



CREATIVE CONFIDENCE

INNOVATING THE WAY FORWARD

An Inland Empire Project for Building & Supporting
Innovation, Creativity & Confidence In Our Youth





Innovation gives us an outlet to explore, research and grow as students. It also allows us to be our most creative selves and use tools to uncover something new.



Innovating THE WAY FORWARD

No one anticipated the unfolding of 2020 and the call for educators to lead through the pandemic, the ensuing economic crisis, racial reckoning, and even a crisis in democracy.

Already before the pandemic, we in higher education were struggling to address inequities in access, as well as our students' food and housing insecurities. COVID-19 amplified these challenges and made it abundantly clear that our low income, minority students have been hit especially hard with job losses, decreased hours of work, and the increased burden of caring for children learning at home and for sick and dependent family members.

To this day, we are still in the thick of things, not knowing fully how we will come through at the other end. With that said, we will pull through by collaborating and focusing on the root causes of the problems, to address the needs and challenges of our students.

We have to embrace the reality that the jobs of yesterday are either gone or significantly changed and the future will require our students to be critical thinkers and problem-solvers with a resilient and entrepreneurial mindset. This creative confidence project is a powerful way to provide opportunities to grow and shape young innovative minds into the creators and builders of our future.

I am proud to endorse this pioneering project led by Barstow Community College and funded by Growing Inland Achievement focused on identifying creative pathways that boost confidence, and that support our youth and their capacity to innovate and create value for themselves, their families and our communities.



Eloy Ortiz Oakley
Chancellor, California Community Colleges

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloy Ortiz Oakley'.

ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY

Chancellor, California Community Colleges

Growing Inland Achievement



Growing Inland Achievement (GIA) is a regional, collective impact organization that works to achieve educational and economic equity in the Inland Empire. GIA researches issues and opportunities, resources innovations and solutions, and connects diverse stakeholders to transform the Inland Empire through education.

In 2020, GIA requested Innovation Award proposals from organizations within San Bernardino and Riverside counties, seeking those with innovative plans to support and facilitate student success. Barstow Community College (BCC) was one of four organizations to be chosen to receive 2020 Innovation Award funding in a competitive application process.

BCC's exceptional track record for facilitating college and career success and the alignment of their project with GIA's focus on cross-sector collaborative efforts were critical to the decision. GIA expressed excitement for the project's aims to promote college and career readiness for students through an integrated "college is for all" outreach campaign and the development of the first-ever tool to measure the "creative confidence" of youth in the region.

The project brings together global industry leaders in innovation to inform the design of immersive learning experiences to bolster students' confidence and provide real-world design challenges that develop the skills and disposition to make them competitive, value-contributing agents in the future world of work – either as employee intrapreneurs or self-employed entrepreneurs.

Both BCC and GIA are especially pleased that the project puts front and center its focus on African American males who have been historically marginalized and systemically shut out from opportunities of engagement that build confidence and nurture their creative talents.



BARSTOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE **2020 INNOVATION AWARD RECIPIENT**

Funding from Growing Inland Achievement will support the development of an instrument to measure student "creative confidence" and an outreach campaign based on "college is for all" messaging. It will also help 8th-grade students attend creative learning activities to improve awareness about workplace skills and knowledge.

About Creative Confidence



What Is Creative Confidence?

Creativity and being innovative are the factors most needed and desired in a changing world; and Creative Confidence – the confidence in one’s creative abilities – unlocks one’s innate creativity.

While everyone has creative impulses, only those that believe in their abilities, will overcome the obstacles to realize them and prove their ability to be creative and innovative to themselves and the world.

Creative Confidence develops as one discovers one’s specific talents and grows ever stronger with more exposure to opportunities for creation and innovation.

Why Do We Need a Creative Confidence Tool (CCT)?

Inland Empire students are highly creative and resourceful. However, due to several factors, many of our students are not well supported in developing confidence and nurturing their creativity. This is further exacerbated by not having a coherent approach that showcases the connection and mutually reinforcing relationship between creativity, confidence, and success.

With the Creative Confidence Tool (CCT), we hope to create a new way to assess, support, and nurture innovation in our youth. A way that doesn’t suffer from traditional biases or limited ways of thinking around who or what deserves support.

How Does The Creative Confidence Tool (CCT) Work?

The Creative Confidence Tool is the first diagnostic assessment of its kind that measures student creativity and confidence. The tool is deployed via a private and secure online survey that takes students less than 7-10 minutes to take.

After the initial assessment, some students will have the opportunity to engage in specially designed experiences and activities meant to support and nurture creative confidence.** As selected students pass through the program, we will continue to use the CCT to measure and track creative confidence development over time. The data collected using the CCT will be used to further hone the accuracy of the tool and the development of innovative programs to support and nurture Inland Empire student creativity and confidence.

*** The Creative Confidence Tool (CCT) pilot and corresponding student activities are limited to a small initial cohort. As funding and development of the CCT progresses our hope is to make creative confidence programming available to all Inland Empire students.*

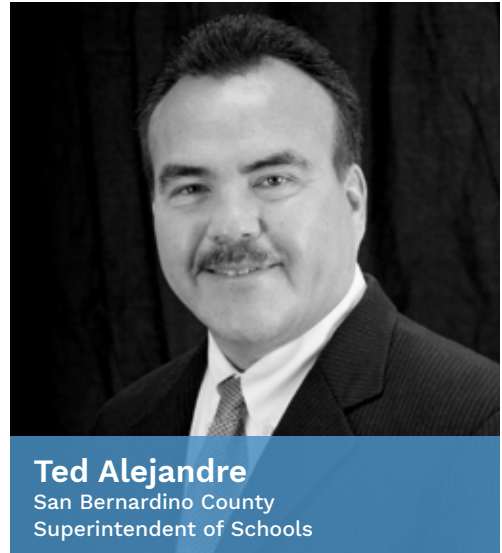
Innovating THE WAY FORWARD

As Superintendent of Schools for San Bernardino County, I am very pleased to support the Growing Inland Achievement Innovation project led by our community college partner in Barstow.

Having a first-ever tool to measure the creative confidence of our students can become a great resource for our teachers, staff and parents to better understand how to continue nurturing the innovative potential of our youth.

This project with its emphasis on collaboration among educators in our K16 system, industry and community-based organizations aligns with the many collective impact initiatives underway in San Bernardino County.

We believe that this GIA investment in our youth's potential as future innovators holds great promise in contributing toward our shared efforts to transform lives and communities throughout our region.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Alejandre".

TED ALEJANDRE

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools



Innovative Administrators

EXPLORE NEW PERSPECTIVES

When we support innovation in our students, we are helping them to imagine new and creative perspectives. Perspectives that I believe open up new possibilities and methods that teach our students how to go beyond what has been prescribed. This builds creativity and supports confidence in our youth so that they are able to not only transition from middle school, high-school, and college, but they have the skills that can be applied to anything they want to do in life.

As a father and principal I see this playing out in my home and in my school. The more opportunities we give our kids to explore their creativity and confidence, the better able they are equipped to make decisions later in life.

CREATE SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Interestingly, you can't have creativity without confidence. They go hand in hand. And that's why I think we need to create a supportive environment that allows our students to create, take risks, and make mistakes. Once they experience this safe space to create without judgement or fear, they will develop and build confidence.

So it's more important than ever that we create a supportive environment where our students can be creative, confident, and innovative. This is the only way that our students can live up to their potential. That's why innovative projects and experiences like the CCT and the GIA and other partnerships mean so much. They help our students to develop multiple intelligences and empower students and communities to enhance the individual resources that we have.



Dr. Vinney Williams
Principal, Barstow STEM Academy

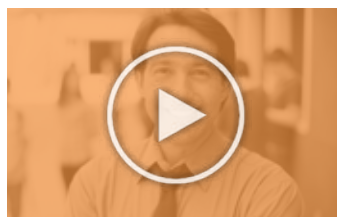


Jorge Gutierrez
Principal, Barstow Junior High School

ADMINISTRATOR RESOURCES

To learn more about the Creative Confidence Project please view our [FAQ Overview Video here](#). Also, mark your calendars for our live Zoom Q&A session with administrators.

FAQ & OVERVIEW VIDEO FOR ADMINISTRATORS



LIVE ZOOM SESSION FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Ask questions and get answers

Date: March 16, 2021

Time: 12:00 PM -12:30 PM

Where: [Zoom \(Click Here\)](#)





Innovative Teachers



Danielle King
Science Instructional Coach, BUSD

THINK BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

I think it's important that students gain knowledge beyond the classroom. Knowledge that allows them to apply themselves and think outside the box to prepare them for their future. This level of innovative thinking and push will take them further than classroom work alone.

Also, in this innovative and comfort-stretching space our students not only learn and grow their creativity and knowledge, but they also develop confidence and belief in themselves. In this way both creativity and confidence are critically important for our students.



Taylor Gross
Entrepreneurship Teacher, Barstow HS

START THE JOURNEY EARLY

Innovation and creativity in our students is and always will be there. But by having programs that support them early, say well before high school, we can support their creativity and confidence. We can start building an entrepreneurial mindset and equip them with the tools to apply their creativity with confidence.

I believe this vision isn't just possible, but it's being delivered through Barstow Community College, the GIA and projects like the Creative Confidence Tool.

TEACHER RESOURCES

To learn more about the Creative Confidence Project please view our [FAQ Overview Video here](#). Also, mark your calendars for our live Zoom Q&A session with teachers.

FAQ & OVERVIEW VIDEO FOR TEACHERS



LIVE ZOOM SESSION FOR TEACHERS

Ask questions and get answers

Date: April 27, 2021

Time: 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Where: [Zoom \(Click Here\)](#)





Innovative

Students & Families



Jamaal Willis
Senior, Barstow High School

WHY INNOVATION?

Innovation gives students an outlet to explore, research and use different tools to uncover something new and innovative. And when we innovate, we are creating new opportunities not just for ourselves but for our community. By being the innovators in our communities, we are the change that we want to see in the world.

And innovative change requires not just creativity but also confidence. So we have to be willing to take risks in our education, to truly learn how to be our most creative, confident, and innovative selves.



Amanda Simpson
Parent

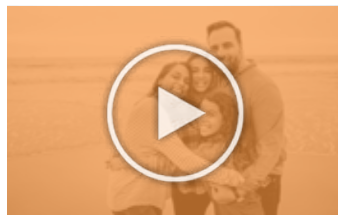
WHY NOW?

As the parent of a current 8th grader, an artistic one at that, I watch her struggle to find a place where she can explore and nurture those creative abilities, as well as be around those individuals with a shared mindset. Being able to see that a future, a career, is possible with organizations and companies like NASA and Garner Holt, inspires our youth to work harder, to see that what they felt was impossible, is very much possible, especially when their creative confidence is nurtured.

STUDENT / FAMILY RESOURCES

To learn more about the Creative Confidence Project please view our [FAQ Overview Video here](#). Also, mark your calendars for our live Zoom Q&A session with students and families.

FAQ & OVERVIEW VIDEO FOR STUDENTS / FAMILIES



LIVE ZOOM SESSION FOR STUDENTS / FAMILIES

Ask questions and get answers

Date: April 29, 2021

Time: 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Where: [Zoom \(Click Here\)](#)





Message From The President



Eva Bagg, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President
Barstow Community College

How do we, as educators, equip our students with the skills, knowledge, and mindset to succeed and thrive in a future where so much is ambiguous and rapidly changing?

I think we need to provide our students with the tools and frameworks that enable them to tackle real-world problems, challenge the status quo and disrupt age-old paradigms that

reinforce economic disparities and social injustices.

We start with the fundamental premise that our youth are inherently creative, resilient and motivated to be active in shaping their own work and civic lives, and that continuous learning is the natural state of the human condition.

We, too, contend, as Sir Ken Robinson did as far back as 2006, that our education system may be killing our kids' creativity. It is not just that schools inadequately nurture the development of our youth's creativity and abilities to innovate; there are myriad reinforcing conditions in many domains of their lives that deflate their confidence and leave them doubting their own talents and abilities to learn.

I am so passionate about our work with Growing Inland Achievement because GIA recognizes the need to support collective impact projects like ours, where the promise of transformative change for students' learning experience is met through focused partnerships with industry, community, and schools.

We are committed to the intentional redesign of what and how we deliver educational value to students.

EVA BAGG, PH.D.

Superintendent-President
Barstow Community College

Barstow Community College Innovation



DID YOU KNOW

BCC @ THE CENTER OF INNOVATION

As part of our safe reopening, we are working to establish a center dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship on campus. This center will be well-positioned to develop a culture of innovation, staying committed to the region's goal of having a thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Inland Empire.

We will keep you informed about the progress and look forward to seeing you here!

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1** BCC Wins the Growing Inland Achievement Innovation Award 2020
- 2** BCC 1 of 5 Colleges in the Nation to Win the 2020 National Association of Community Colleges Entrepreneurship (NACCE) Pitch for the Trades Competition
- 3** BCC Signed NACCE's Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge to Invest in Entrepreneurship in the Inland Empire
- 4** BCC Awarded Grants to Help Homeless and Housing Insecure Students and to Provide Mental Health Support by Licensed Professionals
- 5** BCC ranks as the 3rd Best Online Community College in California by OnlineU



Contact Us

JOIN OUR INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Would you like to learn more or get involved in the Inland Empire Ecosystem? If so, we welcome you and your support. Whether you are a student, family member, interested in mentoring, becoming a supporting partner or corporate sponsor, there's a place for you in the Inland Empire Innovation Ecosystem.

To get started, click the button below to provide your contact information. Once received, someone from our team will respond shortly to onboard you into the journey of helping to Innovate the Inland Empire.

JOIN HERE

Click to Join Our Innovation Ecosystem

GENERAL QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

For general information about the Creative Confidence tool and the GIA Innovation award, please contact us at innovate@barstow.edu



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