City of Berkeley College & Career Summit

City of Berkeley College and Career Summit, a week-long series of events to engage students in college and career related activities, kicked off this past Tuesday, March 13. This year’s theme is “Design Your Future”.

President, Dr. Rowena Tomaneng, joined Mayor Jesse Arreguin, BUSD Superintendent Dr. Donald Evans, and community leaders in welcoming students at the Summit Kick-Off celebration at Berkeley High School. Brendon Woods, Public Defender with Alameda County, delivered an inspirational keynote address. The event was wrapped up with an amazing hip hop/singing performance from the band “AmPm”, a group comprised of some of our very own students and community members.

BCC faculty/staff and students have been participating in several events throughout the week, including a student panel (for BUSD students) at BCC and a Community College Fair at Berkeley High.

Acknowledging The Day of Remembrance

On Thursday, March 1, BCC screened the documentary film, “And Then They Came For Us.” The film, by Abby Ginzberg and Ken Schneider, brings history into the present, retelling the difficult story of the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, and follows Japanese American activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban and the anti-immigrant policies of the Trump administration. “And Then They Came for Us” is a cautionary & inspiring tale for these challenging times when basic rights are being threatened.

Following the film was a panel with students from BCC and a discussion with the audience.

The event was sponsored by Students For Socialism Club (BCC), Office of BCC President Rowena Tomaneng, Muslim Student Association (BCC), Undocumented Community Resource Center (BCC), and more.
Brooklyn Dreamwolf Invited Back

On Thursday, March 8th, International Women’s Day, performers Brooklyn’s Dreamwolf lit up the stage in the auditorium with their unique blend of hip hop, performance, dance, discussion and action. Funded by the President’s Mini Grant, the performers Yalini Dream and Jendog Lonewolf, conducted a combination performance and workshop for over 150 students, faculty, staff and administrators. They touched on issues of race, community, and action. After the performances, a small group voluntarily remained to continue the discussion. For an additional 3 hours, this small group discussed how identity plays out in the Bay Area in so many ways (with the police, in personal communities, in journalism, in organizations). The event was a great success and the performers and Dr. Cora Leighton (chair of the Department of Arts and Cultural Studies) would like to thank Dr. Tomaneng for her support.

Undocumented Community Resource Center’s Re-opening Ceremony

March 1 marked the re-opening of the Undocumented Community Resource Center in its new location on the second floor. Speeches were made by President Tomaneng, Carolina Martinez, founder of UCRC, Ivan Ceja, activist and founder of Undocumedia and Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin. Apparent from the speeches, the struggles and fears of the undocumented hit close to home and affect many at BCC. “We are fortunate to have this resource on how better to protect ourselves and a sanctuary where we can feel safe,” commented one of the audience members.

CSUEB Queer Conference

The theme this year was A Hxstory of Action: Understanding, Healing, & Mobilizing our Communities.

In attendance were members of BCC’s Gender & Sexuality Alliance, along with some people from Laney. It was a great experience and students learned a lot from the conference.

BCC student Chiharu Namba says “I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to attend the CSUEB Queer Conference. I learned so much about building community and got a chance to network with other students from the area. It was amazing as a queer person to get in touch with my community and learn about the history of our culture. I really can’t put into words how transformative the experience was.”

BCC’s Kye Ocasio-Pare encourages more students to attend next year. “It was great to collaborate with college students throughout the Bay and Central Valley on LGBTQ+ community and visit such a welcoming 4-year institution.”

Photo by Mallory Barkdull

Calendar/Deadlines

Nowruz Celebration (Persian New Yr)
Thu Mar 20, 4–8 pm
Atrium

Series on Islam and Islamic Lifestyle
Tue, Mar 19 (April TBD), 12:15–1:15pm
Room 34

Poetry at Berkeley City College
Tue, Apr 24, Thu, May 10, 6:30–9pm
Students’ Lounge, 5th Fl.

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