



President's Bulletin

To: BCC Faculty, Staff, and Administration
From: Dr. Deborah Budd

Date: December 17, 2015

Farewell to My Berkeley City College Colleagues and Friends



As my tenure as president of Berkeley City College draws to a close and as I prepare for my new position as the Chancellor of the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, I want to sincerely extend my thanks and gratitude for the opportunity to have worked with you as the leader of one of the top community colleges in California and the country. It has been an honor to know and collaborate with each of you as colleagues and as friends. Your constant creativity, insights, teamwork, commitment and many talents on behalf of our students' well being are remarkable. Every day, the examples you set influence thousands of lives and I will take what I have learned from you with me as I assume my new responsibilities as a chancellor.

- ***Lessons Learned***

Some of the most significant lessons I learned at Berkeley City College happened when I arrived at work each day. We form an exemplary learning community and during my time here I have found that even the small actions in which we engage every day, can transform students lives. Just a brief connection with a student can inspire supportive and inspirational transformations. I have been privileged to know students who entered Berkeley City College, uncertain about their paths, later transfer to top-ranked universities or develop the skills necessary for rewarding careers. All of us helped them, including BCC alumni, who often returned to share their experiences, support and bring hope and cariño to new generations of our students.

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Another memorable milestone was our 40th anniversary celebration. This landmark event connected the college's rich and diverse past, present and future. Past BCC presidents, students, faculty, staff, alumni, civic and business leaders, and community members gathered to celebrate Vista Community College's and Berkeley City College's four-decade history and many civic contributions. Our community also provided financial and in-kind support for the event and for scholarships through our President's Circle group.

Our recent purchase of another building at 2118 Milvia Street will allow us to continue our traditions of serving and supporting our students. Berkeley City College has experienced tremendous growth over the past several years. Our student population has grown in the double-digits since we first moved into 2050 Center Street. Because of our collaborative efforts, we have opened a Dreamers' Center to assist undocumented students; a Veterans' Resource Center for returning military students; have re-energized the Black Students' Union; have expanded tutorial and student activities and have developed state of the art classrooms. While that building is remodeled, we will temporarily expand classroom, club and meeting space to the first floor of 2000 Center Street, the building immediately next door to the college. We are negotiating permanent parking for faculty and staff across the street in a new city garage that will be constructed in 2016.

- *Far Reaching Endeavors*

Working together, we made possible a successful accreditation visit. We shared our accomplishments, which included redesign of our shared governance model, and noted where we could improve. ACCJC team members were impressed and shared with us five commendations.

One of our most far-reaching and promising endeavors was the creation of BCC's Student Equity Plan. It is critical for each and every one of our students to have the support they need to reach their educational goals. This includes the ability to transfer and master the skills necessary to find good-paying jobs. Our efforts allowed us to identify where students faced major hurdles as they navigated college. One centered on successful completion of math classes by underrepresented students. Students, faculty and administration worked together to create math equity town hall meetings, expanded one-on-one and online math tutoring services through the Jerry L. Adams Learning Resources Center, and created an environment where faculty and students could work together in teams to provide many levels of support. Our efforts also extended to providing expanded financial aid resources so that the college could achieve parity based on our student population.

Our unshakable community connections to business, civic, and nonprofit organizations proved to be one of our greatest strengths. As a community college that provides educational opportunities for all, it is important to be in and of your community and Berkeley City College excels at this. High school to college partnerships, development of the Berkeley Promise with Mayor Tom Bates, new grants and local internships for our students, to name just a few, continue to make our college one of the most active organizations in our community.

We have accomplished much because of the knowledge that comes with a diverse team of faculty, staff and administrators. Over the years, I have learned that it is important to ensure this diversity to adequately represent the communities that we serve.

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- *Values and Integrity*

The importance of personal integrity and living one's values also was reinforced again and again during my time here. If you expect the best, you must set a personal standard of working at your best. Inspiring teamwork is critical to an institution's success because the main mission and responsibility of an administrator and leader is to support innovation and creativity among faculty, staff and students. If you can help to foster innovation through teamwork and participation, the institution improves and moves forward. Group work often leads to better decision making because everyone in the group possesses different pieces of information that can lead to a synergistic whole.



ASBCC President Brianna Rogers (l.) with Dr. Deborah Budd.

In closing, I will miss many things about being a member of Berkeley City College's learning community—the little things most of all, that are difficult to quantify. I will miss the energy I feel when I arrive every morning and always see a familiar face. Berkeley City College is constantly engaged in accomplishing great things. I will miss seeing students working, learning and studying together. I will miss having a hand on the pulse of the college and affecting change here in a positive way.

- *Moving Forward*

Even so, change allows a moving forward and continuance of the valuable things that we do. The success of an institution is based on what people accomplish when they collaborate and work together. At BCC, we have further strengthened a foundation, which will allow us to continue to build community partnerships and implement activities that benefit our students, now and for generations to come. We will continue to develop and improve our planning processes which include our educational and facilities master plans. The college's legacy will be in good hands. Chancellor Jowel Laguerre is committed to helping us move forward to accomplish our goals.

Finally, in my new post as chancellor of the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, I will take the sum total of what I've learned at Berkeley City College and in the Peralta Community College District, and apply that knowledge to developing partnerships with Silicon Valley high schools, adult schools, and business and community organizations, to ensure student success. My time with you at BCC will make possible many more life transformations. Remember that I'm only one phone call or an e-mail away and again, many thanks for your collaboration and friendship over the years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Budd, President