



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Brings New Tradition to CSUB

Each year our campus community joins the larger Bakersfield community at a breakfast in central Bakersfield on the Monday holiday observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. This year, we added a new campus tradition. Students organized a 6:45a.m. MLK Unity Kick-Off Breakfast held the Friday before the day of service weekend. The inaugural Unity Breakfast welcomed a capacity crowd of students, faculty, staff, and administrators in Student Housing East to hear keynote speaker **Morgan Clayton**, President of Tel-Tec Security and immediate past President of the CSUB Foundation Board. **Claudia Catota, J.D.**, Assistant to the President for Equity, Inclusion, and Compliance, received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Award for promoting unity, civility, inclusion, and diversity on the CSUB campus. The event was co-sponsored by the African American Student Union (AASU), Campus Programming, and Aramark. Please join me in thanking our students for introducing a new campus tradition: **Erica Carcamo**, President of AASU, **Mike Kwon**, President of Associated Students, Inc., **Micheal Ogundare**, President of Black Men on Campus, and **Lea Molina** of Campus Programming.



Campus Inclusivity

In light of recent events that have occurred on college and university campuses across the country in response to ongoing frustrations among students and others regarding racial discrimination and unfair treatment, I sent a [memorandum](#) to the campus community earlier this month reiterating CSUB's commitment to inclusive excellence and equity. I am providing here a link to my correspondence, which also includes campus initiatives and resources to strengthen our commitment.

It's on Us: Sexual Assault Awareness

Last night, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) launched the White House's "It's On Us" awareness and education campaign to end sexual assault on college campuses with a screening of the documentary "The Hunting Ground." The initiative encourages personal commitment to create a safe campus community and environment where sexual assault is not accepted and victims are aware of and receive supportive services. ASI also created a [video](#) to raise awareness and express the commitment. The event was co-sponsored by ASI, Club Gen, the University Police Department, Title IX Office, and Human Resources. In conjunction, our monthly noon Brown Bag Luncheon series featured Kern County District Attorney **Lisa Green**, along with Supervising Deputy District Attorney **Melissa Allen**, who spoke about stalking. For more information on rights, responsibilities, services, and resources, please visit the [Title IX](#) webpage or contact **Claudia Catota, JD**, Assistant to the President for Equity, Inclusion, and Compliance at 654-2241 or via email at ccatota@csub.edu.



Center for Social Justice Receives \$249,956 Grant

The Center for Social Justice received an 18-month \$249,956 grant from The California Endowment (TCE) to address two TCE initiatives, Boys and Men of Color and Health4All. The Center launched last April as a collaboration with Bakersfield College to identify community-based participatory research projects that could provide data to help the improve quality of life and life outcomes for at-risk and vulnerable populations. The grant will fund research aimed to improve health equity and school climate for boys and young men of color in South Kern County; heighten Kern county decision-makers' awareness of the school-to-prison pipeline for boys and young men of color; and provide leadership training to community action teams to advocate for and affect policy change in healthcare and education for this population. Co-directors of the Center for Social Justice are **Dr. Mark Martinez**, Department Chair and Professor of Political Science, and **Dr. Bruce Friedman**, Professor of Social Work. Bruce also is co-editor of the recently published book, *Public Health, Social Work and Health Inequalities*, a collection of fifteen studies and policy reviews that explore the role of social work in positive change.



Arts and Humanities Receives \$98,284 NEH Grant for Ethnic Studies

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the School of Arts and Humanities a \$98,284 grant for faculty to develop an interdisciplinary bachelor of arts in ethnic studies. The 18-month collaborative project will focus on the Hispanic, Muslim, and Basque communities of Kern



County. Congratulations to project co-directors **Dr. Liora Gubkin**, Associate Dean of the School of Arts & Humanities, and **Dr. Dustin Knepp**, Chair of Modern Languages and Literatures and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Ethics Bowl Team Wins Regionals and Prepares for National Championship



In their first entry into the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, our team swept the competition and took first place at the California regional competition held at San Jose State in December. Each fall, the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics hosts ten regional competitions among undergraduates from colleges and universities across the country. Teams defend their moral assessments of contemporary ethical issues across multiple disciplines. This year's prepared cases included issues of water rights, artificial reproductive technology, and the use of racially charged words. Headed to the national championship in Virginia at the end of February are philosophy majors **Erin Barker** and **Travis Rosenlieb**; physics and mathematics double-major **Josh Lofy**; and philosophy and political science double-major **Pedro Naveiros**. Congratulations to the team and their faculty mentor **Dr. Debra Jackson**, Associate Professor of Philosophy. Funding for this opportunity was provided by a generous gift from **Gene Voiland**, former president and CEO of Aera Energy and current principal of Voiland Enterprises, as well as support from the Kegley Institute of Ethics, the Office of the Dean of Arts and Humanities, and an Instructional Innovation grant from the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center.

CSUB Chapter of Alpha Chi Receives Star Chapter Recognition



Our Iota chapter of Alpha Chi, the National College Honor Scholarship Society, has been named a Star Chapter for 2014-15, a recognition achieved by fewer than one-fifth of the chapters across the nation. Alpha Chi is a national, all-university honor society. The designation recognizes the promotion of academic excellence, scholarship, and exemplary character. Please join me in giving a well-deserved round of applause to our 1465 student members of Alpha Chi and their campus sponsor, **Dr. Jacquelyn Kegley**, Professor and Department Chair of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Students Visit CSUB from Bucheon City, Korea



Last August, eight Bakersfield students traveled as Youth Ambassadors to Bucheon City, Korea, a Bakersfield Sister City, to participate in the International Youth Home Stay Program. During the week of December 29-January 5, seven students from Bucheon City and their chaperone visited Bakersfield and stayed with host families. We were pleased to welcome both groups of students to tour the CSUB campus as part of the international cultural exchange program. **Dr. Eun-Ja Kim Park**, Professor Emerita of Special Education, and her husband, **Young Park**, serve on the Bakersfield Sister City board, chaired by **Mayor Harvey Hall**, and volunteer as chaperones for the visits. The Parks also are key organizers of the Bakersfield Korean Festival held each October.

President's Cabinet Visits Antelope Valley Center

Members of the President's Cabinet and I visited our Antelope Valley Center last Monday where we spent the day with faculty, staff, students, our colleagues at Antelope Valley College, and members of the community, including our K-12 partners, the Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance, and Edwards Air Force Base. All constituents expressed the difference CSUB makes in providing access to a four-year degree in the Antelope Valley and the desire for certain master's degree programs to facilitate career advancement. I also had the opportunity to guest lecture in **Dr. Allison Evans's** Psychology of Diversity course. We extend special thanks to Antelope Valley College Superintendent and President **Ed Knudson** and his Executive Council; **Dr. Randy Schultz**, Interim Dean of the Antelope Valley Center; and **Leanna Vendro**, Administrative Support Coordinator.

Upcoming Events

Whether you are looking for academic, alumni, arts & culture, campus life, community, sports, or a calendar of highlight events, find them on [RunnerCal](#). Access the calendar from our website by clicking the "Events" link at the bottom of the home page.

University Council

University Council is an open forum for members of the campus community to voice concerns or make suggestions for continued improvement. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend. The next meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 19, 2016 in the Albertson Room.

I look forward to seeing you around campus or at an upcoming University or community event. Take care.


Horace Mitchell
President