



CSU Bakersfield

## NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **CSUB Kern Rural Teacher Residency's Camp BLAST! Ignites STEM Curiosity for Young Learners**

**June 1, 2017** — Beginning June 12, more than 400 adventurous Kern County elementary and middle school students and 54 of their teachers will launch into lessons in science technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at California State University, Bakersfield's (CSUB's) Camp BLAST!

The summer camp is a collaboration among CSUB's Department of Teacher Education and the Lamont Elementary School District, Semitropic Elementary School District, and Buttonwillow Union School District.

The program was created to serve school districts and students in rural communities. It is designed to ignite students' curiosity in STEM topics; train teachers in an engaging, interactive STEM curriculum; and broaden teachers' experience in STEM topics.

As a capstone project for completing the Kern Rural Teacher Residency program, residents are guided to develop and train on all STEM curriculum being used in Camp BLAST! They will co-teach alongside the new cohort of Kern Rural Teacher Residents who began their credential program coursework this summer.

Camp BLAST! continues through July 6. Student demonstrations and maker-space tours will take place at Family Nights at the following locations:

- Myrtle Avenue School, 10421 Myrtle Avenue, Lamont, on Thursday, June 29, at 6 p.m.
- Buttonwillow Elementary School, 42600 CA-58, Buttonwillow, on Tuesday, June 27, at 6 p.m.

Media are welcome to attend either session.

The final camp days will be held at CSUB on July 5 and 6.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for families to experience the learning process as well as the student engineering that is taking place daily in camp. Students are so proud of their accomplishments and new STEM knowledge,” said Anaya Lee, CSUB lecturer and Buttonwillow Camp Director.

Camp BLAST! began in 2010 and has grown each year. Today, more than 550 students in fourth through seventh grades participate in the STEM program.

“Each year we look forward to providing the opportunity to not only teach the students in our rural partner school districts, but to provide each of our candidates impactful first experiences into their future profession,” said CSUB Lecturer and Lamont Camp Director Jesus Esquibel. “It is our hope to develop a model for future STEM instruction in a summer school setting.

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### **About CSUB**

California State University, Bakersfield is a comprehensive public university committed to offering excellent undergraduate and graduate programs that advance the intellectual and personal development of its students. An emphasis on student learning is enhanced by a commitment to scholarship, diversity, service, global awareness and life-long learning. The University collaborates with partners in the community to increase the region’s overall educational attainment, enhance its quality of life, and support its economic development. The University was founded in 1965 and opened for classes in fall, 1970. Its vision is to be the leading campus in the CSU system in terms of faculty and academic excellence and diversity, quality of the student experience and community engagement. The University’s faculty is world-class, with nearly 75% holding the highest degrees in their respective fields.

The University serves more than 10,000 students between the main campus in Bakersfield and CSUB - Antelope Valley and counts approximately 47,000 alumni from its four schools: Arts and Humanities; Business and Public Administration; Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering; and Social Sciences and Education. The University offers undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate and credential programs, and a doctoral in Educational Leadership Program (Ed.D). CSUB's Extended University serves the community by offering additional professional development, certificate, and degree programs.

For more information about CSUB, please visit [www.csub.edu](http://www.csub.edu).