

**ACADEMIC SENATE, BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE
RESOLUTION: AB 928, Berman (2021).**

**Subject: PRESERVING AREA E - LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION
AS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT WITHIN THE KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, AB 1725 provides primacy over community college curriculum to California Community College faculty rather than to administrators or external systems of higher education;

WHEREAS, Title 5 of the Administrative Code of California, Section 53200 recognizes the Academic Senate, a faculty organization, whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters including curriculum, standards, or policies regarding student preparation and success, and degree and educational program development;

WHEREAS, AB928 (Berman, 2021) presents unintended consequences for students in many disciplines within the California Community Colleges system;

WHEREAS, The possible exclusion of lifelong learning and self-development courses due to streamlining the general education pattern will impact various disciplines, such as, kinesiology, social sciences, humanities, communications, nutrition, counseling, and health education and through the potential elimination of Area E could further perpetuate existing health disparities and may contribute to the success gaps in disproportionately impacted students;

WHEREAS, The California Education Master Plan recognizes that California Community Colleges serve a specific and important role; faculty at California Community Colleges who teach and the courses taught in Area E equip students in lifelong learning and development and understanding of themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological well beings. Important topics include, but are not limited to, student success strategies, human behavior, sexuality, nutrition, physical and mental health, stress management, social relationships, death and dying. Courses in Area E focus on skills, abilities, and dispositions;

WHEREAS, The courses offering in life-long learning and self-development support the Vision for Success and Guided Pathways initiatives of the California Community Colleges;

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges Academic Senates were not properly consulted in the development of AB 928 which seeks to streamline transfer for community college students by eliminating course offering in life-long learning and self-development;

WHEREAS, Elimination of life-long learning and self-development courses will have a negative impact on student's preparation; the elimination of Area E courses will eliminate courses as described above equipping students in areas of student success skills and strategies, physical and mental health and human behavior; all which are helpful when trying to navigate a primary transfer pattern, especially low income and first-generation students, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Bakersfield College Academic Senate requests the Kern Community College District (KCCD) endorse, through Resolution, to preserve Area E – Life Long Learning and Self Development as a Graduation Requirement within the Kern Community College District.