



NEWS FOR THE BOARD

A publication by
Berkeley City College



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#WeAreBCC

BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE

February 11, 2025

Denise Richardson, Ed.D., President

Black History Month Opening Ceremony at BCC



Berkeley City College held its opening ceremony celebrating Black History Month on Monday, February 3. The sounds of drums echoed throughout the building as EOPS Coordinator Ramona Butler, along with family members Cyril Butler, Imani Butler, Tyehimba Kakayi, and BCC student played for the students and BCC staff, faculty, and administrators in attendance. Ramona then poured libations, honoring spirits, ancestors, and those who are no longer with us. Merritt College President David Johnson then delivered a keynote address, sharing the history of the African American experience and the American education system. President Richardson followed by sharing a brief history of how Negro spirituals emerged

from the experience of slavery, often serving as a means of conveying hidden messages. She concluded by singing a few verses from three well-known spirituals. The event closed with spoken word poetry from BCC student Tony.

Check out the list of events taking place during college hour throughout the month:

- **Monday February 10:** Defying the Odds: Dr. Brian Richardson's Path to becoming a Black Neurologist and His Insights on How We Can All Lead Healthier Lives
- **Thursday February 13:** CalWORKs Program Student Parent Action Day: Our Stories
- **Wednesday February 19:** Movie Night! - Tyler Perry's The Six Triple Eight (5:00pm in the BCC Auditorium)
- **Wednesday February 26:** Panel Discussion led by Three Young Black Professionals Reflecting on the Challenges They've Overcome and the Successes They've Celebrated Along Their Career Paths
- **Friday, February 28:** Closing Ceremony and Student Showcase Featuring Spoken Word, Fashion Show, Music, Food, and Art

Welcome Week at BCC Starts Spring with Success

Berkeley City College opened the Spring 2025 semester with Welcome Week, packed with events aimed at building community, providing essential resources, and easing students into the new term.

Monday, January 27: Karaoke and Pizza Kick-Off

Welcome Week began with a high-energy "Karaoke and Pizza" event in the atrium. Over 90 students came to grab a slice of pizza. Lunch was catered by Alfred Brown from Laney

Cafeteria. While more than 20 brave students took to the mic to showcase their singing talents. The performances, featuring classics like "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Killing Me Softly," could be heard throughout the building.

Tuesday, January 28: BCC Campus Resource Fair

The BCC Campus Resource Fair, held at the start of every semester, connected students with vital services. With 20 tables representing 15 departments—an increase from Fall 2024—

Welcome Week at BCC Starts Spring with Success (cont'd)



students had the opportunity to engage with different support programs. Over 160 students visited the atrium, collecting stamps from at least five resource tables to earn a delicious meat or veggie patty from Kingston 11.

Wednesday, January 29: Relax and Destress

Mid-week brought a much-needed “Relax and Destress” session, offering students a chance to unwind from the stress of class add/drop periods. The event featured coloring, drawing, affirmational sticky notes, and soft jazz music. Attendees also enjoyed hot tea, hot cocoa, sandwiches, and snacks.

BCC’s Mental Health Specialist and Clinical Supervisor, Janine Greer, along with her team of student mental health

ambassadors, provided on-campus and off-campus mental health resources. More than 130 students took part in the event.

Thursday, January 30: Weekly Food Pantry with a Special Giveaway

The week wrapped up with the BCC Basic Needs Team’s weekly free food pantry, in partnership with the Berkeley Food Network. 157 students, staff, and their families were able to get fresh produce and groceries. As a special Welcome Week treat, every participant received a free insulated BCC Basic Needs Center lunch bag—an exciting bonus that left some envious of those lucky enough to grab one!

“A heartfelt thank you to the incredible student employees of EOPS, the Undocumented Community Resource Center, the Basic Needs Center, and BCC student ambassadors for stepping up with little notice to assist with setting up, serving food, cleaning up, and even managing the tables!” said Basic Needs Coordinator Izzie Villanueva. “A special shoutout to Danielle ‘Dani’ Spencer, staff assistant to Dean Raniyah Johnson, for taking the lead in coordinating the events all week with just one day’s notice. Thank you for also inviting me to join in and co-coordinate some events alongside you!”

Berkeley City College Student Documentary Featured at SF Indie Film Fest

“Meet Me In Chinatown,” a documentary directed by BCC students Jerry Hsiao and Anna Sophie Loewenberg, was featured at the 27th San Francisco Independent Film Festival on Saturday, February 8th at the Roxie Theater in San Francisco. The film was submitted as a final project in BCC’s Documentary Production and Editing class in Spring 2024 taught by MMART instructor Kelly Whalen. The film tells the story of Cynthia Yee and the Grant Avenue Follies, a dance troupe continuing the legacy of San Francisco Chinatown’s golden nightclub era from 1940’s to 1970’s.

“I worked in film in China and moving to US, it was difficult finding my feet here.” said Anna Sophie Loewenberg. “BCC and this community of filmmakers has been a lifeline for me. Kelly introduced me to my co-director and creative partner [Jerry Hsiao]. Without BCC I may not have been able to continue making films.”

“Local festivals are a great way for students to network with

other filmmakers further along in their careers, meet possible distributors and programmers, and represent their work to live general audience members, as well to critics and media covering the festival.” said Whalen.



BCC Partners with City Leaders at “Give a Dream, Make a Reality” Fundraiser

On Sunday, February 2nd members from the Berkeley City College community took part in a fundraiser titled “Give a Dream, Make a Reality” in collaboration with former Peralta Trustee Karen Weinstein and the American Association of University Women. The fundraiser took place at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley and was in support of the Dreamer Emergency Fund and the Undocumented Community Resource Center. The event featured a panel about immigration rights and the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant was present to provide information about legal resources and support services for the community. Berkeley Mayor Adena Ishii, Trustee Louis Quindlen, President Denise Richardson, VP Stacey Shears, UCRC Coordinator Carolina Martinez, and other members of the PFT, BCC faculty and administrators made up the Host Committee for the event. All donations were made payable to the Peralta College Foundation. [Click here if you would like to support the Dreamer Emergency Fund.](#)

PLEASE JOIN THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW BERKELEY)
Sunday, February 2nd, 3PM -5PM

FUNDRAISER FOR
DREAMER EMERGENCY FUND
& THE UNDOCUMENTED COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTER OF BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE

At Northbrae Community Church 941
The Alameda Berkeley


GIVE A DREAM, MAKE A
REALITY
A panel on student immigration rights

HOST COMMITTEE

Hon. Adena Ishii	Hon. Louis Quindlen
Hon. Jennifer Shanowski	Peralta Federation Teachers
Hon. Rosanne Torres	Annie Flores
Hon. Igor Tregub	April McMahon
Hon. Kate Harrison	Kathryn Lohar
Hon. Karen Weinstein	Wendy Bloom
Hon. Sheila Jordan	Lisette Flores
Hon. Jenny Wong	Gabriel Martinez
Carolina Martinez	Ces Rosales
BCC-VP Stacey Shears	Ranjana Johnson
	BCC President Denise Richardson

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Basic Needs Center Visits Local K-8 Students

On Friday, January 31, two of BCC’s Basic Needs Student Employees, Lorna and Kei, visited a local K-8, Escuela Bilingüe Internacional(E.B.I.), to present about our Basic Needs Center and celebrate Lunar New Year!

Lorna, the Lead Outreach and Community Engagement Student Assistant, presented to the entire student body and staff, sharing her knowledge and experience of celebrating Lunar New Year in Malaysia. Lorna received countless questions and feedback from various students and staff members, all of whom greatly enjoyed her presentation. One fourth grade student even gifted Lorna a handmade poster which read “Happy Lunar New Year!”

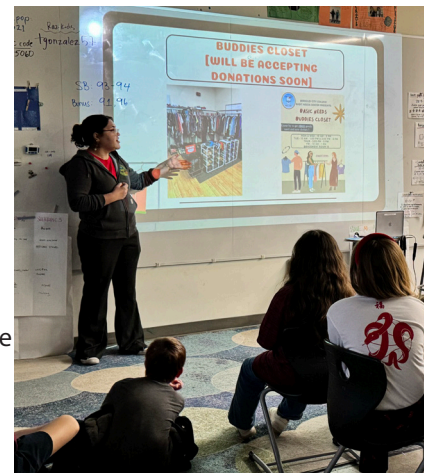
Later in the day, Lorna was joined by Kei, the Lead Food Pantry Student Assistant. They took to the fourth grade classroom to present to the students about what the Berkeley City College Basic Needs Center is, and what they offer. Students were told about the various resources BCC students can access in their physical center, as well as the amount of knowledge and assistance that each of the student assistants are able to share with BCC students. They also watched some of the fun content the BNC posts on their Instagram!

After a brief presentation, Kei and Lorna prepared a mock food pantry, similar to the one that the Basic Needs Center hosts every Thursday in the atrium from 1 PM to 3 PM! Each fourth

grade student got their own mock BCC student ID and was able to shop for various canned items and fresh produce. The students were able to use reusable bags, just like BCC students are instructed to do, and were taught the importance of sustainability and eco-friendly initiatives. After the activity was completed, Kei and Lorna held a Q&A session, where they gave out Basic Needs swag to students who answered their questions or who asked thoughtful questions.

An important lesson that the students shared they learned was that there’s not enough food and resources for everybody. However, they were also able to learn that there are various organizations and centers like BCC’s own Basic Needs Center that are working hard to bridge this gap, to ensure students and community members are well fed.

Kei and Lorna had an amazing time at E.B.I. interacting with students, staff, and teachers and being able to extend their knowledge towards their younger community members.



Downtown Berkeley Association Meets with BCC Community Members

On Tuesday, February 4, CEO of the Downtown Berkeley Association John Caner and Events & Engagement Manager Jenn Touli Voss held a focus group with Berkeley City College students, faculty, staff, and administrators to discuss ways to improve Downtown Berkeley. Some of the topics included bike safety, clean streets, supporting small businesses, better services for houseless residents, and increasing visibility of support for undocumented community members in conjunction with Berkeley's renewal of its Sanctuary City status. About 20 BCC community members took part and voted on which issues mattered most to them. Mr Caner also provided updates on housing development and the ongoing work to fill vacant retail spaces along Shattuck Ave. We appreciate Mr. Caner for taking the time to meet with our community and gather our feedback!



Upcoming Events & Services

LUNAR NEW YEAR LION DANCE

ARTS & CRAFTS
RED ENVELOPE
TEA & SNACKS
FEBRUARY 11
12:20PM - 1:20PM
ATRIUM

新年快樂

AAPILeAD
Leadership • Empowerment • Advocacy • Diversity

BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY



BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE

LET'S CELEBRATE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

ALL EVENTS ARE DURING COLLEGE HOUR
12:20PM - 1:20PM
IN THE ATRIUM UNLESS SPECIFIED
(ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE)

MONDAY 2/10

DEFYING THE ODDS: DR. BRIAN RICHARDSON'S PATH TO BECOMING A BLACK NEUROLOGIST AND HIS INSIGHTS ON HOW WE CAN ALL LEAD HEALTHIER LIVES

THURSDAY 2/13

CALWORKS PROGRAM STUDENT PARENT ACTION DAY - OUR STORIES

WEDNESDAY 2/19

MOVIE NIGHT! - TYLER PERRY'S THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT

@ 5PM
IN THE AUDITORIUM

WEDNESDAY 2/26

PANEL DISCUSSION - LISTEN TO THREE YOUNG BLACK PROFESSIONALS REFLECT ON THE CHALLENGES THEY'VE OVERCOME AND THE SUCCESSES THEY'VE CELEBRATED ALONG THEIR CAREER PATHS

FRIDAY 2/28

CLOSING CEREMONY AND STUDENT SHOWCASE
FEATURING SPOKEN WORD, FASHION SHOW, MUSIC, GREAT FOOD, ART DISPLAY