

Inmate Scholars Program

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Executive Summary

Bakersfield College continues to have a large underserved population in need of college programs and services. Surrounding facilities have a population of over 20,000 individuals and we have already served 847 unduplicated students. These students are generating about 50 Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES) each semester or 100-120 FTES each year. This is not the end of our effort, but simply a beginning.

We launched an initial pilot of one course and expanded to over 50 course offerings in 2016/17. Bakersfield College has far exceeded the site goals/deliverables as outlined in the grant proposal and want to expand even more. Our successes gained attention of other facilities in the area and we are now operating in eight facilities. We have exceeded 500 students and 1,200 enrollments at eight prisons and 14 yards. The expansion includes Corcoran State Prison and Corcoran Substance Abuse Facility both located outside Bakersfield College's area of operation. This added nine courses to our 2016/17 schedule and increased our enrollments by 226. We are experiencing growth further. Our primary goal was to reach 1,400 unduplicated students and offer 90-100 courses for the three year grant period. We offered 50 courses in 2016/17 and 29 courses are being offered in Spring 2017. We will easily surpass our target in 2017/18 and are preparing for 200-250 course offerings each year. We anticipate we will be operating in 10 facilities by Fall 2017. We are on target to reach over 600 FTES or \$2,800,000.00 in apportionment if our district does not exceed the FTES target. This provides a sustainable level of revenue if we are not forced to reduce or cutback the program because of a change in the economy. Our biggest success had been the rapid implementation of face-to-face college level courses without compromising the quality of Bakersfield College instruction.

The program has been far more successful then we could have imagined. The biggest surprises are the number of requests from students for future opportunities. They are seeking transcript evaluations of other college work, requesting meetings to discuss future plans upon release, and seek information regarding college for their loved ones. It is a great display of knowledge sharing. They share among each other without yard policies and they share what they have learned with those at home.

Bakersfield College remains a solid partner in this effort. Renewing Communities and the Opportunity Institute have been incredible and we are lucky to have such a committed partner. We are fully prepared to continue to expand and grow this program and keep the promise we have made to our students.

Inmate Scholars Program Overview

Bakersfield College serves individuals currently incarcerated in eight California Department of Corrections facilities. Seven of the facilities have an established rotation of Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) courses so students can achieve an Associate Degree for Transfer. One facility has the BC Culinary Arts Certificate. The courses strengthen and align education serves for students currently incarcerated. The goal of the program is to increase the adult participation rate in higher education courses and programs. In turn, students released from prison can complete courses at Bakersfield College or their local educational institution. On the Bakersfield College campus, there is an established club for previously incarcerated students, Free on the Outside (FOTO).

The Inmate Scholars Program has grown over its two years in existence to the largest face-to-face college program in California. The program has experienced exceptionally high success rates. The program has decreased violence in the prisons and students have taken part in additional programming offered inside the institutions.

Bakersfield College Strategic Directions

- Student Learning
- Student Progression and Completion
- Facilities
- Oversight and Accountability
- Leadership and Engagement

Inmate Scholars Program Operates in the Following Institutions

- Kern Valley State Prison
- North Kern State Prison
- Wasco State Prison
- Corcoran State Prison
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Corcoran
- McFarland Female Community Re-Entry Facility
- Delano MCCF
- McFarland MCCF

2016/17 Accomplishments

- Run the largest face-to-face college program in California at the California Department of Corrections (CDCR).
- Increased transfer level course offerings from two prisons to eight prisons.
- Increased course offerings from three prison yards to 16 yards.
- Increased course offerings from eight to 50.
- Grew program from 21 enrollments to 2,128.
- Created the FOTO (Free on the Outside) club on campus for students previously incarcerated and their allies.
- FOTO field trip to Cal Berkeley for previously incarcerated student transfer day.
- Held Japanese Recital and Student Panel at Kern Valley State Prison on B yard.
- Held first fire brigade courses at CDCR with students enrolled in college courses consisting of both inmates and guards.

- Serve as a liaison to re-entry facilities and Bakersfield College.
- Increased level of matriculation assistance at Lerdo Jail.
- Run the only college Culinary Certificate Program in California.
- Secured grant funding for coming year and hired two staff members.
- Organized partnership between Bakersfield College and Project Rebound and taking CSUB representatives inside of prison institutions to meet with BC students.
- Held opportunity for community members and elected officials to meet with students currently incarcerated.
- Streamlined many processes within Bakersfield College and CDCR for more efficient enrollment.
- Spoke at the following conferences:
 - Seventh Annual Conference for High Education in Prison
 - Cuesta College Conference
 - CDCR Advisory
- Student success in the Inmate Scholars Program exceeded BC's overall success. See chart below.

Courses	Fall 2016 BC Overall Success	Fall 2016 Inmate Scholar Success
COMM B1: Public Speaking	72.10%	77.10%
COMM B5: Rhetoric and Argumentation	77.50%	81.00%
ENGL B1A: Expository Composition	59.80%	95.70%
JAPN B1: Elementary Japanese I	59.20%	91.20%
PHIL B37: Introduction/World Religions	86.10%	90.20%
POLS B1: Amer Government/Natl,St,Local	58.80%	68.00%
Total Transfer	63.60%	80.30%

2017/18 Outlook

Prison Enrollment:

During 2016/17, the program served eight prisons and correctional facilities. In year two, we plan to further expand into two additional facilities to a total of 10. The program will expand from 16 yards to 20 yards.

Students at each site will be offered courses in the University of California Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) pattern (except McFarland Female Re-Entry Facility, Culinary Arts Certificate). Students will have the opportunity to take 1-3 courses each semester. The Inmate Scholars Program will

continue to expand and enroll additional students on each yard. During 2017/18, Bakersfield College will increase student enrollment as follows:

- 2016/17 – Unduplicated 795 / Duplicated 1,188
- 2017/18 – Unduplicated 1,000 / Duplicated 2,700

CDCR Events:

The Inmate Scholars Program administration and faculty have partnered with CDCR to speak at graduation ceremonies and events onsite at the prisons. This will be further expanded during 2017/18. Bakersfield College will also hold small student events onsite. For example, during summer 2017, students in the Japanese course will hold a recital singing in Japanese and members of the college and community will be invited. Events of this type will take place similarly to events held on the Bakersfield College campus.

Campus Club:

Bakersfield College has a club on campus for students previously incarcerated and their allies; “Free on the Outside.” The club was founded in 2016/17. During 2017/18, the club will have a minimum of 2 events on campus during the school year and will be engaged in volunteer activities in the community. The club will focus on strengthening and aligning needs and services for those previously incarcerated to foster success and leadership in its members.

2016/17, Free on the Outside partnered with the Criminal Justice Club for events and to share experiences with one another. During 2017/18, this partnership will be further expanded. Guest speakers, student panels, and events planned will include both clubs working in conjunction with one another.

Fire Brigade Courses:

During 2017/18, the Inmate Scholars Program will expand to offer college courses to the Fire Brigade at Wasco State Prison. The courses offered will include CPR, EMR, Life Support for Health Care Advisors, and other courses necessary for placement on the fire brigade. Students will include both staff of Wasco State Prison and people currently incarcerated at the institution. All students will be enrolled in courses together.

Re-Entry Facilities:

There are numerous re-entry facilities within the Bakersfield College District. The Inmate Scholars Program has partnered with these facilities to assist with Bakersfield College outreach, enrollment, and matriculation services. The Program Manager visited these sites in 2016/17. During 2017/18, the Program Manager will commit to visiting the partner sites at minimum twice a year to assist potential students and current students with attending Bakersfield College.

Jail:

During 2016/17, Bakersfield College offered matriculation services at Lerdo Jail. During year two, the matriculation services will be offered again. The jail has committed to

identifying a time to offer student development courses to people currently incarcerated. Bakersfield College is committed to offering these courses in addition to the matriculation services currently being provided.

Spring 2015	Fall 2017	Projected Fall 2018
1 Transferable Course	12 Transferable	20 Transferable
	10 CTE or Basic Skills Courses	15 CTE or Basic Skills Courses
1 Course Section	32 Course Sections	50 Course Sections
1 Location	8 Locations	10 Locations
1 Yard	17 Yards	23 Yards
21 Students	691 Students	1,000 Students
21 Enrollments	965 Enrollments	1,800 Enrollments