



November 18, 2025

Denise Richardson, Ed.D., President

Berkeley City College Named Pathway Champion of Transfer Equity



Berkeley City College (BCC) has been recognized as a 2025 Pathway Champion of Transfer Equity by the Campaign for College Opportunity, earning honors in two categories:

1. California Community Colleges Pathway Champion of Transfer – Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) as a Percentage of All Associate Degrees Awarded, and
2. California Community College Transfer Champion for Black Students.

This statewide recognition celebrates BCC’s leadership in creating equitable pathways that help students reach their transfer and degree goals. Berkeley City College was



distinguished as the top school in the state with 72% of all Associate Degrees being ADTs - guaranteeing placement into a CSU. BCC’s rate of awarding ADTs to Black Students was also 72%, demonstrating that BCC shows no equity gap for Black Students earning ADTs compared to the overall rate of completion.

“Berkeley City College is honored to have been selected as a 2025 Pathway Champion. We have a very dedicated team of faculty, classified professionals and administrators who are focused and tireless in their commitment to removing barriers and empowering students to succeed,” said President Denise Richardson, Ed.D. “It is a testament to the cultural vibrancy at BCC and commitment of our students to achieve their goals and transfer to a 4-year institution.”

CCC to HBCU Caravan at Laney College

After months of planning, the CCC to HBCU Caravan brought incredible energy to Laney College on November 5th, transforming the campus into a vibrant hub of connection, knowledge, and possibility. Representatives from over 20 HBCU institutions, who are members of the California Community Colleges (CCC) to HBCU Transfer Guarantee, met directly with over 500 high school and community college students from Peralta and districts throughout the Bay Area, offering on-the-spot guidance about admissions, financial aid, scholarships, and transfer pathways. In addition, multiple students were offered admissions and scholarships on-the-spot. The event showcased the strength of both our district and regional commitment to expanding HBCU access and transfer opportunities to students. Students left inspired, informed, and genuinely seen. It was a powerful reminder that when our campuses come together with intention, we open doors that change lives.



The District's current PCCD to HBCU Transfer Pathway Program initiative is under the direction of BCC's Dean Raniyah Johnson and BCC's counselor, Charles Washington who serves as the districtwide counselor for students interested in learning about and transferring to HBCUs. Thanks to them and all of the BCC staff who joined to uplift this great event!

Basic Needs Awareness Week

Berkeley City College hosted Basic Needs Awareness Week from October 28–30, offering students opportunities to access essential services, learn about financial support programs, and connect with the campus community.

The week kicked off on Tuesday, Oct. 28, with the semesterly BCC Basic Needs Center Free Flea Market, where students shopped—completely free—for clothing donated by generous community members. 137 BCC students shopped a wide variety of clothing donated by generous BCC community members, bringing home a total of 472 items. The remainder of donations will be available for the rest of the semester in the



basic needs center. Students can visit once per week and pick up 3 items of clothing per week.

The week concluded on Thursday, Oct. 30, with two events. Golden State Opportunity hosted a California Earned Income Tax Credit (CALEITC) Workshop, helping students learn how to access cash back through available tax credits. That same day, the weekly Free Food Pantry offered students no-cost groceries—along with a chance to see the Basic Needs team dressed in festive Halloween costumes.

Big thanks to Izzie Villanueva and the Basic Needs student worker team for organizing a week packed with vital resources for students!



BCC Basic Needs Presents at State Conferences

Izzie Villanueva (Basic Needs Project Manager) was invited to give a presentation with Dr. Katie Brohawn (Director of Research and Development with RP Group) at the 2025 Strengthening Student Success Conference held in Burlingame on October 9. The presentation was titled: "The State of Student Basic Needs: Findings from the 2025 Real College California Survey."

The recently released report, Real College California: Basic Needs Among California Community College Students in 2025, shares data from the nation's largest survey focused on student basic needs. With responses from nearly 77,000 students across 102 colleges, the survey provides a vital snapshot of how food and housing insecurity and homelessness affect the student experience. This session will share key insights and be paired with a college spotlight, showcasing successful interventions already in place. By blending statewide data with a real-world example, the presentation highlights opportunities to strengthen equity-driven solutions across California and beyond.

The Basic Needs team at BCC is also celebrating a series of additional accomplishments. The BNC will present for the third year in a row at the Real College Basic Needs Summit December 5th at Napa Valley College. The presentation titled

Free Flu Vaccine Pop-up

Berkeley City College helped the community stay healthy this flu season by hosting a free flu vaccination clinic on Thursday, October 23, from 12:00–2:00 pm in the Atrium. The event, held in partnership with the City of Berkeley Health, Housing, and Community Services, offered a convenient way for students, staff, and local residents to get protected. Communities were able to get the updated flu vaccine free of charge without a need for ID or health insurance.



Going Viral: Leveraging Social Media for Basic Needs was submitted by Lead Social Media student assistant Kei Napoli Dorantes and PM Villanueva. 5-7 additional BNC student employees are planning to attend the conference to learn more about Basic Needs efforts across the state and ways they can bring that knowledge back to BCC and PCCD.

The team has also been accepted to give the presentation at the biennial 2026 California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA) Summit, marking the third time the Basic Needs Center have presented at this conference. Congratulations to the hard work of the Basic Needs Center to provide and expand awareness for these vital services!



Diwali/Tihar with BCC's API LEAD

Berkeley City College lit up the Atrium on Tuesday, October 21, with a vibrant celebration of Diwali and Tihar, organized by API LEAD. The event featured a lively rangoli-making competition, where participants crafted beautiful designs symbolizing joy, prosperity, and the triumph of light. Attendees also enjoyed Gulab Jamun, a popular South Asian sweet. Many community members joined the celebration wearing festive or cultural attire—including kurtas, sarees, lehengas, sherwanis, and other traditional garments.



MMart Students Record at Hyde Street Studios

Students from BCC's Multimedia Sound Design 1 visited the legendary Hyde Street Studios in San Francisco. Students toured the facilities and gained a behind-the-scenes look at professional audio production. At Wally's Hideout, one of the studios within Hyde Street, a sound engineer recorded the students, demonstrating the full recording process in real time. The engineer then completed a quick mix and even gave students the opportunity to try mixing the track themselves. The hands-on experience offered students valuable insight into studio workflows, professional equipment, and the collaborative nature of sound engineering. Thank you to Marla Leech for organizing this great hands-on experience for students!



Mid-Semester Flex Day

Berkeley City College hosted its Fall 2025 Flex Day on October 15, bringing together faculty, classified professionals, and district colleagues for a day of learning and connection. The event opened with breakfast and Administration Updates before participants moved into a range of morning sessions.

Faculty and students involved in the Changing Approaches grant project shared insights on culturally responsive teaching. Additional sessions included Dual Enrollment updates and an activity led by Counselor Janine Greer exploring how personal identities influence student connection.

Classified professionals attended two workshops – a morning informational meeting led by CalPERS centered around retirement planning. Dr. Amy Chiang, a consultant with expertise in Human and Organizational Systems held a workshop focusing on how to confidently navigate upcoming Districtwide changes, transform uncertainties into opportunities for leadership, and align our daily work with our core values.

In the afternoon, attendees chose from workshops on critical thinking, HSI initiatives, navigating organizational change, and district-led sessions on faculty evaluations, common course numbering, effective email communication, and sabbatical processes. The Teaching and Learning Center also hosted an information session featuring opportunities to join FIGs, APPLes, and Communities of Practice.

Thank you, PD Chair Katie Koelle and all the volunteers, for hosting another insightful Flex Day!