



# CSU Bakersfield

## Monthly CAMPUS UPDATE

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The year **2014** will be one of monumental change for CSUB; one that will redefine and reposition our University for higher levels of institutional excellence and teaching and learning outcomes. As a university for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, our ability to recognize shifts, adapt, and change is no longer a luxury, but a necessity in an environment of rapid change. During this time of transformation, we are embracing our bold vision, innovating, and reexamining models, methods, policies, and procedures that have served us to this point, and are restructuring with high-impact best practices.

### State of the CSU Address

In his inaugural State of the CSU address delivered Wednesday at the Board of Trustees meeting in Long Beach, Chancellor Timothy White committed an additional \$50 million to facilitate student achievement and degree completion. The allocation will be invested in seven priority areas: 1) hiring more tenure-track faculty; 2) enhancing student advising; 3) finding innovative solutions to bottleneck courses; 4) investing in first-year student readiness and expanding Early Start; 5) accelerating the implementation of high-impact practices that advance student achievement, including undergraduate applied research, service learning, internships, and study abroad; 6) expanding data collection and data-driven decision-making that improves program quality and implements programs that advance student success; and 7) bolstering transfer degree completion. These initiatives align with the priorities of our K-12, community college, and University of California educational partners and advance the CSU toward helping provide the one million more college graduates the California economy needs by 2025 to meet the state's workforce needs. You

may access his complete address at the following link:

<http://www.calstate.edu/stateofcsu/address.shtml>

### Quarter-to-Semester Open Forum

We began the winter term with an exceptional campus-wide Quarter-to-Semester (Q2S) Open Forum for faculty and staff with plans for a similar student forum. Faculty and staff gathered in the Doré Theatre to discuss the semester conversion process and redesign of our general education program. **Craig Kelsey**, Semester Conversion Project Director, facilitated the Q2S segment which featured examples of transition and transformation activities from each of the four schools, highlighted below. Please join me in acknowledging **Ray Finnell**, **Frank Robinson**, **Robert Mitchell**, and **Tina Giblin** for their behind-the-scenes work to present the forum.

### Quarter to Semester

The History Department is transforming the curriculum within the context of changes in the discipline, faculty composition, student needs and demands, and pedagogy. **Jeanne Harrie**, Professor and Chair of History, outlined how emphasis in the discipline has shifted from national histories and strict chronologies to trans-regional, broad-themed, cross-disciplinary studies and applied history. New areas of university faculty expertise have opened up the study of the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe and their connections to Islam. Students have a growing interest in applied history such as public history, cultural resource and archival management, and the histories of areas of strategic U.S. interest. In

teaching, digital history is of increasing importance, as is service learning, including internships and strategies to connect the major to the career. Against this backdrop, the history curriculum is being restructured dramatically to shift from a focus on western civilization to world history and world regions, adding a required course on the historian's craft, as well as an internship or applied learning component.

Students in our excellent nursing program have a 97% passage rate on the state nursing board examination, one of the highest percentages in the state. **Debbie Boschini**, Chair of the Nursing Department, shared how faculty are reflecting to ensure they are effectively employing best practices to maintain that excellence and improve student learning while continuing to balance degree requirements and professional nursing expectations.

The Department of Teacher Education is working to prepare teachers for the K-12 Common Core State Standards. **Kristina LaGue** reviewed how the program is integrating Common Core modules into the teacher education coursework. High impact practices to be employed include preparing teachers to analyze student data in the Smarter Balanced Assessment framework; increasing field hours; using a co-teaching model; consulting with community partners regarding coursework and fieldwork; and better aligning with local needs.

Public Policy and Administration is undertaking course conversion and curriculum transformation in undergraduate and masters programs. **Steven Daniels** outlined proposed new concentrations in nonprofit management, criminal justice, political science, and healthcare, specializations in criminal justice and political science, and 4+ 1 programs in art, theater, and music that focus on nonprofit management.

### **General Education Redesign**

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**John Tarjan** facilitated the General Education segment of the Q2S forum which featured a review

of the structure and governance of the General Education program by **Liora Gubkin** and **Charles Lam**, respectively, and a robust Q&A moderated by **Carl Kemnitz**. Our faculty literally are rewriting the scripts of our academic programs to improve teaching and learning. Erasing traditional boundaries, they are taking new, cross-disciplinary approaches to redesign and transform general education courses. Spearheading this undertaking is the General Education Implementation Committee, whose charge is to propose a new, coherent, integrative, learning-focused GE program that reflects the central role of the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences within 48 semester units. Committee members are: **Vandana Kohli**, **Charles Lam**, **Huaqing Wang**, **Jeff Moffit**, **Sandra Bozarth**, **John Tarjan**, **Emerson Case**, **Liora Gubkin**, **Kelly O'Bannon**, and **Carl Kemnitz**.

In addition, **Carl Kemnitz**, **Andreas Gebauer**, **Kathy Szick**, and **John Stark** facilitated a faculty Winter Assessment Institute. More than 40 of our faculty from across schools worked during winter break at the institute to explore the redesign process, organizational structures, instructional approaches, and highly effective practices. Their goal is to craft communities of learning that respond to the needs of all students.

### **CSU Task Force on Ethnic Studies Programs**

At Chancellor White's request, I will lead a systemwide task force to explore the portfolio of ethnic studies programs throughout the CSU. The three-fold purpose of the task force is to: 1) provide an overview of the origins and histories of the CSU programs within a national context; 2) identify faculty and student trends over the past 8-10 years; and 3) propose systemwide recommendations for our portfolio that are responsive to the CSU's mission, the needs of our students, and society in general, while maintaining quality and inclusive excellence. Members of the task force have been appointed by the Chancellor and are comprised of faculty, students, the academic senate, campus presidents, provosts, and

student affairs vice presidents. The committee will be staffed by the Chancellor's Office.

The work of the task force began today with our inaugural meeting and will be a major undertaking conducted in two phases. In phase one, we will explore the universe of issues and narrow the committee's charge to an actionable focus for review by campus presidents, the statewide academic senate, and Chancellor's Office leadership. In the second phase, the task force will carry out the charge and develop recommendations by the end of May for input from interested parties. We will submit a final report this Fall. I will keep you informed as the work progresses.



### **Sony Electronics Faculty Award**

**Phyllis Heintz** has been selected from among several outstanding applicants as the recipient of the Sony Electronics Faculty Award for Innovative Teaching and Technology. This award recognizes CSU's early career faculty for their current and potential innovation use of technology in delivering quality instruction. She was selected for her innovative approach in combining online instruction and traditional teaching, applying multiple features of the Learning Management System to provide an engaging student learning environment. Her professional development includes her engagement with campus online quality assurance initiatives. The Sony Electronics Award includes a VAIO computer, Bravia LCD TV, Sony Reader, and Webbie camera. Sony Electronics has committed to provide an award package of equipment each year for the next five years and to refresh the equipment allocation over the term of the agreement. We give Phyllis a well-deserved round of applause.

### **Academic Affairs Administrative Appointments**

Please join **Provost Soraya Coley** and me in welcoming to CSUB the following Academic Affairs administrators selected by university search committees.

**David Schecter** arrived this month to serve as our new Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs. He comes to us after having been on the faculty at Fresno State since 2001. While there, he served in many capacities including Department Chair, Faculty Athletics Representative, and member of the campus-wide WASC Accreditation Committee. He earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Florida, an M.S. in Political Science from Florida State University, and an M.B.A. from Fresno State. He is an accomplished faculty member with peer reviewed publications and professional presentations on California politics. He has also served as a political analyst for the local, regional and national media outlets. We thank **Michael Suess** for his service as Interim Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs following the retirement of **Beth Rienzi**.

Effective immediately, **Vandana Kohli** will serve as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies in the Office of Academic Programs headed by **Carl Kemnitz**. Vandana has more than 20 years' experience in the CSU system. She served for eight years as chair and coordinator of three different programs at two CSU campuses; four years as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Academic Senate; and almost six years as Sociology Graduate Program Coordinator. In Fall 2012, she became the Assessment Coordinator for the School of Social Sciences and Education, and the Director of the Graduate Student Center and the Title V (part B) grant for graduate education.

We thank and appreciate **Craig Kelsey** for his outstanding service as the Dean of Extended University. Since joining CSUB in 2006, he has increased university-regional partnerships, and provided varied community programming. As I announced on University Day, he is stepping down from the EUD role and will assume a dual appointment as the Interim Associate Vice President for the Antelope Valley Center and Project Director of the Semester Conversion Initiative.

While the search is underway for a Dean of Extended University, **Randy Schultz** will serve in the interim position. He has been at CSUB for the past eleven years as a faculty member in Teacher Education. He served as a coordinator for the Elementary Education program in Antelope Valley. He also directs the Teacher Quality Partnership Program (TQP), a \$12 million, five-year federal program through the US Department of Education.

## **Upcoming Events**

Please review the array of campus events at RunnerCal: <http://www.csub.edu/calendar/>.

## **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 of the University Council is scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Albertson Room.

Keep up the diligent work on our campus transformation. I look forward to seeing you around campus or at an upcoming University or community event. Take care.



Horace Mitchell  
President