



President's Bulletin

To: BCC Faculty, Staff, and Administration
From: Dr. Frances L. White, Interim President

Date: May 9, 2016

Thank You for An Exceptional Opportunity

Every now and then, a glorious and exceptional opportunity arises and you have to say, "I've got to do this!" That is how I felt when asked to be interim president at Berkeley City College. I am delighted and honored to be here. During my time at BCC, I will serve as a resource to faculty and staff, and help further the college's goals. Meanwhile, faculty, staff, students and administration, even in this time of transition, continue to walk the talk and remain centered on student success.

- **Singular Master Plan**

I have been helping with the college's Master Plan and it is quite unique and impressive. It embeds and prioritizes factors which will allow students to succeed. While all colleges develop master plans that are used to gather data and establish goals, Berkeley City College's plan places the issue of student equity in the forefront and not as an afterthought. This is unique in college planning and fits with BCC's culture which is centered around transforming students' lives.



- **Student-Focused Community**

Berkeley City College is blessed with highly accomplished, student-focused people who are engaged in building a success-centered learning community. I have had the opportunity to talk with people at all levels at BCC and this is what I see: An unflinching commitment to close the student achievement gap with action and not just words. When BCC people say they are committed to student success and to transforming lives, they mean it.

BCC students appear to be serious, although they love to have fun. The energy, excitement, enthusiasm and rich diversity that form the college community are extraordinary and infectious. They are part of a vibrant fabric that is unique to BCC.

- **Tradition and Transformation**

I served as an instructor at Laney, Merritt and Feather River colleges when BCC was Vista Community College (the "college without walls") located at 2020 Milvia Street and at dozens of sites throughout the East Bay. Vista and Berkeley City College are linked by tradition and transformation. BCC's traditions of caring about students and the community, designing innovative curriculum, and working together, were present then as they are now. BCC has retained a culture of quality, accomplishment, urbanness, innovation, and connection to its community.

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- **Important Role of Community Colleges**

Community college education is important because it provides opportunities for people who would never otherwise experience higher education. The colleges play a vital role in enhancing all aspects of community life: Businesses, local governments, nonprofit organizations, schools, fine arts organizations, to name just a few. All of these institutions benefit from partnerships that are formed with their community colleges.

BCC is unlike any other place I have been. The people work closely together and everyone connects with each other. It is a great place to be and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frances L. White
Interim President

About Dr. Frances L. White

Dr. Frances L. White is known for her innovative community college leadership. She has had a distinguished 38-year career as an administrator and faculty member in California's community college system. Most recently, she served as Superintendent/President of the Marin Community College District in Kentfield, CA, and was president of San Bruno's Skyline College.

She also served as a dean and interim chancellor at the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District and as an executive vice chancellor at City College of San Francisco. Dr. White taught for several years in the Peralta Community College District, at Laney, Merritt and Feather River colleges. A Peralta alumna, she also is a graduate of Merritt College.

Dr. White earned her doctorate in educational administration from UC Berkeley. She is recipient of the Harry J. Buttimer Award for Distinguished Administrator of the Year from the Association of California Community College Administrators and served as a director for the American Association of Community Colleges.