Cheryl Scott named BC Foundation Executive Director

The BC Foundation entered its 45th year in search of a new executive director, following Tom Gelder’s retirement in December 2019. The successful candidate, it turns out, is no stranger to Bakersfield College. Cheryl Scott served seven years on the Foundation board of directors, was active in the Measure J effort, and most recently was an appointed representative on the Kern Community College District’s Bond Oversight Committee.

Immediate Past Chair Jeff Bell highlighted Cheryl’s experience with Kern Economic Development Corporation and its 501(c)3 foundation (KEDF) as examples of her leadership experience. Jeff added that her professional background, plus her passion for community service “have uniquely prepared her to make an immediate impact leading the BC Foundation.”

In her role, Cheryl oversees and directs all aspects of the Foundation, including fundraising, operations, management of staff and consultants, and outreach to the community. She will work closely with the Foundation Board of Directors and Bakersfield College President Sonya Christian.
From the Executive Director

My First Bakersfield College Eureka Moment

When I applied for the position of executive director of the BC Foundation, I couldn’t have imagined I would start my new role right in the middle of a pandemic. What an experience it’s been!

As you can imagine, I was looking forward to working on campus, surrounded by the hustle and bustle of our students. While that won’t happen this semester, I did have the chance to connect with one student who was on campus to return her borrowed laptop. She was a young mother with three children under the age of 4, all in a cozy and covered wagon that mom was pulling in the summer heat. Her youngest child was just one month old. This student had just finished her summer classes (eight of them!), and she told me she was ready to get started with her fall classes. Such a great example of perseverance!

I’m sure everyone working at Bakersfield College and has had many “aha moments,” that time when your true purpose for working here became clear. I hope to have many such moments during my time with the BC Foundation, but there’s one thing I know for certain: meeting this particular, dedicated student was my first Eureka moment at Bakersfield College!

After working 15 years working in local economic development, I am honored to join the team at the Bakersfield College Foundation. I look forward to continuing the important work the Foundation has done since 1975. Whether you are a long-time supporter of the college, or someone who’s wondering how you can make a difference in students’ lives, I would love to hear from you. Reach out anytime at (661) 395-4840 or by email at cheryl.scott@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Stay safe and be well,

Cheryl
Mettler Family Provides Significant Gift for Ag Pathways Early College Program

Thanks to Clifford and Patricia Mettler, generous and forward-thinking icons in Kern County agriculture, 120 high school students participating in Bakersfield College’s Agriculture Pathways Early College Program will have access to materials and programming that will allow them to earn associates degrees in agriculture as they complete their high school coursework.

The Mettlers grew up in Kern County and both attended local schools. The BC connection was made when Mrs. Mettler attended Bakersfield College before advancing to the University of Southern California.

The economic and physical landscape of Kern County was greatly impacted by the Mettlers, in large part due to Clifford’s farming operations in the Edison and Mettler areas.

“My Uncle Cliff was a kind and low-key gentleman farmer, and many people may remember my Aunt Pat for her time teaching braille and volunteering in local service organizations,” said their nephew, John McFarland. “They would be blown away to know that they are helping put students on a path toward success at such an early age. The entire family is proud of this gift and to see the fruits of their labor multiplied.”

Later in life, the Mettlers spent much of their time traveling the world, but their commitment to the well-being and future of Kern County was unwavering. The gift from the Mettlers’ estate will fund an endowment that will impact student success well into the future, and the BC Foundation is incredibly grateful.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding legacy giving, please call Heather Pennella at 661-395-4885 or email at heather.pennella@bakersfieldcollege.edu.
We need your help: BC Student Emergency Fund

The COVID-19 crisis is hitting people hard financially, and BC students are no exception. In response, the Bakersfield College Foundation, in collaboration with the Office of Financial Aid, has created the Bakersfield College Student Emergency Fund to help our students weather this difficult time.

These funds will be used to provide support to students in need of help with education-related technology costs; medical and child care expenses; housing; and other needs. The BC Student Emergency Fund will remain in place after the pandemic passes in order to provide relief during future emergency situations.

Please consider making a contribution today. Donations can be made through the BC Foundation website, SupportBC.org and selecting “BC Student Emergency Fund” from the drop down menu. BC faculty and staff may also set up automatic payroll deductions by contacting the BC Foundation at foundation@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Any amount is helpful! Together we can make a difference!

If you are a staff or faculty member of Bakersfield College, and know of a student that is struggling to make ends meet during this time, you may nominate them by contacting Amanda Stone-Scholarship Manager: amanda.stone@bakersfieldcollege.edu.
Honors Celebration 2020

Every spring with the closing of the school year, the Bakersfield College Foundation, in partnership with the Office of Financial Aid, work with donors and campus groups to select scholarship recipients following the application process. The Honors Celebration and the Donor Appreciation Dinner are typically held in late April or early May, but the events had to be canceled this year.

As a result, the Honors Celebration program was published in an online format and can be viewed at, https://www.flipsnack.com/6BED8AFF8D6/2020-honors-celebration-program.html. Through the generosity of our donors, $490,985 in scholarships and awards will be given to 509 students for the 2020/2021 academic year. Thank you to all of the donors that make the Bakersfield College Scholarship program possible, and congratulations to all of the recipients and the Class of 2020!
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/

Bob Meadows-Class of 1975

My life changed dramatically when I arrived at Bakersfield College as a Journalism major in August 1973 after graduating from Boron High School. Bakersfield was a big city to this young desert rat, and the BC campus was a whole new universe. I won a state award as a freshman Renegade Rip sportswriter and became the Editor-in-Chief as a sophomore, all the while learning what a big world there was outside of Boron. Yet it all pales in comparison to the moment my future wife accidentally walked into my dorm room. That was almost 46 years ago, and soon Vicki and I will celebrate our 42nd wedding anniversary. I thank God for directing me to BC. Developing my communication skills there led to a long career in banking and now government. I grew up at BC, I discovered my abilities at BC, I overcame challenges at BC, and I found love at BC. My life's foundation was built at BC and has supported me ever since. Thank you Bakersfield College.

Alex Dominguez-Class of 2015

BC provided me with opportunities I never would have imagined, opportunities and freedom that I know my friends who went away did not receive. If not for BC, I would not be where I am today. It was Professor Steven Holmes and Jack Brigham who introduced me to the wonderful field of political science. It was the students and the administration who trusted me and elected me to my first position to serve and lead their interests as BC Student Government Association (SGA) President. It was BC that provided me with a quality education that I could carry on and transfer to a four-year university and then go on to law school at the University of Mississippi School of Law. I actively encourage high school students to pursue BC. Not only is it the most economical decision, but it is the most effective decision, a decision that will provide you with opportunity and freedom to explore and find what you truly love. . . then, the sky really is the limit. . . or at least a law degree for right now.
Get to know the BC Foundation Team

Cheryl M. Scott
Executive Director
cheryl.scott@bakersfieldcollege.edu
661-395-4840

Heather Pennella
Alumni & Donor Relations Manager
heather.pennella@bakersfieldcollege.edu
661-395-4885

Susan Hubbell
Financial Information Manager
susan.hubbell@bakersfieldcollege.edu
661-395-4929

Courtney Carter
Executive Secretary
courtney.carter@bakersfieldcollege.edu
661-395-4800 (Main office number)

Debbie Zuech
Dept. Asst. III
dzuech@bakersfieldcollege.edu
661-395-4845

SupportBC.org

@BakersfieldCollegeFoundation

https://www.linkedin.com/company/bcfoundation/

1801 Panorama Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93305