conference was held at the Evergreen State College at the Olympia, Washington campus. The campus is surrounded by nature and located in the Pacific Northwest. It was the perfect setting for focusing on the objective as well as bonding with the BCC learning communities’ team.

What are some important takeaways of the conference?

The important takeaways for me were the action plan and the need to continue the transparency and communication with stakeholders on campus.

What did you learn that you would like to implement?

I learned about concept mapping and a stair step approach to assessment at student, faculty, and institutional levels.

What did you learn about your current practices that were affirmed during your conference?

Our current practices were affirmed by the level of detail we were able to produce in our action plan as well as our group presentations. We were organized in a cohort with two other community colleges. By the final presentation, we were “teaching” our cohort team members how we integrate linked learning, co-curricular activities, and financially plan for our learning communities.

What did you learn about your current practices that you could improve upon?

We learned that we can improve upon our data collection and our integrated planning with SSSP, BSI, and Equity. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to work more collaboratively with the department chairs to facilitate the scheduling of our linked courses.

What did you hope the team would learn that could be applied to your work?

Honestly, I went into the institute with the intention of flushing out all of the ideas we had at the beginning and the end of the spring semester. What ended up happening was the full scope of the learning communities at BCC with a better understanding of our structure moving forward. The best part of all was the relationship building with our team, how we work outside of the college and how this new relationship will strengthen the experience for the students participating in learning communities.

Going forward, what are some

Dean Lisa Cook, left, Alvin Lebo-Planas, Andre Singleton, Christina Taing, Denise Jones, Skyler Barton, Andrea Williams
of the key initiatives you hope to implement in 2017-2018?

One initiative we planned was the creation of Unity Week. The vision of Unity Week is to provide week-long programming that includes getting student IDs, campus tour, library tour, and various student services presentations and activities (FA, EOPS, Veterans, Counseling, Next Up (CAFYES), Campus Life, etc.). This past fall was the first ever Unity Week and we plan to make this an annual event to kick off our learning communities.

What were some effective exercises that you participated in at the conference? What did you learn from them?

The most effective exercises were planning our final project to present to the cohort and the submission of our action plan to the resource faculty. As the team talked out the action plan with the faculty, we were able to flush out details that we never discussed which was extremely helpful. With regards to the final presentation, instead of a Power Point, we actually “acted-out” how we work as a learning community’s team and integrated the crowd. We started with the administrative “brainstorm”, went into a “counseling session” with a potential student, then in to a “linked class” with audience as students, followed by a co-curricular activity. We wrapped it up with Unity Week sample of activities. It was a fun but educational exercise for all.

They remind us about activism, animal rights and gentrification. We would not be in the place where we are without UC Berkeley and BCC.

What do you view as the role of BCC in helping to achieve your vision for Berkeley?

BCC helps us remain diverse. BCC plays a vital role in keeping out town vibrant. It is part of the whole fabric that is Berkeley. We are interested in exploring free community college and are looking to bring free college to Berkeley and the entire state. We are looking at early investments in college. Council is exploring this as a body and there is strong support from the council.

I would also like to say that I have a niece who is a dancer who went to community college. I think that BCC and community colleges throughout the state allow a system that is not so class based to allow people to get an education and to do amazing things with their lives. BCC shows us that you don’t have to be 17 and go to university right out of high school.
Berkeley City College Welcomes New Faculty
Staff and Administrators

BCC welcomes new faculty members, staff and administrators who will share their expertise in a variety of disciplines and administrative areas. BCC’s new employees are: Alejandra Oseguera, Dolores Harshaw, Fatima Shah, Ke Zhong Van Valkenburgh, Willis Liu, Andrea Williams, Barbara Godoy.

Alejandra Oseguera, EOPS/CARE counselor

Alejandra Oseguera was born and raised in Salinas, California. She earned her master’s degree in Counseling and a Pupils Personnel Services Credential from San Jose State University. Her Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Studies is from California State University Monterey Bay. Alejandra loves working with her students and colleagues. She is passionate about counseling and teaching and enjoys being a resource to students. She finds it very rewarding to be able to assist and support students in their educational journey. Alejandra previously worked as an adjunct counselor and instructor at both Merritt College and Contra Costa College. Alejandra also has an art background and worked as a high school art teacher before going into counseling. She loves to paint and continues developing as a visual artist, occasionally participating in local art exhibits. She lives in Richmond with her husband and two kids.

Dolores Harshaw, Staff Assistant/DSPS

“I enjoy putting students at ease about the college experience, and truly enjoy having a job that has positive, tangible results.”

Dolores Harshaw came to BCC to take a Spanish class and really never left. She ended up taking more classes, and the rest is history. She began working at Vista, first as a student worker in the computer lab then as a Student Ambassador, later as temporary Staff Assistant in various departments and as the Assistant to the VP of Student Services. A cancer survivor, Dolores enjoys urban farming, working out, a variety of sports and spending time with her husband and three grandchildren.

Fatima Shah, General Counselor

Fatima Shah has been a part of the BCC family for quite sometime, but returned this Spring to accept a position in the Counseling Department. If Fatima looks familiar, it is because she served as an EOPS Counselor as well as a TRiO Counselor before taking a position as an EOPS Faculty Interim Director/Department Chairperson at SF State. She first began taking classes at BCC while a student at Berkeley High School. After graduation, Fatima completed work for an associates degree from BCC before transferring to UC Berkeley and completing her degree in Sociology. Fatima also holds a masters degree in Counseling from San Francisco State University. Welcome back, Fatima!

Ke Zhong Van Valkenburgh, Staff Assistant to the Dean of Student Services

“I love learning new things and meeting new people.”

As the new Staff Assistant to Dean of Student Services, Joyce as she is often called, get to meet new people just about every day when she interacts with students here at BCC. And while it may be a new position in a new place, Joyce has had plenty of experience interacting with students on a college campus. Before coming to BCC worked as Staff Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction at Laney College. A graduate of San Francisco State University, Joyce enjoys watching movies with her family, outdoor exercise and cooking.

Barbara Godoy
Andrea Williams, Transfer Center Coordinator

“I am excited about my new workplace and interacting with students and the community in a different capacity and helping students reach their academic and life goals and supporting students in their educational journey.” Andrea Williams comes to her new role as Transfer & Career Center Coordinator after serving as the Staff Assistant in the Counseling Department. A native of Berkeley, Andrea studied at the College of Alameda and The University. Mom to a 9-year-old, Andrea enjoys travelling, swimming, reading, listening to music and exploring the Bay Area.

Willis Liu, BCC IT Department, Network Support Services Specialist

“My coworkers are very friendly. They’re willing to train me to get used to this new environment and introduce me to all staff and faculty.” Willis Liu joined the BCC family recently and says he is thrilled to be here. Hired as a Network Services Specialist in IT, you may have already met Willis if you have needed IT support over the past few months. Willis comes to BCC from Kaiser Permanente and is a graduate of San Francisco State University. When he’s not at work Willis enjoys collecting Transformers toys and playing badminton and puzzle games.

CENTER STREET PARKING GARAGE TAKING SHAPE

With an anticipated completion date of early 2018 the Center Street Parking Garage project is quickly taking shape. As neighbors to this project for the next 6 months or so, here’s what we need to know.

• Most of the heavy, noisy work (pile driving) has been completed.
• Hours of construction are 7 a.m. until 5 p.m.
• The biggest disruption to BCC will be on Fridays when concrete is hauled and poured. This is not a particularly noisy activity but trucks will be in and out of Center street all day.
• The Overaa Construction Project Manager and City of Berkeley engineering staff promised regular updates as needed.
• 8-levels of parking
• 720 parking spaces
• Micro-retail spaces
• An art gallery; secure self-park and valet bicycle parking
• Electric vehicle charging stations; service area and storage
BCC Bioteck Majors Present Research Projects at 2016 CIRM Conference

BCC Biotechnology students attended the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Bridges Trainee Scientific Meetings in San Diego this past summer. The students were accompanied by Dr. Barbara Des Rochers, BCC’s Biotechnology Program Director and Dr. Erika Yeh, CIRM Program Director at UCSF. There were 121 students, both undergraduate and graduate, from 15 colleges: 3 community colleges and 12 four year colleges in California. The BCC students, Cerise Bennett, Richard Chen, Tracy Huynh, Saahil Singh, Moufida Taileb and Jason Luke (who could not attend the meetings) completed 10 month paid internships in research laboratories at U.C. San Francisco, U.C. Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The students presented posters detailing their research results in the fields of breast cancer, diabetes, autism, muscle regeneration and bioengineering. This year for the first time the program directors of CIRM awarded a prize for the best poster and selected 9 finalists. Two BCC students, Richard Chen and Saahil Singh, were among the finalists. Congratulations to all of the students and faculty who guided them. Student research posters are on display on the 5th floor.
What are some of your observations about BCC’s faculty, staff, and students?

There is an energy at BCC where heart, resilience, grit, and hope resonate across all constituents. Coming from the four-year private university system where marginalized students’ needs were often overlooked, I am honored to be working with a dedicated team of individuals who are committed to student achievement in their own unique ways and value the shared governance process within the district’s organizational model.

Where does BCC need to focus in the near future?

I believe continued reflection about how we are achieving the mission in our daily practice is important and moving this reflection towards action will be key to our future success. I believe my immediate focus is to enhance the student experience both online and in person. I hope to address this task with the expertise of my colleagues both at BCC and across the district to instill a heightened culture of service and begin to bring forth some new ways of serving students that are research based best practices. I also see my role as the new Dean of Enrollment as an opportunity to mold my role and my function in a way that customizes to the unique needs of BCC and its community. Our work in outreach, promoting the Promise programs and developing a one stop service model to streamline the student experience are a few immediate goals.

What are you most looking forward to?

Besides serving the students I am most excited about serving my team in alignment with my servant leadership philosophy and values. I hope to increase our collaboration so that we begin to transition to be more solution oriented and work together to eliminate the bottlenecks in the process.

What did you enjoy about your last job that you can bring to BCC?

I enjoyed helping develop both the hard and soft skills of my team to become operationally functional. I enjoyed enhancing the student enrollment experience by incorporating new processes and practices and helping my team achieve success.

I particularly enjoyed serving our international female student population who faced ongoing obstacles pursuing their graduate studies with the intention of returning as leaders to address social injustices in their homeland. Stewarding the scholarship budget to help these students and their work in the world was particularly fulfilling.

Welcome to BCC, Barbara!

Farewell To Willard Cheng

Willard Cheng, BCC’s Biology Technician, recently left Peralta to pursue a career in Clinical Laboratory Science. He is presently enrolled in San Francisco State’s CLS program and will intern at Kaiser Permanente Richmond Medical Center starting January 2018. Throughout his 3.5 years of service, Willard displayed a truly amazing work ethic and sense of responsibility and regularly went over and above his assigned responsibilities. He installed an online laboratory management system for the 1000s of materials and chemicals in the science department’s inventory, designed and tested new experiments for both biology and biotechnology classes, assembled several laboratory manuals for the biotechnology program and served as an additional instructional aide in the classroom. It would be an understatement to say that his behind the scenes efforts have made all of us in the science department “look good” – and he will be missed!