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April 27, 2026

Derek Robinson
Director, Public Safety Training Programs
Bakersfield College
1801 Panorama Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93305

RE: Support for the proposed Police Science Bachelor's Degree program

Dear Mr. Robinson,

For more than a century, Bakersfield College has served as a cornerstone of educational excellence in Kern County, providing exceptional academics, affordability, and life-changing opportunities to generations of students. The institution has consistently empowered local residents to expand their intellect, pursue personal growth, and succeed in diverse career paths that strengthen our community.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors is pleased to extend strong support for Bakersfield College's proposal to establish a Police Science Bachelor's Degree program. This initiative is a natural extension of Bakersfield College's longstanding mission and commitment to public service.

The proposed Police Science Bachelor's Degree program will offer students pursuing careers in criminal justice an invaluable opportunity to grow, learn, and serve Kern County. At a time when the demand for qualified peace officers continues to rise, this program is essential not only for Bakersfield College but for our entire county. By expanding education and training in policing and criminal justice, the program will better prepare future officers to meet the complex responsibilities of modern law enforcement.

We are particularly encouraged by the program's potential to broaden diversity within the law enforcement profession. By offering an accessible and affordable pathway to a bachelor's degree, the program opens doors for a wider and more representative student population. Bakersfield College's collaborative efforts with the Kern High School District to provide dual enrollment opportunities for more than 10,000 high school students further demonstrate a forward-thinking commitment to educational equity, youth empowerment, and public safety.

Research consistently shows that officers with college degrees perform better across a range of indicators: they excel in academy performance, receive stronger supervisory evaluations, experience fewer accidents and disciplinary issues, use force less frequently, and demonstrate higher attendance and reliability. By enabling new officers to earn a Police Science Bachelor's Degree, Kern County residents stand to benefit from even higher-quality public safety services delivered by well-educated, well-trained, and community-reflective law enforcement professionals.

Bakersfield College's Police Science Bachelor's Degree program will help ensure that a modern policing career remains accessible, that law enforcement officers are prepared for present-day public safety challenges, and that the workforce reflects the diverse community it serves. This program will strengthen Kern County today and for generations to come.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors fully supports and urges favorable consideration of Bakersfield College's proposal to implement a Police Science baccalaureate degree program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kern County Employers' Training Resource
Kern County Human Resources Division
Kern County Sheriff's Office
Kern County Probation Department
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange