

KERNTAX MAKING A DIFFERENCE: KHSD/BC DUAL ENROLLMENT, PUTTING TOGETHER A PARTNERSHIP

THE SITUATION

In April 2015, the County had received \$450,000 from a solar energy farm for “farmworker displacement training” in the Fifth Supervisorial District. County officials needed advice regarding the best way to utilize the funds to retrain these workers.

KERNTAX'S RESPONSE

The answer was simple: Bakersfield College. BC has a variety of academic programs, workforce training, and certificate programs. KernTax Director Michael Turnipseed facilitated a meeting between County officials and the President of Bakersfield College.

The results were impressive. The County of Kern, Bakersfield College (KCCD) and Arvin High School (KHSD) partnered with KernTax to launch the revolutionary “1+1+2=Game Changer” program. The visionary public-private initiative crafted attainable, economically efficient pathways for student success, capable of shepherding motivated 13 and 14-year-old Arvin High students through high school and higher education. This ultimately injected them directly into the Arvin/Kern County job market as highly-skilled, degree-carrying adults ready to service the area’s overwhelming need for qualified employees in multiple industries. The 1+1+2=Game Changer program also introduces a host of dual-enrollment college-level career technical courses on the Arvin High School campus, an unprecedented first for Kern County.

Each year, the Kern Council of Governments recognizes excellence in delivering cooperative, community-based improvement services and programs to the people of Kern County. Supervisor Leticia Perez, the County of Kern; Dr. Sonya Christian, Bakersfield College and Dr. Bryon Schaefer, Kern High School District received the 2015 Regional Merit Award for “1+1+2=Game Changer” program.



THE RESULTS

The KHSD opened its Dual Enrollment partnership with BC during the 2015-16 school year, conducting 45 different courses for which high school students received both high school and college credit. More than 670 KHSD students received college credit through dual enrollment during its first year in existence. With the KHSD’s commitment to increasing opportunities and college attainment for students, the 2016-17 year proved to show dramatic gains with 2,643 KHSD students earning college credit through the dual enrollment program and 23 different KHSD schools offering dual enrollment courses. A large part of this growth is attributed to the dedication of Arvin High School and their focus on student achievement.

Coupled with Arvin High School's commitment to their students and 1+1+2=Game Changer program, 646 students received college credit through BC in just two short years. Through the 1+1+2=Game Changer program, Arvin High School transformed a traditional classroom into an interactive classroom with technology that allows students to participate in classes from other locations. This allows Arvin High School the ability to increase the amount and type of courses offered on their campus. 1+1+2=Game Changer has assisted Arvin High School in being a dual enrollment leader within the KHSD, while increasing and improving opportunities for Arvin students and the Arvin community.