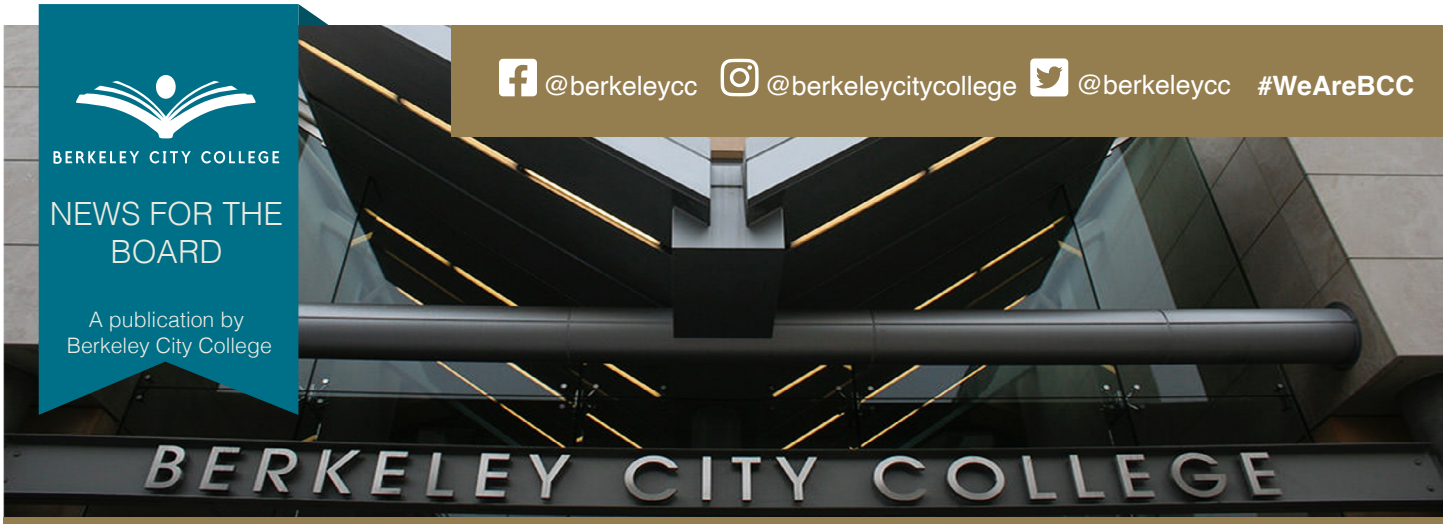
BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE

NEWS FOR THE BOARD

A publication by Berkeley City College




August 25, 2026

Denise Richardson, Ed.D., President

## BCC New Student Orientation




BCC hosted two New Student Orientation sessions introducing its newest students to key campus resources and information to help them have a successful first semester. BCC offered a morning session on Tuesday, August 18 and an evening session on Wednesday, August 19 to maximize student engagement. The event brought 226 students to campus in total.

The event opened with a student services resource fair with representatives from programs including the Basic Needs Center, Wellness Center, Financial Aid, the Library, EOPS, and more. Students also had an opportunity to make a counseling appointment and get their student ID. Representatives from the ASBCC took part in a student panel to encourage students to get involved in clubs and other campus resources.

Students broke into smaller groups and learned how to access and use the Peralta Portal, Canvas, and Cranium Lab to book appointments with counselors and financial aid. After the breakout sessions, students were able to take campus tours and could stay on campus for a takeaway lunch.

Thank you to organizers Dean Lissette Flores and interim HSU Director Zaira Sanchez, as well as all of the classified and faculty who tabled the event and lead the sessions.

## Welcoming Faculty Back to BCC on Fall Flex Day

The Berkeley City College community gathered Friday, August 21, for Fall 2026 Flex Day. The day opened with updates from President Denise Richardson and college leadership and Academic Senate President Fatima Shah. Administrative updates were followed by a presentation on workforce development and opportunities available to BCC students through partners ECEPTs and LAUNCH.



Employees participated in a tour of the new BCC West building with a group photo on the beautiful rooftop patio. Additional sessions covered the new BibliU Campus bookstore, Open Educational Resources and accessibility, while science faculty and staff received lab safety training from the Berkeley Fire Department.

The day concluded with department meetings and a faculty and staff happy hour at Eureka, bringing colleagues together as they prepared to welcome students for the Fall 2026 semester.

## Career Education Updates

### BCC And Lawrence Berkeley National Lab Partner in Quantum Career Pilot Program

Berkeley City College and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) have launched the Boosting Employment Readiness in Quantum (BERQ) program, a three-week summer initiative that introduces community college students to the rapidly advancing fields of quantum information science and technology while preparing them for careers in the emerging workforce.

Running from July 27 through August 14, students engaged in a comprehensive curriculum that highlights current career opportunities in quantum technology. The daily schedule features expert-led lectures, hands-on laboratory work, and interactive career panels. In addition to technical training, students will participate in structured mentoring sessions dedicated to helping them create a clear, actionable roadmap for their future education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

A major focus of the BERQ program is fostering meaningful connections between community college students, private industry innovators, and Department of Energy national lab research facilities. The program includes specialized site visits to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Berkeley based quantum computing company, Rigetti, and the University of California, Berkeley. Students will also gain industry perspectives through dedicated panels featuring representatives from prominent quantum technology partners, including IonQ and Quantum Machines.

"Programs like BERQ demonstrate why community colleges play such a critical role in preparing the next generation of innovators by bridging the opportunity gap for students," said Berkeley City College Director of Workforce Development Ilona McGriff. "Through this partnership with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, students can not only network and gain skills but see themselves as part of this rapidly growing industry."

The technical components of the program are designed to provide practical, hands-on experience with modern quantum tools. This includes specialized technical workshops focused on systems like QubiC, alongside comprehensive educator support provided by Qolour. The summer initiative will culminate in a showcase event hosted at UC Berkeley, where participating students will deliver their final presentations to demonstrate their progress, technical knowledge, and career readiness to peers, educators, and industry professionals.

The program is a workforce component of Berkeley Lab's Quantum Systems Accelerator, one of five DOE quantum research centers in the country. Funding for the program has been provided by the DOE Office of Science's Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists (WDTS).

### BCC Education Apprenticeships Join East Bay Regional Network

The BACCC ECE/EDU East Bay Regional Network is a regional workforce and educator preparation initiative led by Berkeley City College that connects community colleges, education partners, employers, and workforce stakeholders across the East Bay.

The network works to strengthen Early Childhood Education and Teacher Preparation pathways, expand apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities, support regional coordination, and advance equitable access to careers in education. Through collaborative planning and implementation, the network seeks to build a stronger educator workforce pipeline that responds to the needs of students, communities, and employers throughout the region.

The network was formed to provide a regional ECE/EDU scope of work informed by community colleges, county education leaders, BACCC leadership, and workforce partners. This network brings together 10 community colleges across four East Bay California Community College Districts to coordinate workforce development, educator preparation, apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship pathways, and regional partnership efforts. The initiative is intended to translate regional planning into concrete implementation activities, support workforce needs in Early Childhood Education and Education, and create a shared framework for collaboration among colleges, employers, workforce agencies, county offices of education, and other regional partners.

## California Medicine Scholars Program Adds BCC To Bay Area Regional Hub

The California Medicine Scholars Program (CMSP) launched a Bay Area Regional Hub of Healthcare Opportunity (RHHO) model as part of its statewide expansion project. The Bay Area expansion is led by Chabot College and brings together community colleges, universities, medical schools, healthcare organizations, and community partners to create coordinated physician pathway programs for students throughout the East Bay.

The Bay Area consortium includes Berkeley City College, Chabot College, Ohlone College, UC Berkeley, CSU East Bay, Stanford University School of Medicine, Touro University California, and several clinical and community partners. Berkeley City College's role includes pre-professional career counseling, MESA-supported student success initiatives, transfer pathway alignment, and participation in regional data-sharing and workforce development activities.

The Bay Area hub's goals include:

• Expanding access to structured pre-med pathways and advising.

• Providing mentorship, research experiences, and clinical exposure.

• Strengthening transfer pathways from community colleges to four-year universities and medical schools.

• Supporting regional workforce development efforts to address physician shortages and improve health equity.

The CMSP, administered through the Foundation for California Community Colleges, is a community college-to-medical school pathway program designed to address California's physician shortage while increasing diversity in the healthcare workforce. CMSP strengthens educational pathways by connecting students to mentorship, academic support, clinical experiences, internships, volunteer opportunities, and transfer pathways that help them progress from community college to medical school.

## Scott Hoshida Selected as California Community College Climate Fellow



Berkeley City College English faculty member Scott Hoshida has been selected as a California Community College Climate Fellow, a two-year fellowship focused on advancing climate action and environmental education across California's community colleges.

The fellows focus on four key areas: community engagement, climate literacy through curriculum development, workforce development for climate-ready careers, and sustainable campus facilities and operations.

"The goal is to get as many faculty to do some sort of environmental action work in their classes," said Hoshida.

He wants to bring an environmental justice lens to teaching, so students build awareness about the unequal impacts of climate change locally and globally but also aren't overwhelmed by it. Hoshida has started incorporating these themes in his own classes, teaching The Intersectional Environmentalist and adding for-credit participation in environmental projects that benefit their own lives and the broader community.

For instance, he hopes that small, local activities, like joining a coastal clean-up at the Berkeley Marina, might ease student anxiety by "being together in community, and being out in nature in the world. Not only is a great way for students to volunteer to help their community, but they will document what they collect as part of a larger statewide effort to track coastal debris.

"Students are going to do this cleanup, and they're also doing this research. That's kind of interesting project-based learning," said Hoshida.

Hoshida has been working with the San Francisco Estuary Project on a project that will connect BCC students with research about how communities can protect, restore, and enhance water quality and wildlife habitats in the region. The project will encourage students to collaborate with preservation efforts around the Bay Area while collecting data that can inform policy changes in the State.

Hoshida looks forward to working alongside the fellows in his cohort to build upon the work of the previous two cohorts. He believes tackling the climate issue can only be done through collective action. By building regional relationships through the fellowship, students and faculty can spur action across the state.

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CELEBRATING

## BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE WEST BUILDING

Join the Peralta Community College District as we celebrate the completion of the new **BCC West** — A transformative hub for classroom learning and student services.

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BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE

**WHEN**

**September 10, 2026 Program**
12:30pm - 1:15pm
**Building Tour** 1:30pm - 2:30pm

**WHERE**

**BCC West**
**6TH FLOOR PATIO**
2118 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704




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