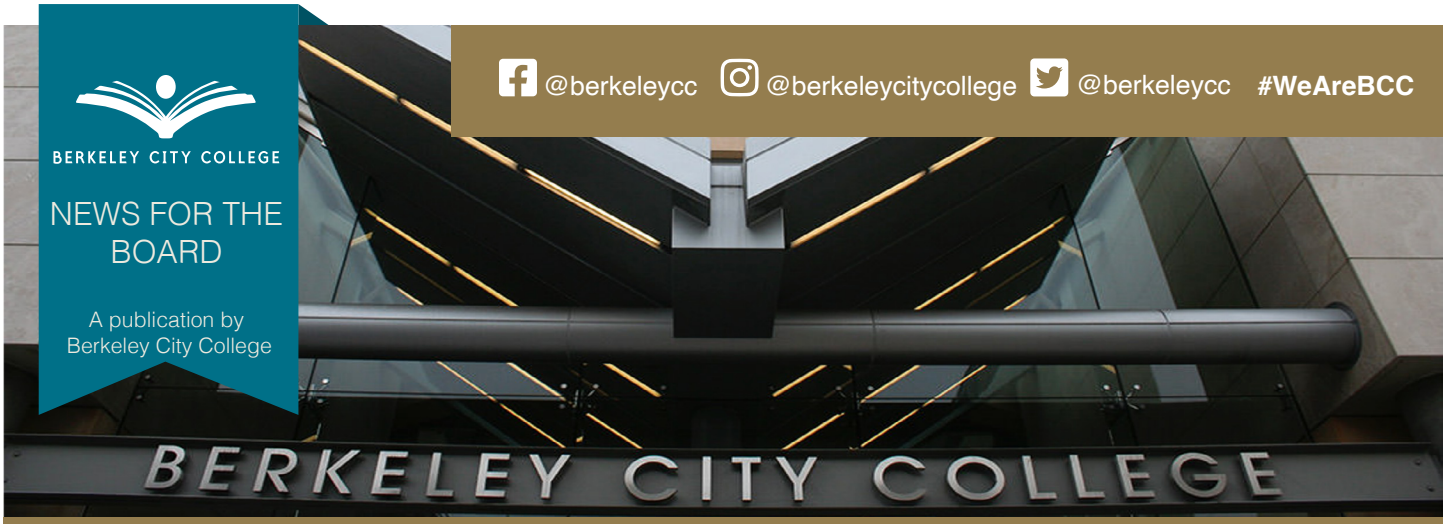
BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE

NEWS FOR THE BOARD

A publication by Berkeley City College



October 13, 2026 Denise Richardson, Ed.D., President

BCC Community Cuts the Ribbon for Berkeley City College West



On Thursday, September 10, Berkeley City College President Dr. Denise Richardson welcomed members of the Peralta Community College Board of Trustees, Chancellor Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson, Mayor of Berkeley and BCC Alum Adena Ishii, students, partners, and community members to cut the ribbon to open Berkeley City College West.

"This beautiful new building represents more than five decades of people believing in BCC, believing in our students, and believing that investing in education is an investment in our collective future," said President Richardson. "The taxpayers of Alameda County made that belief tangible through the passage of Bond Measure G in 2018. Their trust and support will have impact for generations."

Located at 2118 Milvia St. in the heart of downtown Berkeley, this 6 story, 60,000 square foot center for learning offers 15 new classrooms, a wellness center, a Learning Resource Center offering tutoring and private study rooms, and dedicated spaces for student government and Society of Scholars learning communities. Classrooms include 2 art studios, a communications lab, and anthropology lab. One of the architectural goals for the campus was to provide more areas for students to socialize and build community with a new student lounge, conference rooms, and a rooftop terrace, providing BCC's first ever outdoor gathering space with panoramic views of downtown Berkeley and the Bay. The campus is LEED Gold Certified for factors including green energy consumption, sustainable building materials, and proximity to public transit options.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony began with speeches on the rooftop led by President Richardson, Chancellor Gilkerson, Board President Quindlen, Mayor Quindlen, and shared governance leaders.

"Two years ago, we broke ground and talked about possibilities. Today, we get to officially celebrate opening the doors," said Chancellor Gilkerson. "May Berkeley City College West be a place where thousands of students discover their passion, find their purpose, and see possibilities for themselves that they may never have imagined."

"We know that education is often the path towards a better life. That's what BCC was for me. It was a home away from home, a community, and a path to higher education that I may not have had otherwise," said Mayor Ishii. "So many students here have so much lived experience, responsibilities, and challenges that other students may not have to face. That's exactly why the students, staff, and faculty at Berkeley City College deserve to have a beautiful building like this."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, guests filed down to the groundfloor for the official ribbon cutting. We thank all of the city leaders and community members for joining us for this remarkable occasion and look forward to using the great new facility to serve our community for generations.

Berkeley City College Named 2026 Pathway Champion of Transfer

Berkeley City College (BCC) has been recognized as a 2026 Pathway Champion of Transfer by the Campaign for College Opportunity. The award recognizes colleges' whose ADT offerings make up the highest percentage of all associate degrees awarded. ADTs guarantee transfer pathways between community colleges and CSUs.

The Pathway Champion equity awards are granted only to the top three campuses in the state who meet percentage thresholds outlined in their metrics. BCC's percentage of ADT offerings is 71% of all associate degrees, well above the statewide average of 46%.

"We proudly honor colleges that are breaking down barriers for students and creating stronger, more equitable pathways to success," said Jessie Ryan, President of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

"This award is a reflection of the care and diligence of the members of BCC's Curriculum Committee, particularly our specialist Nancy Cayton," said Curriculum Committee Chair Linda McAllister.

President Richardson also recognizes the careful work of counselors and the Career and Transfer Center Coordinator Andrea Williams who prepare BCC students for transfer success.

BCC Celebrates Latine/x Heritage Month

Berkeley City College is celebrating Latinx Heritage Month with a series of events between September 15 through October 15 highlighting the cultures, stories and contributions of its Latine/x community. This year's theme, developed by BCC's HSI Program, is "Nuestra Cultura, Nuestra Comunidad" (Our Culture, Our Community).

The month began with Talk con Tacos, hosted by the Undocumented Community Resource Center (UCRC), where students shared their goals and aspirations over tacos. Participants were encouraged to wear jerseys representing their home countries. On September 17, the Latinos Unidos club hosted a celebration featuring traditional food, music, arts and crafts, and flag coloring, bringing the campus community together to explore Latin American traditions.

The college also connected students with professional development opportunities through a September 23 information session on the HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities) National Internship Program, introducing paid internships with federal agencies and other organizations.

All month long, the BCC Library partnered with the Berkeley Public Library and created a Latinx book display featuring selections the library's collections, encouraging students to discover Latinx authors and explore free library resources. The HSI program also ran a social media campaign called "Descubre BCC" spotlighting Latinx faculty, classified professionals and administrators, sharing their cultural backgrounds, educational journeys, professional experiences, and personal interests. The goal is to raise awareness and a sense of belonging among BCC's Latinx communities.

Thank you to the BCC HSI team, the Latinx Unidos club, Puente, and the Undocumented Community Resource Center for organizing these events.



Wheelhouse Visits Berkeley City College

Berkeley City College hosted Robbie Linden and Betsey Friedmann of the Wheelhouse Institute's research team on September 8. President Denise Richardson, a Wheelhouse Fellow and Deans Raniyah Johnson and Kyla Oh provided data on BCC's short-term courses and emergency aid resources.



In a recently-published research brief, Wheelhouse found that shortened courses (i.e., courses that run for roughly half the semester) are highly effective for student course performance, particularly under in-person instruction. In that brief, researchers highlighted Barstow College's approach to scaling shortened academic terms. BCC provided data about short-term class scheduling, enrollment, and completion rates to aid in Wheelhouse's research on California community colleges.

Wheelhouse is engaged in a forthcoming evaluation of HEERF direct student aid and the impact on student success. They have published preliminary findings about college efforts to sustain emergency aid programs in a blog post. Dean Johnson provided data about the number of students served in the 2025-2026 academic year through our Basic Needs Center and a list of the Emergency Aid awards available to students. BCC's Basic Needs Center offers need-based food grants, providing gift cards from local grocers. Students may also apply for preloaded Clipper cards to assist with transportation needs.

Fall Club Rush

On Tuesday, October 6 ASBCC's Inter-Club Council hosted its Fall Club Rush. Over 30 clubs filled the BCC atrium offering students an opportunity to meet club leaders, play games, win prizes, and sign up for club membership. Students that met with clubs filled out bingo cards to get free burritos. Thanks to Inter-Club Council for organizing this successful event!



Fall Transfer Fair

On Tuesday, September 29, Berkeley City College hosted 36 universities for it's bi-annual Transfer Fair. The event had a great turnout with 268 students who filled the atrium and met with representatives from UCs, CSUs, and private colleges. Students were treated to lunch and some were offered on-the-spot conditional early admission to a select CSU campuses and private colleges. Thank you to Career and Transfer Center Coordinator Andrea Williams for continuing to support these events and maintaining relationships with our great partner universities.



East Bay Early Childhood Education and Education (ECE/EDU) Regional Network

Berkeley City College (BCC), in partnership with the Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC), has been selected to lead the newly established East Bay Early Childhood Education and Education (ECE/EDU) Regional Network, a two-year regional initiative dedicated to strengthening educator workforce pathways throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The Network will bring together ten community colleges, county offices of education, universities, workforce organizations, employers, First 5 agencies, and community partners to develop and expand career pathways in ECE, pre-K-12 education, and expanded learning, ensuring equitable access to program participants and addressing the workforce needs of the East Bay. Participating colleges include Chabot College, College of Alameda, Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Laney College, Las Positas College, Los Medanos College, Merritt College, and Ohlone College.

The initiative builds on the regional foundation established through BACCC's Early Childhood Education and Education Regional Joint Venture that brought together colleges and partners around shared ECE and educator workforce priorities, strengthened regional collaboration, and created momentum for this next phase of work.

The selection as the lead institution reflects longstanding commitment to educator preparation, workforce development, and regional partnership shared by Berkeley City College President Denise Richardson and Workforce Development Director Ilona McGriff. Since 2015, BCC has been at the forefront of building and sustaining registered apprenticeships for early educators, caregivers, and expanded learning program leaders in collaboration with employers and workforce partners, including Early Care & Education Pathways to Success (ECEPTS), a statewide ECE apprenticeship intermediary and sponsor. These pioneering models align with and encourage the priorities in California's Vision 2030 and The Road to 500,000 Apprentices.

BCC will convene and connect expertise across the East Bay, strengthening existing partnerships and supporting colleges and regional partners in the development of shared solutions to educator workforce challenges. The effort will focus on:

- Strengthening and aligning educator preparation pathways
- Improving student navigation, career advancement, and transfer
- Expanding apprenticeship and other educator workforce pathways
- Strengthening employer and regional partnerships
- Developing shared resources and sustainable regional infrastructure

Joya Chavarin, Ed.D., Faculty Coordinator of Berkeley City College's Teacher Preparation Program, will serve as Project Lead for the Network. Emphasizing the collaborative vision, she explained:
"The East Bay ECE/EDU Regional Network represents an exciting opportunity to build upon outstanding work taking place across the region and strengthen educator pathways through shared leadership, regional collaboration, and a collective commitment to student success."

Sara Goldware, Regional Director, East Bay, Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC) spoke to the benefits of the Network for students:
"Backed by Strong Workforce Program Regional dollars, this initiative will encourage the development of seamless pathways for students attending multiple colleges, expand apprenticeships, and ensure that students transition smoothly from enrollment to credentials and quality employment."

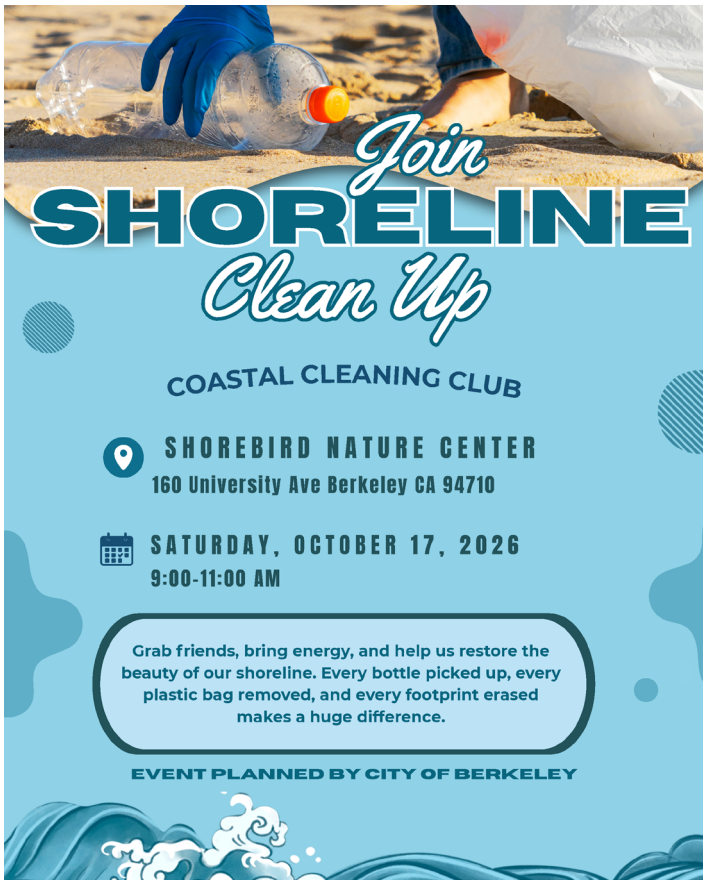
Implementation begins Fall 2026 with the formation of a Steering Committee, regional partner engagement, governance development, and planning for the inaugural East Bay ECE/EDU Regional Convening.

Berkeley City Colleg is committed to preparing students for transfer, career advancement, and lifelong learning through innovative academic programs and strong community partnerships. The College's Teacher Preparation Program supports future educators through high-quality coursework, transfer pathways, and collaborative partnerships that strengthen California's educator workforce.


ELECTION DAY IS NOV 3
MAKE SURE YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION IS CURRENT & PLAN HOW YOU'LL VOTE!
IMPORTANT DATES
October 5: Early voting begins at county elections offices; counties begin mailing ballots by this date
October 19: Deadline to register online or have mailed voter registration forms postmarked
BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE
COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA
LANEY COLLEGE
MERRITT COLLEGE


BERKELEY LAB
BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE
Presentation
Berkeley Lab Internships & Tips for Applying
Thurs October 15, 2026 • 12:20-1:20 pm
Rooms BCC 53 and 54 (Basement level)
For Berkeley City College students
Learn about Berkeley Lab internship, research, technical, and student employment opportunities for community college students. Get practical application tips, including how to request strong recommendation letters, and join an open Q&A with the A-LIFT team. Students will also receive access to a living document of current opportunities.
CONTACTS
Email IMcGriff@peralta.edu, LECote@lbl.gov, JulioCJS@lbl.gov with questions.
alift.lbl.gov


COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO MED SCHOOL
California Medicine Scholars Program
CMSP Bay Area Region
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REQUIREMENTS
On track to complete 12+ units by end of Fall '26
No prior college degree
Strong interest in medical school
Enrolled at Chabot College, Berkeley City College, or Ohlone College
Complete the interest form today!
Questions? Email mreyes@chabotcollege.edu
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Join
SHORELINE
Clean Up
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160 University Ave Berkeley CA 94710
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
9:00-11:00 AM
Grab friends, bring energy, and help us restore the beauty of our shoreline. Every bottle picked up, every plastic bag removed, and every footprint erased makes a huge difference.
EVENT PLANNED BY CITY OF BERKELEY