



# GI 2025 UPDATE



## CSU, Bakersfield Graduation Initiative Activities Report for 2019-2020

In 2015, the California State University (CSU) launched Graduation Initiative 2025, its ambitious plan to increase graduation rates, eliminate equity gaps in degree completion and meet California's workforce needs. As an active participant in the initiative, CSU Bakersfield has worked diligently to work towards meeting our 2025 targets. While we are proud of the progress we have made, there is still much to do. Now more than ever, Graduation Initiative 2025 stands as the CSU's guiding beacon as we work to eliminate equity gaps and help more students earn a high-quality degree in preparation for a lifetime of achievement. This report details some of the tactics deployed during the past academic year to support student success during these challenging times.

### Academic Preparation



Faculty leaders from the English and Mathematics Departments revised the Early Start program for incoming freshman consisting of two new baccalaureate courses: ENGL 1000, Reading for College Success and MATH 1000, Quantitative Reasoning Experiences. During Summer 2019, a total of 59 students completed ENGL 1000 and 205 students completed MATH 1000. Additionally, CSUB began a partnership with the University of Texas at Austin Charles A. Dana Center to advance our efforts related to EO 1110. Following a day-long campus visit with Dana Center representative, Joan Zoellner, a number of recommendations were identified to further improve student outcomes. These recommendations are being implemented during AY 2020-21.

### Enrollment Management



Leaders in Enrollment Management and Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment have developed new enrollment dashboards to provide user-friendly real-time infographic data for Fall 2020 registration. These dashboards and narrative reports are now regularly shared with campus stakeholders, including Department Chairs and Student Services personnel, to adequately prepare for course sections and services for both incoming and continuing students.

### Student Engagement and Well-Being



The newly opened CSUB Dreamers Resource Center provides programs and services in support of the recruitment, enrichment, inclusion, retention, and student experiences of undocumented and immigrant students.

Over 800 undergraduate students at CSUB participated in the national wellbeing assessment survey. This assessment tool is designed to help university offices and staff develop targeted, effective, and evidence-informed programming to support student wellbeing.



The Office of the Chancellor awarded CSUB \$562,000 to support emergency housing for students experiencing homelessness or catastrophic circumstances; the building and operation of a demonstration kitchen; health promotion and wellness resources; mental health and physical health direct services to students; and food pantry use outreach.

California Governor Newsom awarded CSUB \$125,000 in funding to enhance the Counseling Center's media and audio presence, to host a one-day conference focused on preparing counselors, faculty, staff, and administrators to support the mental health needs of students, for infrastructure updates to counseling center facilities, and to develop a mobile application for students to access to stress management tools.

### Financial Support



To assist students with on-time graduation, \$51,186 was dispersed through Runner Completion Grants. This program covered full tuition fees for 37 students so that they could complete their final term and graduate on time. To support students residing on campus, Future Scholars Awards dispersed \$39,799 to 41 students and Supplemental State University Grants awarded \$180,664 to 261 students. In addition, the campus received approximately 10 petitions from students requesting one additional term of State University Grant (SUG) funding after having reached the maximum unit limit, amounting in \$28,710 in awards.



Dr. Elaine Correa, Chair of the Department of Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (CAFS), and Walter Stiern librarian Sandra Bozarth were awarded \$25,000 by the Chancellor's Office to create a "Z-Degree," an entire degree (general education and program courses) with zero course cost materials.

To assist students with the transition to virtual learning in Spring 2020, CSUB's Information Technology Services (ITS) department distributed 334 Chromebooks and 116 Hotspots to students.

### Data-Informed Decision-Making



A seven-person team of faculty and administrators participated in the CSU Certificate Program in Student Success Analytics. Participants not only develop advanced data literacy skills to glean insights on their respective campuses, they also engage in hands-on data action projects to help bring these insights into practice. The CSU Bakersfield team's project, "Using Data to Identify Strategic Interventions for High DWF Rate Courses," focuses on CSUB's highest DWF rates, disaggregates the data to understand which student populations are underserved, and makes recommendations based on best practices for improving student course success rates and closing equity gaps.

### Administrative Barriers



The newly established Administrative Barriers Committee, consisting of academic advisors and a currently enrolled CSUB student, identifies and addresses administrative processes and practices that impede students' success. This committee is (1) developing a Student Services Directory to quickly and effectively direct students to specific support personnel needed; (2) monitoring how information is communicated in MyCSUB; and (3) collaborating with Financial Services to revise payment plans and financial holds for students. As an example of the latter, the financial threshold to initiate a student hold was significantly reduced and all registration holds were temporary eliminated to allow students to register for the Fall 2020 semester.