



Opening Activities September 12 – 15, 2017

Message from the Interim Vice President of Instruction

Dear Colleagues,

It is time once again to come together, refreshed and rejuvenated from our well-deserved summer vacations, to ready ourselves and our campuses in preparation for another academic year. This Opening Day, we embark on an exciting new journey, with new leadership, and a new approach to help us assess and improve the work we are already doing. Last year, we launched a system of governance for shared decision-making which has now marked its first anniversary. This year, we will continue to develop BC Governance into a more robust and efficient process. Last year, we committed to reflection that would sharpen our focus on student success and clarify our shared priorities. This year, we continue that work by deepening our understanding of our institutional identity through the framework of Achieving the Dream. Last year we benefited from the leadership of Interim President Jill Wakefield. This year, we welcome our new president, Dr. Jerry Weber.

Along with Dr. Weber, we will be joined by new staff members including many talented adjunct faculty and twelve new tenure-track instructors who will bring their considerable expertise to our growing full-time faculty roster. The most consistent feature in the Bellevue College storyline is its community of caring and hard-working staff and faculty. Educators and administrators alike, we share a deep commitment to challenging and empowering our students. We strive to maintain our dedication to the principles of social justice and be strong and thoughtful stewards of the mission entrusted to us. At a time of national and global uncertainty and concern, more than ever we must care for one another so that we can be a source of strength for all our students, particularly those from the most vulnerable groups. As Interim Vice President of Instruction, I invite us all to come together as a community to make Bellevue College the place where all students flourish.

Our opening day will be Thursday, September 14th, and our campus will be closed to the public in the morning so that all college employees can fully participate in the assembly. We will begin with an all-college breakfast and a keynote address by Dr. Weber, followed by engaging table discussions on the topic of student success and Achieving the Dream. Lunch for participants will be provided. Afterward, there will be union meetings for both BCAHE and WPEA; the Student Affairs division will open its doors to serve the public from 1-5 pm, while staff use the remainder of the day as regular work time. Friday will be an Instruction Issues Day with the All Faculty Meeting in the morning, followed by lunch and division and program activities in the afternoon. Our adjunct faculty colleagues will be eligible to be paid \$155 for their participation on one or both days, in accordance with faculty contract provisions.

I would like to thank you all for the hard work and dedication you continue to show year after year and I wish you a happy, healthy, and productive 2017–18.

Sincerely,

Gita Bangera, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President, Instruction