

# Bakersfield College Plant Science Advisory Meeting

Date: November 23, 2021

Location: Zoom

## Members Present:

Thomas Bracken Sunridge Nursery; Greg Actis Elk Grove Farming; April Morris Grimmway; Megan and Jim Rios Rios Design Studios; Javier Lesaca Lesaca Landscape;

## Faculty:

David Fenn, adjunct; Greg Cluff, Lindsay Ono, Jessica Wojtysiak

## Welcome

## Plant Science Curriculum:

### Programs

- ❖ Plant Science AS-T some classes to be adjusted to reflect changes in course offerings.
- ❖ Ornamental Horticulture Sustainable Landscape Certificate
- ❖ Ornamental Horticulture Landscape Arborist Certificate
- ❖ Ornamental Horticulture Ornamental Horticulture Certificate of Achievement
- ❖ Ornamental Horticulture Associate of Science Degree
- ❖ Pest Control Adviser Preparation Certificate

### New Class

- ❖ CRPS B6 Plant Pest Identification and Control
- ❖ ORNH B14 Plant Materials and Usage

**Motion:** To approve and support the changes to the Plant Science Programs and the new classes.

M/S: Vote unanimous. Motion passes.

## Program Updates:

### Ag Farm Developments:

- About \$500,000 of farm machinery has been donated by private industry over the last few years.
- We have also obtained another \$500,000 for upgrades to the irrigation system, fencing, and permanent crop areas of the farm.
- Construction has already started on the fencing and the new irrigation system will be finished by the end of March.
- New farm layout, adjusting locations of crops.

### CRPS Program:

- **Full time equivalent** student numbers taking CRPS classes have increased 222% in five years to 242 for Fall 2021.

- Unique student **headcount** of students taking CRPS classes have increased 234% in five years to 1,366 for Fall 2021.
- Number of CRPS **majors** increased every year until COVID, then decreased 30% to 94 in Fall 2021.

### **Horticulture**

- Bakersfield College Edible Education Garden. An Agriculture, Nutrition and Culinary Arts pathway project. A working garden to teach about growing our food; the nutrition of foods and how to prepare the food harvested. This is being funded by the Grimm Family Foundation. The planning has been completed and construction should begin shortly with the estimated time of completion January 2022.

### **Measure J - Agricultural Science Center**

- Construction Dates: October 2021 - April 2024. The project has been delayed and we are hoping for a fall, 2022 start time. It will be in the same location as the current Ag building. It will house all of our Ag programs with labs for all of the programs except for Ag Business. They get a computer lab.  
Plant Science will have Plant Science, Soils and Horticulture labs, plus a tissue culture lab. The current Horticulture lab will be torn down and replaced with new greenhouses, nursery and an irrigation lab.

### **Advisory Industry recommendations**

What is happening in your industry that we need to address at Bakersfield College?

There is a lack of business knowledge in the programs. We see a need to understand how to operate a business. A student needs a business background to run a business. Is there a business track for students?

Irrigation and Water are very important to our future needs. We need more students, need more innovation irrigation, water technology and training.

Faculty mentioned our Ag irrigation and landscape irrigation courses. They recommend more diversity in classes.

We are always looking for employees and interns.

Faculty gave Domenica Trinidad's contact to promote internships and announce employment opportunities.

CAD and computer education needs to be addressed in our courses. Students need computer skills for today's business operations.

Faculty responded with an Ag Business computer class but we could have more skills applied.

Meeting adjourned.