MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD
AND
KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

CSU Bakersfield-Kern High School District
University Promise

The University Promise
We promise every student graduating from the Kern High School District the opportunity to attend California State University, Bakersfield and earn a college degree in a timely manner.

Primary Objective of the CSU Bakersfield-Kern High School District University Promise
Through institutional collaboration, system alignment, structured pathways, targeted outreach, data sharing, and elimination of barriers, all students graduating from the Kern High School District will have the opportunity to attend CSU Bakersfield and earn a college degree within four years, ultimately benefiting the local, state, and national workforce and economy.

Both partners have committed to provide strategies for all students that will support college- and career-readiness. Together, the two institutions are entering into an agreement to further develop and/or enhance specific actions to help attain the aforementioned goals.

The partners believe that a comprehensive model that provides direct support services to high-need students, along with professional development for teachers who have a direct impact on high-need students and a guaranteed admission program will result in an increase in college- and career-ready students in Kern County.

Guiding Principles

- **Universal Participation**
  All students will be beneficiaries of the University Promise regardless of race, gender, and/or socioeconomic status. Since the goal is to raise higher education attendance and attainment rates for students from the KHSD, all incoming 9th grade students will be provided an admission guarantee into CSUB upon meeting the requirements laid out within the guarantee.

- **Institutional Commitment and Collaboration**
  The foundational principle of this University Promise is the commitment of both institutions to engage in frequent and long-term collaboration to improve college attainment rates in the local region. Specifically, the institutions agree to be partners in the following areas:
Data Sharing
Creating longitudinal data sets across K-12 and CSU Bakersfield will be vital for the success of this University Promise. Access to longitudinal data will allow the partners to have a better understanding of students’ academic progress moving through the K-12 to higher education “pipeline” and to develop the necessary interventions to strengthen the pipeline.

Professional Development and Curriculum Alignment
Participation of faculty and key educational leaders from both institutions is extremely important to ensure student success in completing college. The partners commit to joint professional development activities that improve coordination, curriculum alignment, and build trust among the faculty, staff, and administrators within the two institutions.

Eliminating Barriers
The partners commit to identifying and eliminating barriers that exist, if any, within the K-12 to higher education pipeline. Examples include streamlining admissions requirements, addressing remedial education, and expanding dual-enrollment course availability.

Goals of the University Promise
CSU Bakersfield and Kern High School District are committed to the overall goal of increasing access to higher education and degree completion within the local region. Specifically, the University Promise aims to achieve the following goals:

- Promoting college awareness and access prior to 9th grade.
- Increasing the number of students taking A-G courses in high school.
- Increasing the number of students graduating from high school ready for college-level math and English.
- Increasing the number of students applying to and enrolling at CSU Bakersfield.
- Increasing the number of students completing their degree at CSU Bakersfield in a timely manner.
- Involving parents and community members to be a part of the University Promise to increase access to higher education and college degree completion.

SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS FROM EACH PARTNER INCLUDE:

CSU Bakersfield

- Provide an admissions guarantee certificate to every incoming 9th grader in the Kern High School District. The certificate will indicate clearly that upon completion of the specified requirements, the student will be guaranteed admission to CSU Bakersfield.
- Work with KHSD to implement an intentional and strategic outreach/recruitment plan that provides services to all KHSD students at all school sites.
• Provide a seamless pipeline and personalized transition from high school to college for all KHSD students.
• Provide support services, through institutional funds or grant funded programs, at all KHSD school sites.
• Offer dual enrollment opportunities to students in core subjects, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
• Provide students with resources to assist them in preparing for the Early Assessment Program (EAP) and provide support to students in selecting appropriate courses in their 4\textsuperscript{th} year of high school that will ensure their college readiness.
• Provide opportunities for collaboration with teachers in curriculum development through workshops including Expository Reading and Writing, the Reading Institute for Academic Preparation, and the math professional development program.
• Provide feedback to the KHSD staff in order to further refine the project and promote the preparation of future students.

Kern High School District

• Commit to have all eligible juniors be prepared to take and succeed on the EAP portion of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CASPP) test. Further, the district commits to encouraging the students release their scores to the California State University (CSU) and the California Community Colleges (CCC).
• Encourage all incoming freshmen to enroll in the A-G course pattern.
• Offer and encourage all eligible seniors to take the Expository Reading and Writing Course.
• Identify incoming ninth grade at-risk students and provide information about these students to CSUB.
• Encourage all eligible seniors to take a 4\textsuperscript{th} year of mathematics that meets CSUB admissions requirements.
• Provide access to appropriate facilities in order for CSUB to carry out the aforementioned activities.
• Develop a plan with each school-site to implement the actions of the promise.
• Allow opportunities for teachers, counselors, and administrators to participate in professional development workshops.

Joint Commitment

The partners in this MOU further commit to work collaboratively to garner additional public and private funding to advance the increase in the number of college- and career-ready students in Kern County.

Modifications

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified upon a written agreement signed by all partners involved.
Duration/Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be in effect upon signature of the relevant parties. The MOU will be reviewed annually and may be extended upon agreement of all partners involved. In order to terminate this MOU, a one-year notice is required from the respective partner.

Signed on the 29th day of March, 2017 by:

Horace Mitchell, Ph.D.
President, CSU Bakersfield

Bryon Schaefer, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Kern High School District