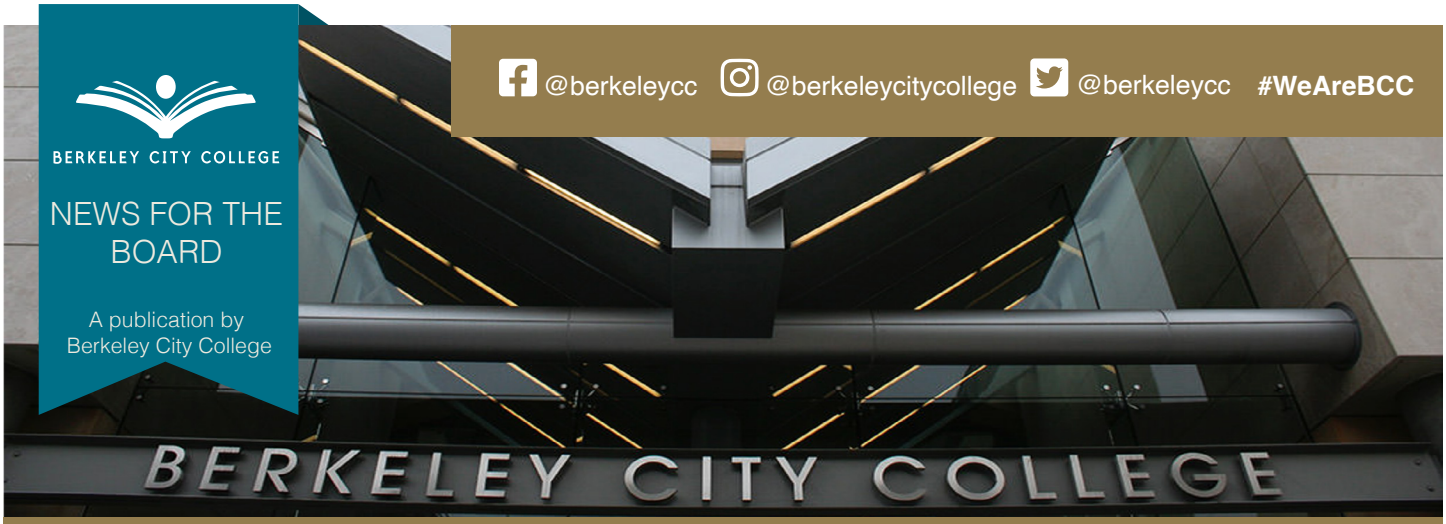
BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE

NEWS FOR THE BOARD

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Denise Richardson, Ed.D., President

Berkeley City College Election Events and Resources

Berkeley City College hosted events all semester to prepare students for the November 3rd election. On National Voter Registration Day (September 15), BCC's Office of Student Life with support from the BCC Library, the Associated Students of BCC (ASBCC), League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville Chapters provided onsite election information to students. Students were able to check their registration status and register to vote.



Voter registration efforts continued throughout the month of October with events at both BCC's Main Campus and BCC West on October 14 and 15. By hosting these events in two different campus locations, we were able to increase accessibility, as well as voter registration, knowledge, and participation. Led by BCC's Political Science Student Association (PSSA) and League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville Chapters, and supported by the Office of Student Life, students learned how to register to vote, check their voter registration status, and more information about the upcoming election.

On October 26, the PSSA and League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville Chapters gave a California Voter Guide presentation. This informational, non-partisan event featured information about what's on the California 2026 general election ballot, deadlines, and how to return ballots. The goal of this event was to increase voter education and voter readiness. Students had the opportunity to learn about the sections, candidates, and ballot measures on the ballot so they could be better prepared to make their own informed voting decisions. The event was organized by PSSA co-presidents Natalia Gawlikowski & Julius Chan.



Undocumented Student Success Week

On October 19, 2026, Berkeley City College hosted a leadership panel in recognition of the 25th anniversary of AB 540 and Undocumented Student Success Week. Organized by the Undocumented Community Resource Center (UCRC), the panel provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of creating safe, welcoming, and affirming educational environments for undocumented students throughout the Peralta Community College District, at UC Berkeley, and within the broader Berkeley community.

Carolina Martinez, co-founder of the UCRC, opened the event by welcoming attendees and sharing the history and purpose of the center. Her message underscored the need for unity, compassion, and meaningful action. She stressed that undocumented students deserve more than expressions of support; they deserve accessible resources, clear information, meaningful protections, and institutions that stand alongside them.

The panel included PCCD Chancellor Tammeil Gilkerson, BCC President Denise Richardson, Director of UC Berkeley's Undocumented Student Program, Liliana Iglesias, and Berkeley



Mayor Adena Ishii. The panel was moderated by BCC Puente Counselor Dri Regalado. Key discussion topics included Districtwide support in campus safety and rapid response, students' sense of belonging, opportunities for citywide collaboration, and sustainability for undocumented student resources.

Berkeley City College and our students stay committed to supporting the undocumented community. Thank you to the UCRC and Puente learning communities, student organizers, and community partners for arranging this informative event.

BCC Basic Needs Awareness Week

The Berkeley City College Basic Needs Center organized events for Basic Needs Awareness Week running October 20th to the 22nd.

The week kicked off with a "Muffins with BNC & MESA" event. BNC Project manager Izzie Villanueva and student assistant Kristine Pak visited the MESA center to teach students how to cook mug muffins in the microwave using three simple ingredients that could be found in the Basic Needs Center and Food Pantry! "While we had some exploding muffins along the way, the event ended with everyone happily eating their muffins while chatting with their friends!" said Kristine.

Wednesday, Buddies Closet student assistant Ife Nutara and PM Villanueva went to the Society of Scholars Suite in BCC West to hold a free clothes pop-up with garments donated by the BCC community. Many students came to shop for free clothes to prepare for the chilly weather ahead!

On the last day of Basic Needs Awareness Week, the BNC student assistants ran the weekly food pantry where students can shop for free groceries with their student ID. Right next to



the food pantry, the City of Berkeley provided free flu shots for all students no matter their insurance status.

Throughout this week, the Basic Needs Center hopes to provide awareness to students that there are resources provided to help them succeed. Thank you to everyone who came throughout the week for these events - the BNC had a blast working with you!!

Berkeley City College Holds Fall Mid-Semester Flex Day

Berkeley City College faculty and staff gathered on October 13 for Fall 2026 Flex Day, a day of professional development, campus updates, and collaborative learning.

The program featured sessions focused on student learning, academic assessment, teaching practices, and campus initiatives. Faculty participated in workshops led by Assessment Coordinator Kelly Pernell on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), including assessment fundamentals and the use of Canvas rubrics to support course assessment.

A presentation by the Society of Scholars team highlighted BCC's learning communities and their role in supporting student engagement, belonging, academic success, and career development. The session also introduced two newer communities, Highway to Work and Rising Scholars, and included a student panel sharing experiences from across BCC's learning communities.

Additional sessions addressed the use of artificial intelligence in higher education labor agreements, the Changing Approaches Project promoting culturally responsive pedagogy, and a faculty sabbatical information session. Classified professionals also participated in a hands-on Canva workshop covering design fundamentals and the use of BCC's brand templates.

The day provided faculty and staff with opportunities to exchange ideas, learn about college initiatives, and strengthen the practices and programs that support student success.

BCC Awarded CAI Grants for Animation and Teacher Prep Apprenticeships

The State Chancellor's Office Workforce and Economic Development Division announced funding awards to Berkley City College of two California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) grants in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 appropriation. These grants will provide $45,000 in funding for the BCC and the BRIC Foundation implementation program and $1,000,000 for the BCC Teacher Preparation Apprenticeship Consortium Expanded Learning Apprenticeship program (ELAP).

The funding for the BCC and BRIC Foundation grant will train 18 pre-apprentices over three years in Animation Generalist, a DAS approved occupation that prepares students for careers across animation, visual effects, and gaming industries. This pre-apprenticeship creates pathways for BCC students facing significant barriers, including first-generation students, financial aid recipients, and those who lack the means to participate in unpaid internships.

The partnership between the BCC Multimedia Arts department and the BRIC foundation will offer pre-apprentices connections with industry supervisors who provide portfolio and career guidance, matchmaking students with professionals who share their backgrounds and paths into the entertainment industry, while also providing priority consideration for the BRIC Foundation's full apprenticeship program.

The Teacher Preparation Apprenticeship Consortium (ELAP Expansion) funding includes $1 million supporting pathways that connect education, paid work experience, and career opportunities. This is a timely investment for as the regions 10



East Bay community colleges will convene connection through the BACCC ECE/EDU East Bay Regional Network kickoff on November 20 at BCC. This work brings partners together to build on existing efforts, strengthen transfer connections, and expand educator career pathways.

Thank you to Director of Workforce Development Ilona McGriff and chairs Mary Clarke-Miller and Dr. Joya Chavarin, for their work writing these grants securing funding to benefit BCC apprentices.