



BCC Today

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BCC began an Umoja Scholars Academy this summer.

Introducing BCC President Rowena Tomaneng

Rowena Tomaneng, Berkeley City College's new president, arrived in July and is impressed with the college and its community. Her story begins in 1972, the year she and her family immigrated to Los Angeles from the Philippines, both parents seeking economic opportunity and educational access for their children.

Early years.

The family later settled in the San Gabriel Valley where she and her siblings attended public schools, including Cypress College in North Orange County. There, inspired by several inspirational instructors, Tomaneng decided on teaching as a profession and chose to combine English and history as fields of study. Her mother also had a hand in her choice.

Growing up, BCC's new president heard stories about her grandfather, a community leader in their Philippine village. She learned through her mother's stories of his commitment to people's well-being. That fostered her appreciation for history, storytelling and service to community.

Commitment to student success.

Prior to her appointment at BCC, Tomaneng was for six years De Anza College's Associate Vice President of Instruction in Cupertino. Her responsibilities included the college's Academic Services Division which included the Office of Equity, Social Justice and Multicultural Education; the Office of Professional Development, Pathways programs (Learning Communities of Umoja, Puente, First Year Experience, and IMPACT AAPI) and the Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action where, in 2006, she was a founding co-director and developed many community and educational partnerships.

She also oversaw the collaborative units of De Anza's Learning Resources



BCC President Rowena Tomaneng

Division which housed Online Education, Library Services and the Student Success Center.

Statewide leadership.

Tomaneng also held leadership roles in state initiatives such as Basic Skills, Student Equity and Student Success and Support programs. She has obtained and administered state and federal funding, including Asian American/Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions and Title III: Strengthening Institutions grants. She worked on faculty and district-wide administrative teams for many years, leading and developing program reviews and accreditation documents. In 2013, nominated by Academic Services faculty, she won the statewide Association of California Community College Administrators' Administrative Leadership Excellence Award.

On Fri., Aug. 19, she was presented with the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute's (APALI) 2016 Pacesetter Award for Educational Leadership at the organization's annual community celebration.

(see p. 2, column 2)

Did you know?

Sun., Sept. 4 is the last day to add regular session classes and drop full-term classes and receive a refund?

•

Mon., Sept. 5 is Labor Day holiday?

•

Tue., Sept. 6 is Census Day?

•

Fri., Sept. 9 is the last day for students to file for a P/NP grade?

•

Fri., Oct. 21 is the deadline for students to petition for AA/AS degrees or certificates?

•

Fri., Nov. 11 is Veterans Day Holiday?

BCC Today

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 Rowena Tomaneng President

Berkeley City College is part of the Peralta Community College District which includes College of Alameda, Laney and Merritt colleges.

Introducing Rowena Tomaneng, President

(from p. 1 column 2)



BCC President Tomaneng (r., front) meets with City of Berkeley Youth Works interns.

Inspired scholar.

Tomaneng was a full-time English instructor at De Anza College from 1996 to 2010, teaching all levels of composition and literature. She was English Department chair for three years and led initiatives to foster equity in faculty hiring and cultural competency. She served for two years as Interim Dean of De Anza's Language Arts Division, and supervised over 175 full-time and part-time faculty.

BCC's new president has actively engaged in culturally focused local, regional and national organizations and has led advocacy campaigns for immigrant rights and community policing with organizations such as the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns, USA and the Coalition for Justice and Accountability, San Jose, CA. She wrote for and contributed to a variety of publications and serves on the advisory board for the Association of American Colleges and Universities' *Diversity and Democracy* publication.

In December, when she completes her dissertation on the educational dimensions of Filipina migrant workers' activist identities at the University of San Francisco, she will receive a doctorate in International/Multicultural Education, with a concentration in Human Rights Education. She holds a master's degree in English from UC Santa Barbara and a bachelor's degree in English from UC Irvine.

Questions and answers.

In a recent interview for *BCC Today*, Tomaneng answered questions about her background, observations, and plans for BCC's future.

• *What influenced your decision to pursue a career in community college education?*

After high school, I attended Cypress College and had great experiences there because my professors in English, history and math cared about their students and worked hard to provide additional tutoring and mentoring. I tended toward history and literature because I was fascinated by the art of narrative and use of imagery to express ideas and emotions.

One of my creative writing professors inspired me to pursue English as a major. He gave positive feedback and made the classroom a welcoming place for all of his students. It was this educational experience that influenced my decision to be a teacher and do the same.

• *How has your teaching and administrative experience prepared you for Berkeley City College's presidency?*

Over the years, I have served in different higher education roles in the community college system. My experience teaching in and developing a variety of programs has enabled me to have in-depth

(see p. 4, column 2)

BCC Umoja scholars continue this fall as agents of positive social change

Participants in Berkeley City College’s summer 2016 Umoja Scholars Academy (USA) proudly displayed and explained a variety of career path exhibits on Tue., July 26 in the college’s 4th floor conference room. Led by Skyler Barton, a BCC Learning Communities coordinator and counselor, and by BCC counselor Allene Young-Hegler, BCC’s Umoja academy brought together more than 20 area high school students, each with a unique career aspiration. Participants included D’Yale W. Adams, Akeyla Addison, Sharif Allah, Paulo Athans, Ernest Blackmon, Ashlee Davis, Kemony Gandy, Arsalon Gawhary, Arryon Greely, Shakilyah Goosby, Cinque Holiday, Tiffannie Jones, Najee Jones, Remi Lambirth, Brianna Lipscomb, Maximilian Louthier, Omari McCoy-King, Kaylynn McCoy, Cameron McGowan, Bianca Rodriguez, Raynette Shields, Charles Van Meurs, Gwendell Villasanta, Treasure Young and Danari Williams. The group begins college at BCC this fall.

“It has truly been an honor and pleasure to work with this amazing group of scholars this summer,” Barton said. “As their instructor, I have witnessed tremendous passion for learning, teamwork, leadership, and much more and have been thoroughly impressed and inspired!”

Umoja, a Kiswahili word meaning unity, is committed to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences and increasing the persistence and retention rates of African American and other students. BCC’s Umoja Scholars Academy 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. Informed by an ethic of love and its vital power, Umoja engages students as full participants in



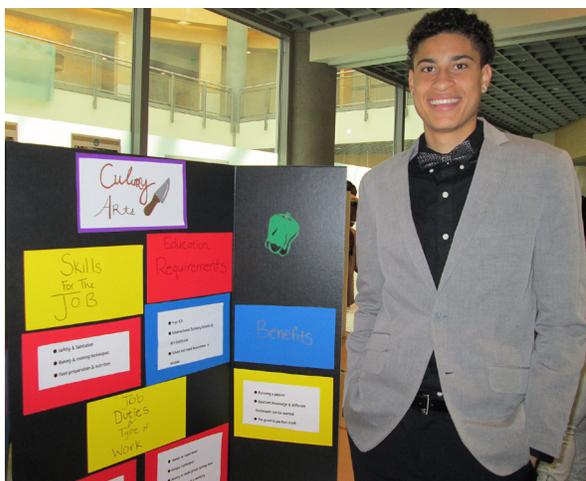
Ashlee Davis enters Berkeley City College this fall and plans a career as a pediatrician.

the construction of knowledge and critical thought.

“I plan to be a pediatrician because I like to help children,” observed Berkeley High School grad Ashlee Davis. “My pediatrician was my role model because she helped me through some serious times as a kid; she helped to shape who I am.”

Paolo Athans, a self-described foodie, is focused on the world of culinary arts. “One of my passions is my ability to create food with my own flair,” proclaimed the future chef. “I like to put smiles on people’s faces and my inspiration is my mom, who I observed when I was growing up and even now.”

(see p. 7, column 1)



Paolo Athans possesses a flair for creating tantalizing culinary fare; the future chef was inspired by his mother.

Introducing Dean Lisa Cook



Dean Lisa Cook

Lisa Cook, BCC’s Dean Of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, is responsible for the college’s Arts and Cultural Studies, Education/English/English as a Second Language, Mathematics, Modern Languages/American Sign Language, Social Sciences/Human Services departments. “People here are thoughtful and committed to students,” Cook observed. “Faculty and staff express that they are very proud of BCC.”

A native of New Jersey, Cook decided to head west after high school graduation to the University of Colorado where she hoped to develop interests in writing and journalism. Ultimately, her path lead to courses in Asian Studies and to a semester abroad in Nepal.

“I had to get away from my family’s goal for me, which was to be a business major,” she recalled. “When I was in Nepal, I decided that I did not want to be in business or marketing because I saw how large corporations were selling baby formulas in the clinics there and cigarettes to the population at large.”

New directions.

When she returned to the states, she decided to finish her education at the Naropa Institute (now Naropa University in Boulder, CO). The college’s foundation of Buddhist philosophy appealed to her. Its writing and poetics program, founded by Beat Generation authors, who included Jack Kerouac, Alan Ginsberg (one of

(see p. 12, column 2)

Introducing Dean Francisco Gamez



Dr. Francisco Gamez

Dr. Francisco Gamez, Berkeley City College's new Dean of Business, Science and Applied Technology, arrived this summer. He is prepared to "hit the ground running" and is impressed with the college's spirit and passion for student success.

"BCC's faculty and staff are passionate about helping students succeed and creating positive experiences for them," he observed. "I look forward this fall to getting to know more people and talking to them about their ideas, experiences and concerns."

Gamez noted that everyone has a different perspective and that these differences allow conversations about ideas from many points of view.

"Listening is important and I look forward to having coffee and chats with our faculty and staff so that we can explore different approaches to student success," he said. "We can work together to make the college the best that it can be; I also want to learn more about the history."

A native of the Bay Area, Gamez most recently served as Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies for the University of San Francisco's (USF) School of Management. During his time at USF, he held a variety of administrative posts, which included directing the university's strategic and undergraduate programs.

(see p. 8, column 1)

BCC welcomes Rowena Tomaneng

(from p. 2, column 2)

experience and strong skills sets in different areas, particularly in academic instruction, student services, grant writing and budget administration. I strongly believe that all areas of a college must work together in a collaborative, holistic environment to successfully foster student success.

I have worked with a wide range of teams on campus and in the external community. My community organizing background with diverse racial, ethnic and cultural groups has also taught me the necessity of building relationships and partnerships to strengthen an organization's capacity.

- You have developed many programs to serve students and their communities. Name several of which you are most proud.

My 20 years at De Anza College as an instructor and administrator allowed me to develop a variety of programs to help students succeed. Two that come to mind are De Anza's Learning Communities Program where I was a founding faculty member and faculty trainer. De Anza's Learning Communities program annually serves 1600+ students with high course success rates in both basic skills and transfer-level courses. I also was the founding director of the Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action (VIDA), a nationally known community college student civic engagement organization.

Because in part, due to student advocacy, the De Anza Foundation was the first community college foundation to pass a resolution for fossil fuel divestment. We also sponsored Campus Camp Wellstone which trains youth and students in grass roots organizing skills to win on progressive issues that affect their community, campus, or quality of life. I was excited to find out that BCC student leaders have attended Wellstone trainings. These and other activities have served as bridges for my passion for community engagement.

- What do you see as some opportunities and challenges for Berkeley City College?

BCC's location provides the college with many opportunities. Not only are we situated next to San Francisco Bay, we are partners with major cultural, technological, and educational centers. BCC and the Peralta Community Colleges District are strongly supported by our communities, from neighborhood organizations, city associations, small and big business, local school districts and universities.

Our CTE programs in Multimedia Arts and Biotechnology, for example, are strongly supported by partnerships with University of California Berkeley and Industry partners such as Pixar and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. These partnerships provide career readiness and internship opportunities for our students.

One challenge I see for BCC involves the sustainability of recent Statewide Initiatives such as Student Equity. While BCC and the District are committed to student equity and closing the racial achievement gap that exists among student groups, ongoing state funding has not been secured beyond the 2016-2017 academic year. As we review BCC's Student Equity Plan, I have an eye toward creating sustainable practices so that we can maintain a high level of quality services to our students.

(see p. 5, column 1)



President Tomaneng (c.) with DeAnza College President Brian Murphy and Dr. Michael Chang, APALI executive director. She is recipient of the 2016 Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute's Leadership Award.

Rowena Tomaneng answers questions about BCC

(from p. 4, column 2)

Another challenge that we need to confront is our space limitations. We have outgrown our space. Our new building is necessary but renovating it or constructing a new facility on the site presents some budgetary challenges that are being worked on by BCC and our District. I have resumed the meetings with our Capital Projects Team and I am eager to move forward with this important project.

Finally, we need to review our Promise initiatives. Programs like the proposed Oakland Promise and Berkeley Promise which seek to guarantee financial access to college education to qualifying high school students may mean that increased operating funds will be needed for faculty, support staff, financial aid and classroom space. In our work with the cities of Berkeley and Oakland, we will need to also focus on sustainable funding for these programs. I look forward to bringing these initiatives to our community partners and potential donors.

• *What are some of your observations about BCC's faculty, staff and students?*

In meeting BCC faculty this summer, I've found that they have a deep commitment to our students and their personal and academic success. They go above and beyond what is expected of them. I'm excited about their effort, energy and commitment as well as the many student success initiatives in which they are involved.

Look at our arts programs. We have student work recognized on every floor and this lets our students know that their skills and talents are welcomed here at BCC!

My experience with BCC staff is that they have a spirit we call "pamilya" in Tagalog. There is a family feeling here that I will love being a part of. I was able to attend the going away party of one of our staff members in student services. I thought, "Wow! This is a family!" and I was moved by the care and warmth shown. And spending my first days in July meet-

ing with staff, I saw collaboration at all levels.

I hope to strengthen the relationships that already exist here at BCC and facilitate creating new partnerships. I've also been letting folks know that I will be on a listening tour of BCC in this first semester. I am eager to learn BCC's history and what our community hopes for the future. I've also sensed optimism and high confidence among BCC students I met this summer. They want to aim high and many have goals to transfer to the University of California and Ivy League schools.

In the short time I have been at BCC, I have been able to observe our Student Ambassadors and how they help students enroll and navigate their way around the college. They have great customer service and people skills. I was also able to meet with some of our Multimedia Arts students and talk with them about their work and career aspirations. I saw the results of student projects in our new Umoja Scholars Academy, and I was impressed with the students' research and excellent presentation skills.

• *How does Berkeley City College fit into the larger District and statewide community college systems?*

BCC serves the northern end of the Peralta Community College District. Our Berkeley location adds to Peralta's goals to be the leading education center in the region. We have close ties to UC Berkeley and have a rich history in social justice, civil rights and activism.

Peralta too has a rich history in social justice movements. The Black Panthers began at Merritt College and Oakland is still at the center of social movements for racial and economic justice. In our roles as public servants, PCCD employees tackle the urgent, life impacting issues our students face. Because of this, we need to maintain engagement



Achieving student equity at BCC is a top priority for President Tomaneng.

with our local communities and provide students with the tools they will need to navigate complex political and social institutions.

• *Where does BCC need to focus in the near future?*

From what I have observed in my first three weeks, BCC would benefit from implementing additional aspects of our strategic marketing plan. This would support our goals for enrollment and with growth in FTES, we can position ourselves for growth in FTEF. We have successful models of teaching and learning that are high impact practices, yet BCC efforts have yet to be recognized within our region and statewide.

Currently, we are focusing all areas on helping traditional students meet their academic and career goals. However, we need to better assess the needs of our older adult students in addition to groups identified as disproportionately impacted in the 2015-2016 Student Equity Report. With the launching of the CCC Online Education Initiative, I am interested in

(see p. 6, column 2)

Dr. Phoumy Sayavong to lead college's research initiatives



Dr. Phoumy Sayavong

Research provides a firm foundation for community colleges' success. It helps guide decision-making and ensures that people understand and use information to develop classes, programs and services that can most benefit students, planning and institutional effectiveness.

Dr. Phoumy Sayavong, Berkeley City College's new Dean of Research, wants to create a practical and understandable structure that allows people to use data and narratives that will support, keep track of and evaluate their work. Sayavong arrived at BCC on July 1 and is also working with Laney College to help that college develop its research protocols. He and Stephan Bera, BCC's Research and Systems Technology Analyst, will collaborate with BCC faculty, staff and administrators to develop research protocols which support all levels of institutional planning and operations.

"Building a structure that serves everyone involves learning to ask good questions about what we do and the effectiveness of our efforts," he observed. "People ultimately come to understand, appreciate and use research as a reminder of why they are motivated to do the work."

Sayavong views his role as helping everyone find the best approach to designing qualitative and quantitative research to meet specific needs and which supports the strategies used in their disciplines.

(see p. 7, column 3)

President Tomaneng shares first impressions

(from p. 5, column 3)

exploring faculty professional development for online and hybrid instruction. Students who work and support their families need to be given options for course scheduling. I, like many faculty and administrators, am concerned about the retention issues that persist with online education, so if the college increases its online offerings, we must also ensure that our students have access to online student services.

• *What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure as BCC's president?*

Recently, I heard BCC students say how much the college has impacted their lives and that they want to return after they graduate to mentor future students or give back to BCC in another way. I want their stories to be included as part of my accomplishments. Aligned with our college's mission, vision, and values, I want to see students leave BCC engaged in equity and social justice issues in their communities, nationally, and globally. As I progress in my tenure here at BCC, I am sure there will be other institutional accomplishments that will mark my presidency.

• *Name several projects where BCC will be focused in the next year.*

Accreditation, institutional planning, the Milvia building project, and implementation of statewide initiatives are several areas where BCC will focus in 2016-17.

Accreditation efforts will focus on ACCJC's recommendations from the 2015 external evaluation team visit to BCC. Dr. May Chen, who was Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) during the 2015 visit and Tram Vo-Kumamoto, Vice President of Instruction and current ALO, have updated me on the college's accreditation. The college has made progress on our two recommendations (centering on consistently reviewing institutional planning and resource allocation processes and Student Learning Outcomes assessment cycles). The District has also made significant progress on the eight recommendations, according to our District consultant, Annette Dambrosio.

With institutional planning, BCC and Laney College have hired Phoumy Sayavong as dean of institutional research. He will be at both colleges two days a week and ensure that we have the evaluations and data we need to make informed decisions about college programs and services. We are ready for a district wide August summit where we will present the progress made in 2015-2016 toward our institutional goals.

For BCC's new building, the college's Building Users Group (BUG) will continue to work with our contractors, architects and the Peralta District, to move forward with planning. I have already met with the District's Capital Project's team, now under the leadership of Laura McCarty, our new Director of Capital



BCC President Tomaneng believes that instruction and student services collaboration ensures student success.

Projects. Meanwhile, space for more offices and classrooms are now located in the 2000 Center St. building, next door to BCC which is now open.

I would like to add something about grants. BCC and other Peralta colleges were recent recipients of a Basic Skills Transfer Outcomes Grant. The college has a number of grant initiatives in progress and in the future. If we wish to apply for more funding from state, federal or private sources, we can take a team approach. I and several administrators and faculty members at BCC have extensive grant writing experience and we can combine our skills.

Umoja scholars: agents for social change

(from p. 3, column 2)

Committed to fighting climate change, Albany High School alumna Remi Lambirth is headed for a career as an environmental policy analyst. “I have a very progressive approach to saving our earth,” she asserted. “I want our leaders to admit that our planet is in danger and do something about it. I’m really interested in natural resources management, environmental science or political science.”

Ernest Blackmon’s and Arsalon Gawhary’s paths will take them into the world of business and finance. “I love to communicate, lead, sell, and manage efficient business operations,” Blackmon explained. “Business management and operations will be my focus in college.”

Gawhary, a future financial analyst, is enthusiastic about finance. “I love finance,” he admitted. “Understanding the global economy and finance are ultimate gateways to progress and change.”

Akeyla Addison, Magee J. Jones and Kaylynn McCoy all want to help children grow and thrive.

Addison, who was part of Berkeley High’s Academy of Medical and Public Service, will prepare for a career as a pediatric nurse. “I have always liked working with children,” she said. “This will let me give back to the community and influence the lives of young children.”

Jones’s future occupation will focus on children’s advocacy. “As a social



Remi Lambirth: Committed to halting climate change.

worker and child advocate, I can make a real difference in children’s lives,” he said. “The community and the family can work together to be a positive influence, even in emotionally challenging situations.”

Future elementary school teacher McCoy wants to reach children in their formative learning years.

“When I was at Berkeley High, one of my teachers influenced me to consider teaching; that made me start to think about good and bad teachers I had in kindergarten through high school,” she recalled. “I want to teach elementary school because I want to take approaches to teaching that makes a difference in students’ lives. Some work well in groups but others need individual attention. I want to be able to reach them in whatever ways that helps them to learn best.”



Summer 2016 Umoja Scholars Academy graduates pose with BCC faculty, staff and administrators.

Dr. Windy Franklin named interim Dean of Counseling

Dr. Windy Franklin, interim Dean of Counseling, is responsible for counseling, Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S), and the Transfer/Career Information Center. The fourth generation Berkeleyan is proud to be part of the Peralta District, where she began her career in Laney College’s DSP&S Department. From Laney, she moved to Berkeley City College as a DSP&S counselor and served on the college’s 2014-15 Accreditation Steering Committee and as co-chair of the Standard 1A: Mission of Berkeley City College group.

“I’m excited to be part of BCC’s learning community; in the end, our work always is about student services,” she said. “They are our customers and our clients; when you provide good student services, you invest in people’s future.”

During her tenure, Franklin hopes to assess and identify administrative needs in counseling and disabled students services. “We’ll see what is needed and how we can improve,” she said.

Franklin earned a bachelor’s degree in economics and a master’s degree in rehabilitative counseling from San Francisco State University. She also holds a doctorate in adult and higher education leadership from Oregon State University.

Dr. Phoumy Sayavong leads BCC research

(from p. 6, column 1)

“Because I am new to BCC, I am learning the culture here and taking the first few weeks to examine, understand and have conversations with the president and executive team to set a research agenda for the college,” he noted. “Ultimately, I want everyone to feel confident in addressing foundation questions in areas of their work and this begins by learning to use tools that we already have. I look forward to working with and developing a research support system for everyone.”

Sayavong earned his bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees in psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Gamez joins BCC's administrative team

(from p. 4, column 1)

He created and led a co-curricular professional development program for undergraduate business students. It helped prepare them professionally and to be workforce-ready.

Even while in high school, he chose higher education as career path. "I was impressed by how higher education could help students reach their educational goals," he said. "I saw how integrating career pathways into academics could be influential and how they could motivate students to finish their college degrees."

BCC's new dean firmly believes that collaborative approaches to improving institutional effectiveness starts with getting to know people, systems and their potential for solving problems and improving access and services.

What does he hope to accomplish while at BCC? Gamez will work at the college and District levels to help create better integration and alignment of processes and systems to strengthen BCC's programs, budget processes, and infrastructure. These improvements will enhance student experiences at the college and throughout the Peralta District.

"I'm still learning and need to see what we have in place, evaluate system strengths and weaknesses, then decide where to tweak and improve them," he noted. "Stakeholders need to be involved in decision making at all levels."

Gamez earned a doctorate in Education from USF and master's and bachelor's degrees from California State University, Hayward (now CSU, East Bay).

BCC offices, classrooms move to 2000 Center St.; parking options change

Several offices and classrooms formerly located in BCC's leased office and classroom space at the college's 2070 Allston Way South Campus have relocated to 2000 Center St., two doors west of BCC's main campus at 2050 Center St. The South Campus building will be demolished later this year to make way for a new residential/commercial development.

The 2000 Center St. location will house expanded space for college activities and services as BCC awaits remodeling of its recently purchased building at 2118 Milvia St. (at the northwest corner of Center and Milvia), leased by the City of Berkeley for offices.

BCC services located at the new space include the college's International Students Center, Mental Health Center, the Umoja Scholars Academy, the Undocumented Students Resources Center and classrooms.

Meanwhile, Veterans Services has relocated to 2050 Center St., 3rd Floor, Rm. 347.

Change in parking options.

Demolition and reconstruction of the Center St. garage across the street from BCC's main campus has created new



Several BCC offices formerly at the college's South Campus have relocated to 2000 Center St., next door to K's Cafe.

parking options for BCC faculty and staff. A new garage with more spaces for BCC faculty, staff and administration will be open by fall 2017. Meanwhile, parking is available at these sites:

- Allston Way Garage (Next Door)
- Kittredge Garage
- Oxford & Berkeley Way Garage
- Equity Residential Parking
- Telegraph/Channing Garage
- Durant & Center St. (Angled Parking)
- Promenade Garage
- Golden Bear Center Surface Lot
- Golden Bear Garage (Starts 9/10/16)

Faculty and staff should keep receipts and turn them in at the end of the month to their departments. Detailed instructions and reimbursement forms will be mailed by BCC's Business Office at the start of fall 2016 semester.

Escort services are available for those who park a long distance from BCC. Contact the Downtown Berkeley Ambassador Dispatch Hotline at (510) 550-7550. Escorts are available: Monday thru Friday: 7 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. Saturday: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For details about new parking facilities and their locations, visit:

<http://www.berkeleycitycollege.edu/wp/busserv/parking-garages/>



Jennifer Lenahan, Veterans Services Coordinator, welcomes students to BCC's Veterans Center.

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 permanent faculty are: Claudia Abadia (Mathematics), Chris Barnard (Economics) and Melina Bersamin (Psychology). Adjunct counselors include Erin Dong, Myra Murillo and Richard Torres. New administrators are: Lisa Cook, Dean of Liberal Arts (see p. 3); Dr. Windy Franklin, Interim Dean of Counseling (see p. 7); Dr. Francisco Gamez, Dean of Business, Science, Technology, and Multimedia Arts (see p. 4); and Dr. Phoumy Sayavong, Interim Dean of Research, who will spend half-time at BCC and half-time at Laney College (see p. 5). New staff and position changes include: Joe Bay, Audiovisual and Multimedia Specialist; Stephan Bera, Research Systems Technology Analyst; and Midhun Joseph, Program Manager/Transitions Liaison for Adult Education.



Claudia Abadia, Mathematics Instructor

"I am passionate about teaching math!"

Mathematics instructor Claudia Abadia arrives at Berkeley City College from College of Alameda. She will help build and improve the Mathematics Department's basic skills program and presence in the college's Jerry L. Adams Learning Resources Center. She earned her associate in arts degree in liberal arts from Chabot College, a bachelor of science degree in biology from UC Santa Cruz and a master of science degree in applied mathematics from California State University, East Bay. She may be reached at cabadia@peralta.edu.



Joseph D. Bay, Audiovisual/Multimedia Specialist

"I love helping people use technology to achieve their creative and academic goals; BCC is a great place to accomplish this."

Joseph Bay is the Audiovisual Department representative and Multimedia Arts Program facilities and equipment specialist at BCC. He earned his associate in arts degree in media communications from Laney College and a bachelor's degree in broadcast communication arts with an area emphasis in television production at San Francisco State University. Contact him at jbay@peralta.edu or at bcc-av@peralta.edu.



Chris Barnard, J.D., Economics Instructor

"I am excited to be back teaching in the Bay Area and helping students reach their academic and life goals."

Dr. Barnard will teach economics and business at Berkeley City College. He holds a bachelor's degree from UC Santa Barbara with a double major in economics and English. He also earned a master's degree in economics from San Francisco State University. Dr. Barnard received a juris doctor degree from Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Delaware. He is a member of the Bar and licensed to practice law in California, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He may be reached at cbarnard@peralta.edu.



Stephan Bera, Research and Systems Technology Analyst

"I use District business intelligence tools for college reporting and statistical techniques for program evaluation; I am excited to share responsibility supporting student learning and increasing equitable outcomes."

Stephan Bera, Research and Systems Technology Analyst, will work with Dean Phoumy Sayavong. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from UC Berkeley and completed graduate studies in educational psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. He may be reached at sbera@peralta.edu.

(see p. 10, column 1)

College welcomes new faculty, staff and administrators

(from p. 9)



Dr. Melina Bersamin, Psychology Instructor

“I am excited about being part of an academic institution that focuses on supporting and creating new opportunities for students.”

Dr. Melina Bersamin will teach psychology at Berkeley City College. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from UC Berkeley and a doctorate in Human Development from UC Davis. She may be reached at mbersamin@peralta.edu.



Erin Dong, Counselor

“Working with students here at BCC has been such a rewarding experience; seeing the relief on my students’ faces after they’ve gotten their academic plans figured out makes me happy knowing that they are one step closer to achieving their goals.”

Born and raised in San Francisco, Erin Dong recently joined BCC as an adjunct counselor. She holds a bachelor’s degree in urban studies from UC Irvine and a master’s degree in counseling from San Francisco State University. She may be reached at edong@peralta.edu.



Midhun Joseph, Program Manager Transitions Liaison for Adult Education

“Retention and recruitment work is my calling; I love forming connections in the community, building relationships and being creative in how we can find solutions to equity and access issues.”

Midhun Joseph was born and raised in Kerala, India. At age 10, he moved with his family to Chicago. Later, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to attend graduate school. He holds a bachelor of science degree in finance and marketing from DePaul University (Chicago, IL) and a master of arts in education with an emphasis in organization and leadership) from the University of San Francisco. He may be reached at mjoseph@peralta.edu.



Myra Murillo, Counselor

“Whether you think you can or you can’t either way you are right.” —Henry Ford

Mayra Murillo joined BCC this fall as an adjunct counselor. She earned a bachelor’s degree in social science from California State University, Stanislaus and holds a masters degree and PPS credential in counselor education from San Jose State University. She may be reached at mmurillo@peralta.edu.



Richard Torres, Counselor

“My educational and work experience have fueled my passion to continue working with the vulnerable, oppressed, at-risk, disenfranchised and unrepresented minority groups that comprise our diverse communities. For years, I have worked diligently to minimize the barriers for social equalities by empowering friends and families who are from ethnic and racial minority groups. I get great satisfaction from seeing people attain their educational goals.”

Richard Torres joined BCC this fall as an adjunct counselor. A first generation college graduate, he is proud of his Mexican-American and his San Francisco Bay Muwekma Ohlone Indian ancestries. Torres holds a master’s degree in social work from the University of Southern California. He may be reached at rtorres@peralta.edu.

Oakland Digital provides creative resource for BCC’s multimedia artists

Representatives from Oakland Digital, an award-winning, not-for-profit design studio which since 2009 has trained local designers to create social marketing campaigns for business owners, presented in Natalie Newman’s summer multimedia arts class. Presenters demonstrated how to use BRIDGEGOOD, a site where emerging visual artists can display their portfolios and

connect with prospective employers. The organization’s tech inclusion initiatives also inspire at-risk youth to explore career options based on their passions and diversity of life experiences. Want to know more? Visit www.oaklanddigital.org or www.bridgegood.com.

BCC biotech majors present research projects at 2016 CIRM conference

Six Berkeley City College biotechnology students presented written and graphic results of their 10-month research projects to members of the scientific community at the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) annual Bridges Trainee Meeting held in July at Berkeley's Claremont Hotel. Molly Fischer, Wanjiru Kamau-Devers, Amir Jaber, Andres Marin, Brian Siemons and Kevin Wu were among the nine 2015-2016 BCC CIRM interns who joined more than 160 students from throughout California at the prestigious annual event. Students not only displayed their scientific posters during the two day event, but also participated in scientific meetings in which they heard presentations from selected scientists from across the state. They also received valuable tips for job searching and career development.

Four of the 2015-16 participants were retained as technicians in the labs where they interned and two were offered full time positions: Fischer is a staff research associate in Dr. Tejal Desai's therapeutic microtechnology and nanotechnology lab at UC San Francisco (UCSF) and Brian Siemons is a staff research associate in Dr. Kevin Healy's biomaterials and tissue engineering lab at UC Berkeley.

CIRM provides paid internships at leading research institutions, including Children's Hospital and Research Center (CHORI), Oakland, UC Berkeley and UCSF. Student projects focus primarily on stem cell research and bioengineering

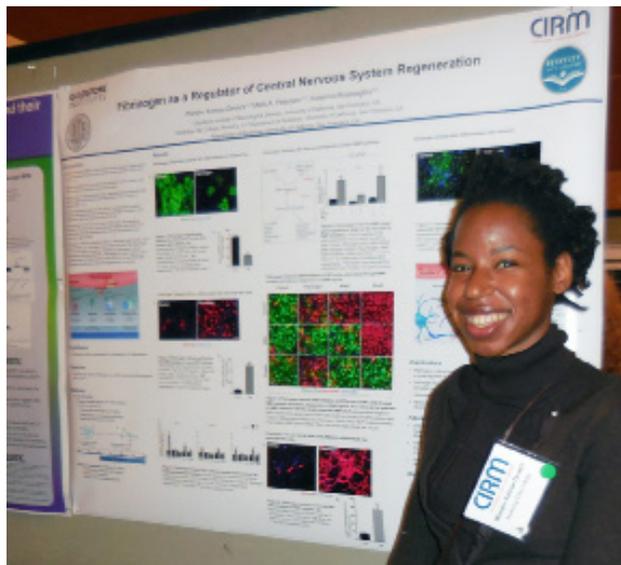
in laboratories dedicated to finding cures for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, sickle cell anemia, blindness, blood disorders, brain cancer, and the consequences of organ replacements.

Many of the BCC CIRM interns graduated this year with associate degrees and/or certificates of completion in biotechnology. The students also receive a Certificate in Stem Cell Biology from BCC following completion of their internships and specialized training at UCSF.

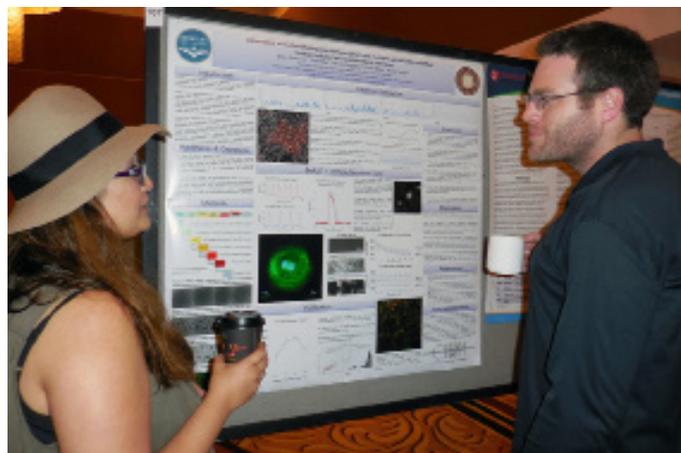
"We have kept records of all of our CIRM students for the past six years," said Dr. Barbara Des Rochers, program director of BCC's CIRM grant and cochair of BCC's Science Department. "Many have taken technician positions in research and industrial laboratories while others have gone on for their bachelor's, graduate and professional science degrees, including medical and pharmacy schools."

Des Rochers first developed the college's \$2.3 million CIRM grant in 2010. BCC's rigorous bioscience program prepares people for jobs based on the latest laboratory technology and is highly respected by the Bay Area's science community.

"Our graduates are in biotechnology and science labs all over the Bay Area; many students get jobs in the labs in which they intern and many will move on to higher degrees," noted Des Rochers. "And a number of laboratories in the Bay Area have sent their employees to BCC for continuing education."



CIRM intern Wanjiru Kamau-Devers presents her research on disease and nervous system regeneration.



Brian Siemons (r.) explains his research project at CIRM's July 2016 Bridges Trainee meeting at Berkeley's Claremont Hotel.

BCC's biotechnology program welcomes all students—from recent high school graduates to those with college degrees—who may have been in the workplace for a long time and are seeking retraining. "We welcome older students and students with degrees," Des Rochers said. "Some of our students have degrees in the STEM fields but many do not."

For example, Molly Fischer came to BCC's program with a degree in studio arts; Wanjiru Kamau-Devers with a degree in African studies and history; Kevin Wu with a degree in English. All have excelled. "People switch because something about science grabs them and sparks their curiosity; they get turned on by the possibilities," DeRochers noted.

CIRM already has selected six new BCC 2016-17 science interns. They are Cerise Bennett, Richard Chen, Tracy Huynh, Jason Luke, Saahil Singh and Moufida Taileb. Bennett will work at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Luke will be at UC Berkeley. Chen, Huynh, Singh and Taileb were assigned to labs at UC San Francisco.

For details about CIRM stem cell internships and biotechnology, biology and other science programs at BCC, contact Dr. Barbara Des Rochers at bdesrochers@peralta.edu or Dr. Siraj Omar at somar@peralta.edu.

BCC Calendar

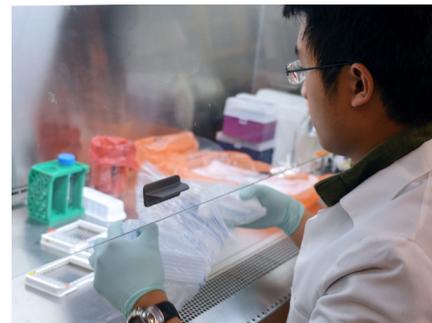
August 29-September 23

- **Mon., Aug. 29—**
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Asian-American Donor Program
Bone Marrow Drive, 1st Floor Tabling Area
10 a.m.-Noon, Curriculum, TLC, Rm. 341
Noon-1:30 p.m., Roundtable, Rms. 451A&B
Noon-1:30 p.m., Club Rush, BCC Atrium
- **Tue., Aug. 30—**
Noon-1:30 p.m., Club Rush, BCC Atrium
- **Wed., Aug. 31—**
Noon-1:30 p.m., Club Rush, BCC Atrium
6-7 p.m., Biology Boot Camp, Rm. 513
- **Thur., Sept. 1—**
10-11 a.m., Student Access/Equity, Rm. TBA
10 a.m.-Noon, Curriculum, 3rd Fl., Rm. 341
12:15-1:15 p.m., Biology Boot Camp, Rm. 513
Noon-1:30 p.m., Club Rush, BCC Atrium
- **Sun., Sept. 4—**
 - *Last day for students to add or drop full-term classes without a “W”; last day to drop full-term classes and receive a refund.*
- **Mon., Sept. 5—**
Holiday—Labor Day
- **Tue., Sept. 6**
2-3:30 p.m., Student Services, Rms. 451A&B
 - *Census Day: Instructors verify enrollment in classes.*
- **Wed., Sept. 7—**
Noon-1:30 p.m., Student Ambassadors, Rm. 451A
- **Thur., Sept. 8—**
9-11 a.m., Counselors, Rm. 451A
10 a.m., Curriculum Tech Review, TLC, Rm. 341
10-11 a.m., Student Access/Equity, Rm. TBA
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Veterans Center Open House, 3rd Floor, Rm. 347
Noon-1:30 p.m., Education Committee, Rms. 451A&B
5:30-10 p.m., Dunlop: Microsoft Group, Rms. 451A&B
- **Fri., Sept. 9—**
 - *Last day for students to file for P/NP option.*
- **Sat., Sept. 10—**
 - *9 a.m.-4 p.m., Social Justice for the Deaf Community (Lectures), BCC Auditorium*
- **Mon., Sept. 12—**
Noon-1:30 p.m., Roundtable, Rms. 451A&B
- **Wed., Sept. 14—**
9:30-11 a.m., President’s Cabinet, Rm. 451A
11 a.m.-Noon, Executive Cabinet, Rm. 451A
Noon-1:30 p.m., Student Ambassadors, Rm. 451A
- **Thur., Sept. 15—**
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., TAP Meetings, Rms. 451A&B
10-11 a.m., Student Access/Equity, Rm. TBA
10 a.m.-Noon, Curriculum, TLC, Rm. 341
- **Tue., Sept. 20—**
2-3:30 p.m., Student Services, Rms. 451A&B
- **Wed., Sept. 21—**
9 a.m.-3 p.m., Study Abroad Fair, BCC Atrium
- **Thur., Sept. 22—**
10-11 a.m., Student Access/Equity, Rm. TBA

State Chancellor’s Office approves BCC’s new biology Associate in Science for Transfer degree

Congratulations are in order for BCC’s Science Department faculty. Efforts by Dr. Barbara Des Rochers, Dr. Pieter De Haan and Dr. Siraj Omar to develop a biology Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) degree were rewarded this summer.

Berkeley City College was only one of a small number of community colleges whose biology AS-T degrees were approved by the State Chancellors Office of the California Community colleges this summer.



BCC’s AS-T in biology was approved this summer by the State Chancellor’s Office.

Introducing Dean Lisa Cook

(from p. 3, column 3)

Cook’s instructors) and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, inspired her.

“After graduation, I found myself working in a restaurant, so I applied to the Peace Corps and was assigned to the Marshall Islands,” she said. “I taught Kindergarten through eighth grade, and learned to teach with no facilities or supplies by using my creativity.”

“On the day I arrived in my classroom, I found that it was an open walled church,” she explained. “The textbooks were infested with bugs so we had to make up everything—curriculum, lesson plans, writing tools—from scratch. I had to figure out what I was going to do with what we had to help students reach their goals.”

After serving in the Peace Corps, Cook married another volunteer, and she and her husband taught for a time in China. She then earned a master’s degree in applied linguistics from the University of Massachusetts at Boston and began teaching at community colleges. In 1998, when the couple moved to California, she began teaching English as a Second Language at Laney College, where she later became chair of the ESL department.

Faculty leader.

Cook held several other faculty leadership roles at Laney and in Peralta, including president of Laney’s Faculty Senate and vice president of the District Academic Senate.

“I’d learned so much during my time at Laney, and I believed if I could use that knowledge to help others, I should do

so,” she said. “I was impressed with the thoughtfulness of the faculty and administration at BCC and decided to take a dean’s post only if I could do it here.”

She noted that the best part of her work is helping to change the way students experience learning. “I love supporting faculty who are in the process of making their programs the best that they can be,” she admitted. “Being the best that you can be is a different goal than having a good program; I want to support faculty so that they can be the best that they can be.”

Positive experience.

Cook observed that BCC provides a positive experience for students. “They expect a lot because they have received a lot, and it’s a place where they have found their direction,” she observed. “Many feel that this is their home; they’ve graduated but come back because they want to help.”

What does she hope to accomplish while at BCC? For one, she would like to help streamline processes so that faculty can do their work. “For example, we really need e-forms so that people can submit remotely and track the progress of their requests,” she said.

Two initiatives that she will help to develop are the Bridging the Gap Program in mathematics and the Transforming Basic Skills grant. These will change the ways BCC students learn English, ESL and math. “I’m enjoying my experience; BCC has excellent administrators, faculty, staff and students; it is a pleasure to work with them.”