JUNE 2021 VOL.4

PANORAMA

A view into the Bakersfield College Foundation, providing support to the students and mission of Bakersfield College since 1975

Honors Celebration 2021

It's been a challenging year for students, making it even more important to honor those who excelled and earned scholarships and awards for 2021 and the upcoming academic year.

Normally, the Foundation and the Office of Financial Aid host an in-person Honors Celebration on campus to recognize scholars in front of family and friends. This year's event was presented in two segments: a virtual awards ceremony on the Bakersfield College YouTube channel, and a drive-thru Honors medal distribution on campus the following day.

The pre-recorded YouTube event, created in partnership with BC's Marketing & Public Relations team, featured BC administrators, a keynote address from Bakersfield City Councilmember **Andrae Gonzales**, and name recognition for student recipients. The presentation can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70dT-ft24Tk and the Honors Celebration program and the 2021 Commencement video can be found at https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/admissions/2021-commencement-tribute. Special thanks to **Amanda Stone**, Scholarship Manager, for her leadership in coordinating this recognition of the 2021 Honors Students.

Nearly $500,000 will be awarded to almost 500 students, and these opportunities are made possible through generous support from individual and corporate donations and endowments.

Congratulations to all that received scholarships and awards. We are proud of you! We Are BC!

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From the Executive Director

As my first year at the BC Foundation comes to a close, and as COVID lessens its grip on our daily routines, I am finally having the chance to experience life on campus! Our Foundation team recently moved into the brand-new Campus Center (the first new construction project funded by Measure J) and we are working on campus at least a couple of days each week.

Our Foundation offices are on the second floor of the building, sharing space with the college's executive leadership team which is wonderful for allowing collaboration between the Foundation and the College!

Speaking of leadership, we are all excited about the recent announcement that Bakersfield College's President, **Dr. Sonya Christian**, will soon be assuming the role of Chancellor of the Kern Community College District! Sonya has taken BC to new heights over the past eight years and I am very thankful to have worked so closely with her over the past 11 months.

Dr. Zav Dadabhoy, no stranger to the BC Foundation team and board of directors, has been announced as the Interim President of Bakersfield College. Zav has served as Vice President of Student Affairs at BC since 2012, and he is also considered a leader by his peers throughout the state as he is president of the California Community Colleges Chief Student Services Officers (CSSO) Association.

Looking ahead to the fall, we are excited to welcome our students and faculty back to campus, and we hope you—our supporters—will come visit us, too! We'll be thrilled to show you around our new building, and to give you a peek at the construction taking place on our new Science and Engineering Building. Bakersfield College is in a state of growth and transformation and it's all thanks to you, our faithful supporters. We appreciate you!

Stay safe and be well this summer!

Cheryl

Cheryl Scott

Why Philanthropy Matters:

Donations from Bank of America and Phillips 66 give high school students a head start on their college education.

Contributed by Kylie Campbell-Program Director, Outreach & Early College

Bakersfield College's Early College program gives high school students the chance to earn credit towards college degrees while they are still in high school. Collaborations with local high school partners like Kern High School District have allowed BC to design pathways for students to complete entire associate degrees over the four years while earning their high school diploma. Two of the newest pathways, Public Health Science and Industrial Automation, were designed with the community needs and job demands of Kern County at the heart of them and have been generously supported through the philanthropic efforts of Bank of America and Phillips 66.

Thanks to a $56,000 donation from Bank of America, the Public Health Pathway accepts a new cohort of students each year into a four-year program that will result in them earning an Associate Degree for Transfer in Public Health. The funding helps to provide students with the materials and technology that they need for the program. The goal is that these students will graduate from high school prepared to complete their bachelor's degree in Public Health at a California State University in as little as two years. With the impact that COVID-19 has had on our community, and the already existing public health issues such as obesity, addiction, and sexually transmitted disease, graduates from this program will be able to invest their education back into our community.

Another area of growing need in Kern County is Industrial Automation. BC is proud to offer students the opportunity to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Automation entirely on the community college campus. To feed this program, KHSD and BC partnered to create an Early College pathway that included all courses necessary for students to complete their associate degree while they were in high school, allowing each of them to start in the baccalaureate program at Bakersfield College and/or become employed in this growing field immediately after high school graduation. Funding provided by Phillip's 66 has allowed BC to expand the program this Summer with an academy that will expose even more high school students to the Industrial Automation program at BC and introduce them to local industry partners who need graduates to fill positions within their organizations. The $25,000 received from Phillips 66 will provide course materials for students in the academy and travel funds to take students to visit local industry partners like Phillips 66, Witron, Sutton Farms, and GAF.

A special thank you to Bank of America and Phillips 66 for supporting the Early College program at Bakersfield College and helping to make a difference in our community through education.

Long Time BC Foundation Board Member Fran Florez to Retire in September

Loyal Bakersfield College supporter Fran Florez will soon bid the BC Foundation Board of Directors adieu after nearly two decades of devoted service on the board.

Fran joined the board in 2003, when then-executive director Walt Howell convinced her that she would be a good addition. "The years have flown by," Fran said. Looking back, she said participating in fundraising, helping with bond measures, and "doing all that is needed to offer students the best education facility possible" have led to what was the ultimate goal for her: student success. "I am so proud of the major improvements to the campus today."

"My connection to Bakersfield College goes back many, many years," Fran said. "As a graduate of East Bakersfield High School, the natural road to furthering my education was Bakersfield College." In fact, it was her own experience as a BC student facing financial hardship that Fran credits with giving her the ability to truly understand the challenges many of our students face. "Many friends went on to further their education, however my personal situation did not allow me to continue," she said. That perspective helped develop Fran's commitment to raising funds that would assist students who struggle financially.

Fran's son, former California State Senator Dean Florez, began his pursuit of higher education at BC, and Fran said "he always credits Bakersfield College for giving him a 'kick start' to the success he enjoys today. Bakersfield College was the beginning, and we are thankful for the opportunity."

Fran's history of community service roles includes Mayor and City Council Member of the City of Shafter, service on the Kern Council of Governments and on State Commissions, but she proudly states that the most enjoyable has been her role on the BC Foundation Board of Directors. "After all," she said, "We Are BC"!

Fran & Ray Florez-Photo courtesy of April Massirio

Celebration of Life Planned for Becki Whitson

Beloved Professor Emeritus, long-time BC Alumni Association President, and Cheer Coach Becki Whitson passed away in December after a long and courageous battle with cancer. A celebration of becki's life will be held in the new Campus Center at Bakersfield College on the evening of Monday, July 26 (her birthday).

We will celebrate becki in true Renegade style with cheer teams, excellent food, worship, and a fight song tribute performed by current and alumni cheerleaders. Please show your love for becki and BC by wearing red and white. Alumni cheerleaders are encouraged to wear all or part of their uniform.

Proper safety measures will be taken, and attendance will limited. All guests must register at https://bakersfieldcollegeedu.formstack.com/forms/rsvp_for_celebration_of_life_honoring_becki_whitson. Please reach out to Tarina Perry (661) 395-4300 or Heather Pennella (661) 395-4885 for more details or with questions.

Sterling Silver 2021-That's a Wrap

The Bakersfield College Foundation presented the thirteenth annual Sterling Silver event on March 6 as a televised event on KGET/Channel 17. Channel 17 and their talented staff was a wonderful partner on this project. Sterling Silver is the BC Foundation's signature fundraising event, and the virtual format provided the opportunity to share the mission of the BC Foundation with more viewers. We are thankful for our partnership with the Bakersfield College Marketing and Public Relations (MPR) team. Their video and editing talents were critical in helping us pivot to a virtual format!

The support from our sponsors, as well as the BC Foundation Board of Directors was generous and unwavering, and this year's event netted over $41,000 to benefit the Bakersfield College Scholarship Program.

Sterling Silver honored Greg & Mary Bynum (and their business, Bynum, Inc.), as the Corporate Philanthropists of 2021. Patricia Mettler and Margaret "Peggy" Haight were posthumously as the Individual Philanthropists of the year for their contributions to Bakersfield College. The memory of Becki Whitson, beloved friend, colleague, and supporter of BC was celebrated as the year's recipient of the Bakersfield College Foundation's Service Medal.

BC Foundation Welcomes New DAIII

Contributed by Susan Hubbell

The BC Foundation is excited to announce our newest team member Graciela "Gracie" Magallanes. Gracie was raised in Bakersfield and is a proud alum of Bakersfield College, and holds three Associate degrees from BC. She is currently working on her bachelor's degree in liberal studies at CSUB. Gracie started working at Bakersfield College in the HR department as a student and gained additional experience in other jobs within other departments at BC. In July 2019, Gracie became a temp employee for KCCD and served in the District HR department for a while, and then was selected to serve in a temp position with the Foundation at the start of 2020. That temp position was short-lived as the Covid-19 stay-at-home order ended her employment with the BC Foundation.

The Foundation had an open position for a Department Assistant III at the end of 2020, due to the retirement of long-time DAIII Debbie Zuech. Gracie was selected for the position from a very large pool of applicants and began full-time with the BC Foundation in March 2021. Gracie said she applied for the position because "even though I was there for about a month in a half, the team impacted my life where it made me realize my career goals to continue in higher-level education. The Foundation team acts more like a family than just being co-workers, they are always there for each other and support one another." Gracie is very family-oriented and she appreciates the connection at the Foundation, where she said everyone understands each other and, regardless of challenges, they are always there to support the team.

Gracie's goals are to earn a master's degree in counseling because she likes working with students and staff at Bakersfield College and wants to support them in their educational path. She has already become a valued staff member within the Foundation and we are grateful to have her on the team.

Panorama Feature: Your BC Story

In every issue of Panorama we will be highlighting a few of our proud BC alums. You can share "Your Story" at https://www.supportBC.org/tell-us-your-bc-story/

Sally Hill - BC Class of 1966

As a young child in the 1950s, I have fond memories of my Mom and Dad taking me on Sunday drives to watch as the Bakersfield College stadium was under construction. There was such an air of excitement! Subsequently, in middle childhood they would occasionally take me to watch Renegade football whenever their season-ticket-holding friends were unable to attend. The stadium was alive and full of fans in the stands, burley football players knocking heads, and beautiful cheer leaders dancing around gracefully. This is still a vivid memory formed at the age of nine.

Little did I know that I would one day be a not-so-graceful cheer leader dodging the gallant white horse that encircled the track after every touchdown, as my MVP fullback fiancé scampered around the field. We were so in love that we sacrificed scholarships to the Air Force Academy and UC Santa Barbara in order to stay together and attend BC. However, Bakersfield College proved to be a solid foundation for our further educational pursuits.

Following the acquisition of a Master's Degree in Psychology at San Jose State, I applied to teach at San Jose City and Bakersfield College. Thanks to the fact that a current BC Professor landed the job at San Jose City, I was hired by Chancellor Ed Simonson and President Burns Finlinson to teach at BC. What a dream come true! The year was 1969.

At that time many of my high school classmates were returning from Viet Nam, and found themselves in the classroom of a 22-year-old novice instructor, Sally Hill. What a challenging and humorous scenario! Over the course of the next 33 years, the challenges continued with the many changes in the student population In the beginning, students were largely homogeneous and traditional transfer students. As the years progressed, the student population grew quite diverse in ethnicity, background, preparedness, and age. I found these changes to be rewarding.

Similarly, my chosen discipline of psychology changed greatly during this period, becoming less Freudian and behavioral and more humanistic and physiological. I was fortunate to enjoy four sabbatical leaves in order to keep abreast of these changes. UCLA and Cal State Bakersfield became my source of learning.

Currently a member of the BC Alumni Association, it is apparent that Bakersfield College continues to be of great significance in my life. GO GADES!

Sally Hill circa 1975-Photo courtesy of BC Archive

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