



April 14, 2026

Denise Richardson, Ed.D., President

### ASBCC and PCCD Student Trustee Elections



Berkeley City College held its ASBCC and PCCD Student Trustee elections on April 7th and 8th. Students were given electronic ballots to cast their vote for the next administration of students that will help shape the future of BCC! Dozens of students came forward as candidates to serve as a member of the 2026-27 ASBCC and PCCD Student Trustees. The ASBCC Election Committee offered a free slice of pizza on the election days to all students with an email confirmation proving they cast their vote.

Earlier this month, the ASBCC Election Committee hosted events to introduce the candidates to the campus community.



A Candidates Meet & Greet was held on March 19th during college hour, allowing students to ask questions, compare platforms, and learn the policies of each candidate's platform. The following week, the Committee hosted two election forums with candidate speeches and a moderated question and answer period. The first Forum was held on March 23rd and featured candidates for the ASBCC Executive Board. The second Forum was on March 25th and featured candidates for ASBCC Senators and Student Trustees.

Thank you to the ASBCC Election Committee and Dean Raniyah Johnson for their work in organizing an engaging election process!



**VOTE FOR YOUR 2026-2027**

**ASBCC BOARD & PCCD STUDENT TRUSTEES**

**APRIL 7TH & APRIL 8TH**

\*BALLOTS OPEN 8:00AM ON APRIL 7, 2026 AND CLOSE 11:59 PM ON APRIL 8, 2026

Vote for the Change You Want to See!

**MORE INFO >>** For more information, email: [raniyahjohnson@peralta.edu](mailto:raniyahjohnson@peralta.edu)

BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE  
TRANSFORMING LIVES

## BCC Classified Appreciation Day

On Friday, April 3, Berkeley City College administrators and the Classified Senate held a Classified Appreciation Day at Jupiter in Berkeley. It was an opportunity to recognize Classified Professionals for their work over the last year. President Denise Richardson honored BCC's longest serving Classified Professionals with Legacy of Excellence awards, including:

- Kent Nguyen
- Nancy Cayton
- Donna Dorsey
- Jasmine Sumandal
- Johnny Dong
- Nailah Keeles
- Phi Le
- Phu Le

President Richardson and the rest of the BCC administrative

## Apprenticeship Convening Offers Insight On Meeting Statewide Workforce Demands

Berkeley City College Director of Workforce Development Ilona McGriff and Senior Research & Planning analyst Phoumy Sayavong attended the Statewide Apprenticeship Convening on March 19th and 20th in Costa Mesa. The conference outlined the scale of California's workforce challenges and the role of apprenticeship in addressing them.

Colleges were able to network with employers in targeted sectors by region, offering an opportunity for college administrators to learn about areas with high demand for workers in their service areas.

"It was a great opportunity to meet with employers and learn about the future evolution and growth of non-traditional apprenticeships in the state and across the country," said Director McGriff.

Data presented at the convening pointed to a structural imbalance between population growth and labor force participation, with significantly fewer workers entering the workforce compared to projected demand. The proposed solution involves focusing on developing pathways with pre-apprenticeship via dual enrollment that results in employment for students after they graduate to meet growing workforce demands.

The convening aligned these efforts with the California Community Colleges' Vision 2030 framework. Key goals include expanding work-based learning, increasing the number of



team shared words in appreciation for Classified Professionals, followed by a fun BCC trivia session with prizes.

Thank you to the BCC admin team and the Classified Senate officers for their work organizing the event.



registered apprentices, and strengthening pathways that connect education, training, and employment. Some of the benchmarks included the goal of 500,000 apprentices in the community college system by 2029 with 20% of enrolled students being placed in an apprenticeship program.

Priority industries identified at the convening included health and human services, education, advanced manufacturing, information technology, clean energy, and infrastructure-related trades. These sectors face ongoing labor shortages and are central to state economic and policy goals.

Berkeley City College's growing Health and Human Services and Teacher Preparation apprenticeship programs fit into the state's framework.

## Annual Umoja Alumni Event Strengthens Community

Berkeley City College's Umoja program hosted its annual alumni event, bringing together more than 60 students, faculty, staff, and administrators to learn from former Umoja scholars and their transfer experiences.

The event featured 12 BCC Umoja alumni representing a range of four-year institutions, including UC Santa Barbara, Mills College, Florida A&M University, and Howard University. Five alumni—Samantha, Eneni, Syrak, and Mikhail—were recognized as “legacy scholars,” an honor given to participants who have already completed their bachelor’s degrees.

First launched in 2019, the event continues to serve as a space for alumni to share insights on what supports transfer success. Panel discussions emphasized the importance of community, intrusive counseling, college exposure through tours, and the value of learning in spaces that reflect students’ identities.

## Community Partners Breakfast Highlights Rising Scholars

On March 20th, Berkeley City College hosted its Community Partners Breakfast. Over 85 attendees from high schools and community-based organizations joined the event. The breakfast provided BCC counselors, instructional faculty, and program coordinators the opportunity to introduce BCC programs and pathways to our community.

One of the highlights included testimonials from two students from BCC’s new Rising Scholars program. Students Leonard Boone and Malik Bin Saud, who are also UMOJA scholars, shared their stories including a spoken word poem by Malik.

Leonard started his enrollment at BCC after 24 years of life being incarcerated. He was released on January 2nd and was introduced to Berkeley City College through a current Rising Scholars student and enrolled full time by January 9th. He is majoring in Communication and will graduate this spring semester with a Communications Associate Degree for Transfer. Leonard has dedicated his life to transformation, education and being a positive role model for younger people. Leonard has shared that BCC has allowed him to thrive and look at life beyond what he thought was possible.

Malik Bin Saud, restarted his educational journey at BCC in the fall of 2024. Through his life experiences as a justice-impacted scholar he shared he has learned that it isn’t what he did in



Alumni participated both in person and via Zoom, creating a hybrid format that allowed for broad engagement. Following the panel, attendees joined smaller breakout sessions where current Umoja students connected directly with alumni to discuss academic pathways and life skills. The event concluded with lunch.

Thank you to Umoja Counselor Shannon Penn for continuing to support this great event!

the past, but rather what he does every day now that impacts and drives him to achieve his educational and career goals. He is pursuing his associate degree in Multimedia Video Art and aspires to join the Directors Guild as Director. He also is a music producer and is a spoken word artist and performs throughout the East Bay.

We thank all who participated in the event, especially Society of Scholars counselors Susan Truong, Dri Regalado, and Skylar Barton for organizing.



## BCC Animation Program Newest Toon Boom Centre of Excellence

Berkeley City College is now recognized as a Toon Boom Centre of Excellence. The Toon Boom software is the industry standard in 2D Animation. Berkeley City College Multimedia Arts students' animation work was demonstrated to Toon Boom as part of the application process. "Based on the quality of the student work, they (Toon Boom) were happy to bring us on as a center of excellence," said Multimedia Art co-chair Mary Clarke-Miller. "Kudos to faculty Pam Stalker, Sam Miller and Ed Bell who push for excellence in our 2D Animation courses!"

BCC stands out as the only California Community College to receive this honor and is one of just three institutions in California recognized as a COE. As a COE institution, BCC's animation program reflects a strong commitment to student success and workforce readiness. The designation ensures students gain hands-on experience with the same tools used by major animation studios, preparing them for careers in animation, storyboarding, and related creative industries.



The COE program provides valuable benefits, including access to professional software, training resources, and ongoing faculty development opportunities. BCC will also be featured on the Toon Boom COE website, leading prospective students to enroll in BCC MMart programs.

## Persian Club Celebrates Nowruz

BCC's Persian Club held an event celebrating the cultural traditions of Nowruz, the Persian New Year. The program invites students and community members to learn about the seven symbolic items traditionally displayed on the Haft-Seen table, each representing important values such as health, prosperity, patience, love, and rebirth. Students were invited to experience Persian art and enjoy traditional snacks to celebrate the event.



**This Concludes Berkeley City College's Board Report**