December 10, 2014

Chancellor Brice Harris
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street, Suite 4554
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris,

We are writing in regards to Bakersfield College’s application to award Baccalaureate of Applied Science (BAS) Degrees in Industrial Automation, in accordance with SB 850 which authorized the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Pilot Program.

Striving toward its mission statement, Bakersfield College would like to pursue the opportunity to award baccalaureate degrees to their students. The ability to offer baccalaureate degrees would allow the college to provide accessible, high-quality, and relevant instruction that prepares students for success in their future education and employment goals.

We believe it is important to provide students with the educational opportunities that allow them to achieve their goals and become successful and active members of our community. It is our understanding that a four-year degree program in the fields of technical management, industrial safety, quality assurance, and other related industry positions, will better prepare Kern County students to enter the workforce. Given that local four-year public universities do not offer Bachelor’s Degrees in Industrial Automation, allowing Bakersfield College to offer Baccalaureate Degrees will ensure Kern County students are able to meet the needs and requirements for employment in the Industrial Automation field.

Access to high-quality higher education is essential to a community’s prosperity. Please give full consideration to Bakersfield College’s application for participation in the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Pilot Program.

Sincerely,

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress