



**BAKERSFIELD
COLLEGE**

**BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE LAUNCHPAD
IMPACT REPORT**

2025

**THINK IT.
GROW IT.
LAUNCH IT.**



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 has been a whirlwind year for the Launchpad, filled with excitement, growth, and extraordinary opportunities for our small businesses to thrive. From onboarding new small business coaches to awarding grants that help entrepreneurs excel, we have continued to launch Kern's economic landscape into new and soaring directions.

One of our proudest accomplishments this year has been the development of the BC Launchpad Pocketbook. This step-by-step resource walks entrepreneurs through the essentials of starting a business, providing clarity, confidence, and a roadmap for success. Seeing this tool in the hands of our community members has been a powerful reminder of the real impact accessible education can make.

In addition, we expanded our services to the Arvin Educational Center by launching Spanish-speaking workshops focused on financial literacy for small business owners in rural communities. This expansion opened new doors for aspiring entrepreneurs who have historically had limited access to business education and capital.



We are proud to continue supporting small businesses throughout Kern County and look forward to advancing innovation, strengthening partnerships, and creating lasting economic impact.

With gratitude,

NaTasha "T" Johnson

**NaTasha "T" Johnson,
M.P.A., C.D.I.**

Executive Director
Entrepreneurship and
Workforce Development
Bakersfield College



THANK YOU
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD

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Think it. Grow it. Launch it.

MEET THE FACES

THE TEAM POWERING OUR MISSION

The BC Launchpad team is dedicated to fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment where local entrepreneurs can learn, grow, and thrive. Our mission is to empower small businesses with the tools, resources, and connections they need to succeed in Bakersfield, Kern County and beyond.



Tomeka Powell
Community Services Coordinator



Eliana Valencia
Department Assistant III



Amalia Brewer
Community Outreach Specialist



Aurelio Prieto
Student Ambassador



OF BC LAUNCHPAD



Shontay Smith

Small Business Coach



Marcela Cardenas

Small Business Coach



Tamar Anthony

Small Business Coach

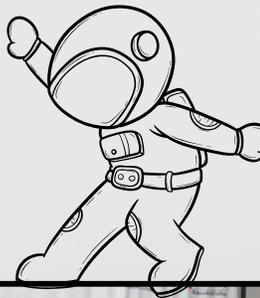


Mikin Plummer

Small Business Coach

THE COACHES IGNITING SUCCESS

In 2025, Launchpad introduced Small Business Coaches to provide hands-on support for local entrepreneurs. In addition, our coaches lead our Small Business Bootcamp, guiding participants through the process of building strong business plans and becoming capital-ready. Beyond the classroom, they offer one-on-one consultations, helping businesses refine strategies, access resources, and identify opportunities for growth. They have become a great resource for entrepreneurs looking to expand, strengthen their operations, and position themselves for long-term success.



OUR MISSION

To empower students and all residents of Kern County with entrepreneurial resources to successfully launch and grow small businesses through the delivery of educational opportunities and support services and through fostering collaboration.



Left to right: Former Bakersfield College president Dr. Jerry E. Fliger, Eliana Valencia; Executive Director of Entrepreneurship & Workforce Development NaTasha "T" Johnson, Tomeka Powell, Amalia Brewer, and City of Bakersfield Ward 2 City Councilmember Andrae Gonzales

OUR VISION

To increase the number of new entrepreneurs and successful small business owners in Kern County by collaborating with local likeminded community organizations and industry partners within the existing entrepreneurial ecosystem.

WHAT WE DO

At Bakersfield College Launchpad, entrepreneurs gain access to education, mentorship, and resources that support business growth throughout Bakersfield, Kern County, and beyond. Programs serve founders at every stage with practical tools and expert guidance.

Located in the Heart of Bakersfield: Based at the Weill Institute, Launchpad offers a welcoming, centrally located space with no-cost resources designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and community connection.

Tuition-Free Noncredit Courses: Launchpad provides a range of noncredit, tuition-free courses that lead to certificates of completion in areas such as entrepreneurship, office skills, sales, and other essential business skills.

Mentorship and Coaching for Every Business Stage: Entrepreneurs receive hands-on mentoring and personalized business coaching across core business functions, equipping them to overcome challenges, strengthen operations, and achieve sustainable growth.

Support for Start-Ups and Small Businesses: Hands-on assistance is available for both emerging and existing businesses across Kern County, supporting new ventures and helping established businesses expand.

Launch & Learn: These no-cost webinars, led by industry experts, offer in-depth sessions on essential topics including taxes, financial literacy, marketing, and e-commerce.

Small Business Bootcamp: This six-week, in-person workshop series connects entrepreneurs with experienced small business coaches who provide technical assistance and practical strategies for running and growing a successful business.



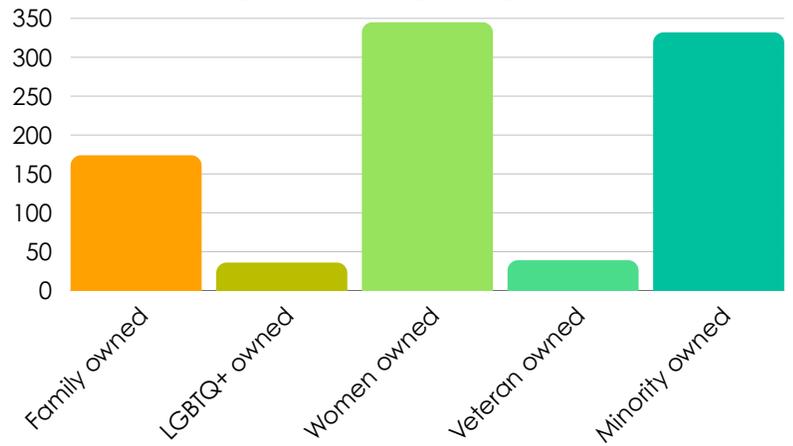
PARTNERING WITH THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD

Bakersfield College Launchpad partnered with the City of Bakersfield to launch the Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Technical Assistance and Grant Program 2.0. Building on the success of Phase 1, which supported businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Phase 2 began on February 3, 2025, offering eligible businesses grants of \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$20,000. This program strengthened the local entrepreneurship ecosystem and provided critical resources to help small businesses grow and thrive.

AND WHO WE SERVE

Kern Community College District (KCCD) serves communities over 24,800 square miles in parts of Kern, Tulare, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino counties through the programs of Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso College, and Porterville College. Governed by a locally elected Board of Trustees, the district's colleges offer programs and services that develop student potential and create opportunities for our citizens.

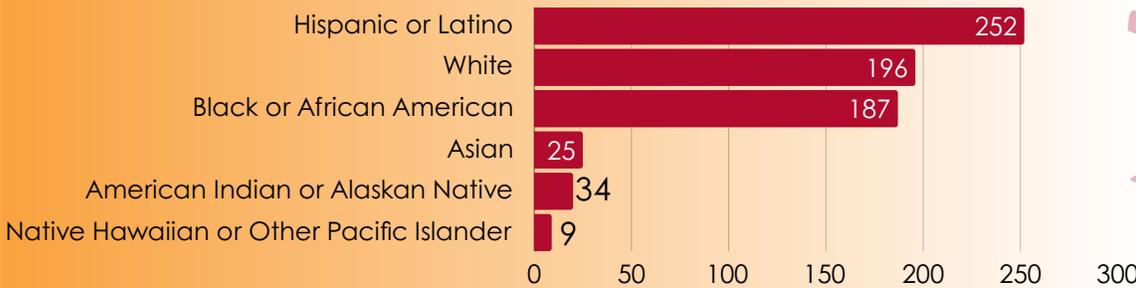
BUSINESS OWNERSHIP SNAPSHOT



DIVERSITY IN ACTION

The BC Launchpad champions diversity by supporting underutilized and underserved small businesses.

● Business Owners by Racial/Ethnic Identity

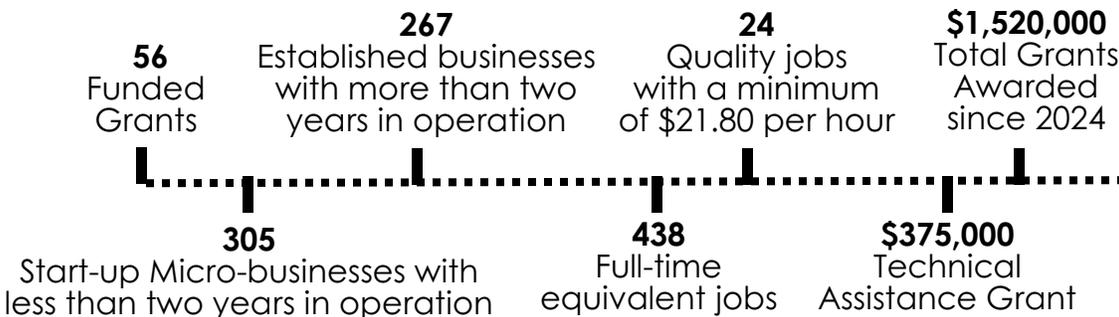


345 Women-Owned Businesses Reached

2,966+ Support Touches in 2025

REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

START-UP AND JOB CREATION



570

BUSINESSES SERVED IN-PERSON AT THE LAUNCHPAD

January 2025 - Dec 2025

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION ACADEMY

Bakersfield College offers a variety of **tuition-free**, non-credit learning opportunities through its Adult Education Program. Our core focus at the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Academy is helping aspiring business owners gain the **skills and confidence** to turn ideas into real ventures. Our non-credit certificates are designed specifically for entrepreneurs — providing step-by-step training in business planning, development, branding, funding, and execution.

Through the Academy, students can pursue several targeted certificate pathways that prepare them to launch, refine, and grow their small businesses.

Courses are available in **online or hybrid formats** to support flexible learning.



CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Entrepreneurship Certificate of Completion

- OFFT B66NC - Introduction to Entrepreneurship
- OFFT B67NC - Business Plan I: Executive Summary
- OFFT B68NC - Business Plan II: Organizational Plan
- OFFT B69NC - Business Plan III: Marketing Plan
- OFFT B70NC - Business Plan IV: Financial Plan
- OFFT B71NC - Execution of Business Plan

Small Business Funding Certificate of Completion

- OFFT B58NC - High Impact Presentations & Proposals
- OFFT B77NC - Funding Strategies for Small Businesses

Small Business Development Certificate of Completion

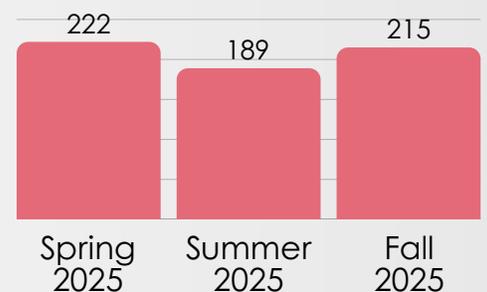
- OFFT B63NC - Starting a Business
- OFFT B64NC - The Business Idea

Small Business Execution Certificate of Completion

- *OFFT B65AN - Product Design
- or *OFFT B65BN - Service Creation
- OFFT B76NC - Business Branding
- OFFT B81NC - Creating a Basic Business Website

**Students choose OFFT B65AN OR OFFT B65BN depending on the type of business they are creating.*

Entrepreneurship & Innovation Academy Enrollment Through BC Launchpad per Quarter



SMALL BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

BC Launchpad's Small Business Bootcamp was created to give entrepreneurs hands-on, in-person guidance as they build and strengthen their businesses. Led by our experienced Small Business Coaches, the Bootcamp delivers practical, focused technical assistance — from business planning and branding to financial preparation and operational readiness. Rooted in our “Think it. Grow it. Launch it.” philosophy, each session helps participants refine their ideas, develop their skills, and take confident steps toward launching or expanding their ventures.



WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Mission Ready: Core principles of business planning, including mission, vision, and goal setting.

Financial Firepower: Foundational budgeting, revenue forecasting, and break-even analysis for informed financial decision-making.

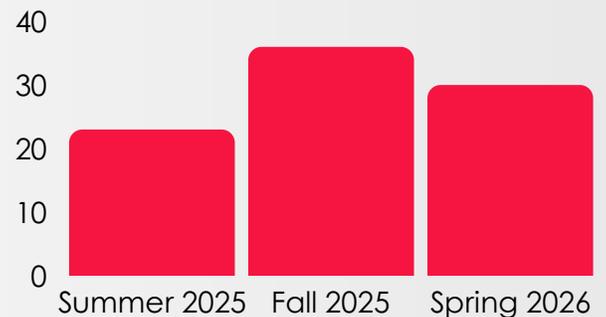
Intel & Strategy: Essential market research practices, competitive analysis, and audience definition to guide strategy.

Operations & HR: Key operational and HR improvements to enhance structure, efficiency, and organizational capacity.

Pitch Perfect: Focused refinement of pitch content and delivery to communicate value with clarity and confidence.

Final Launch: Completion of a cohesive business plan and preparation of a practical, well-structured launch strategy.

Student Enrollment per Quarter



Our first Small Business Bootcamp debuted in Summer 2025, with a second cohort quickly following in Fall 2025. With strong demand and continued enthusiasm, our next Small Business Bootcamp launches in Spring 2026. Entrepreneurs who complete all twelve sessions and submit an approved business plan earn a Certificate of Completion and leave prepared to take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey.

LAUNCHPAD TO SUCCESS PILOT PROGRAM

This year introduced BC Launchpad's first workshop series fully designed and facilitated in-house, setting the stage for what would evolve into the Small Business Bootcamp. Held in April and May of 2025, the *Launchpad to Success Pilot Program* supported established small businesses in Bakersfield seeking to scale and strengthen their operations. Eligible businesses — operating four or more years and located within a Qualified Census Tract — applied for the program, with only ten selected by a review committee.

Through a combination of in-depth workshops and personalized coaching, participants refined their expansion plans and advanced their business goals. All ten businesses successfully completed the program and received \$20,000 from the City of Bakersfield in growth funding, emerging better positioned to create jobs, expand capacity, and deepen their community impact.





Central Valley LDAs



E-Z Smog, Lube and Tune



Fresh Harvest Market



Grit Valley Climbing



Howie's Micheladas



In The Black Business Services



In Your Wildest Dreams



Nerdy Works



Strength & Health Gym



2 Queens Fitness



Money Matters



In December 2025, BC Launchpad began hosting the Money Matters Workshops, a financial literacy series at the Arvin Educational Center. Presented entirely in Spanish by Small Business Coach Yuli "Marcela" Cardenas, Money Matters provided attendees with practical guidance on both business and personal finances. The series was designed to help entrepreneurs strengthen their financial knowledge and build the confidence they need to move forward in their business journey.

LAUNCHPAD ON

STUDIO 17



BC Launchpad began our partnership with KGET's Studio 17 in 2025 to spotlight local entrepreneurs, community partners, and the many resources available to small businesses in Bakersfield. These on-air segments with host Kait Hill gave our featured businesses a platform to share their stories and served as an important outreach tool — connecting with community members who may not yet know about BC Launchpad or the services, support, and opportunities available to them.

We highlighted 12 local businesses and organizations. In addition to those pictured here, we featured: Howie's Micheladas, Bakersfield Downtown Business Association, Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Myrie Media, and Doula Dani Wallace. Watch for even more entrepreneur spotlights continuing in 2026.



Rewatch our segments at BC Launchpad's KGET Landing Page.



The Hub's Downtown Symposium



Left to right: Jennifer Byers, Economic & Community Development Director, City of Bakersfield; NaTasha "T" Johnson, Executive Director of Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development, Bakersfield College; Lisa Carbajal, VP/Senior Loan Officer, Cen Cal Business Finance Group; Anna Smith, Partner, Sage Equities; Austin Smith, Owner, Sage Equities; Andrae Gonzales, Ward 2 City Councilmember

IN THE COMMUNITY: MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS



BC Launchpad & Fur & Feathers Luxury Pet Resort at Mill Creek's on 23ABC KERO

This year, BC Launchpad strengthened its presence in the media and throughout the community. Local news features and event coverage highlighted the entrepreneurs we serve and the programs driving small business growth in Kern County. These opportunities helped us share our impact, celebrate success, and build stronger connections with the audiences that matter most.



BC Arvin Educational Center Cinco De Mayo



City Council Meet Up



eARTh Day



BC Opening Day Fall 2025



BHF Small Business Night



Dona Lucy Gorditas & BC Launchpad on Studio 17



KCVCC Veterans Thrive Workshop



KCHCC Business Conference & Expo



Juneteenth Celebration



Money Matters Workshops



Project Hire Up

Other 2026 Events and Media:

- Grant Program 2.0 Press Conference
- Black Student Success Week Honor Forum
- Bakersfield Women's Business Conference
- Steam Yard Opening Ceremony
- Stiern Career Day
- BC Arvin Educational Center Noche de Familia
- Women in Trades
- Compassion Corner Monument Unveiling
- Shafter Middle School Career Fair
- Valley Strong Financial Literacy Event
- Project Next Step Project Resource Fair
- Building Bridges for Financial Resources Kern County Summit

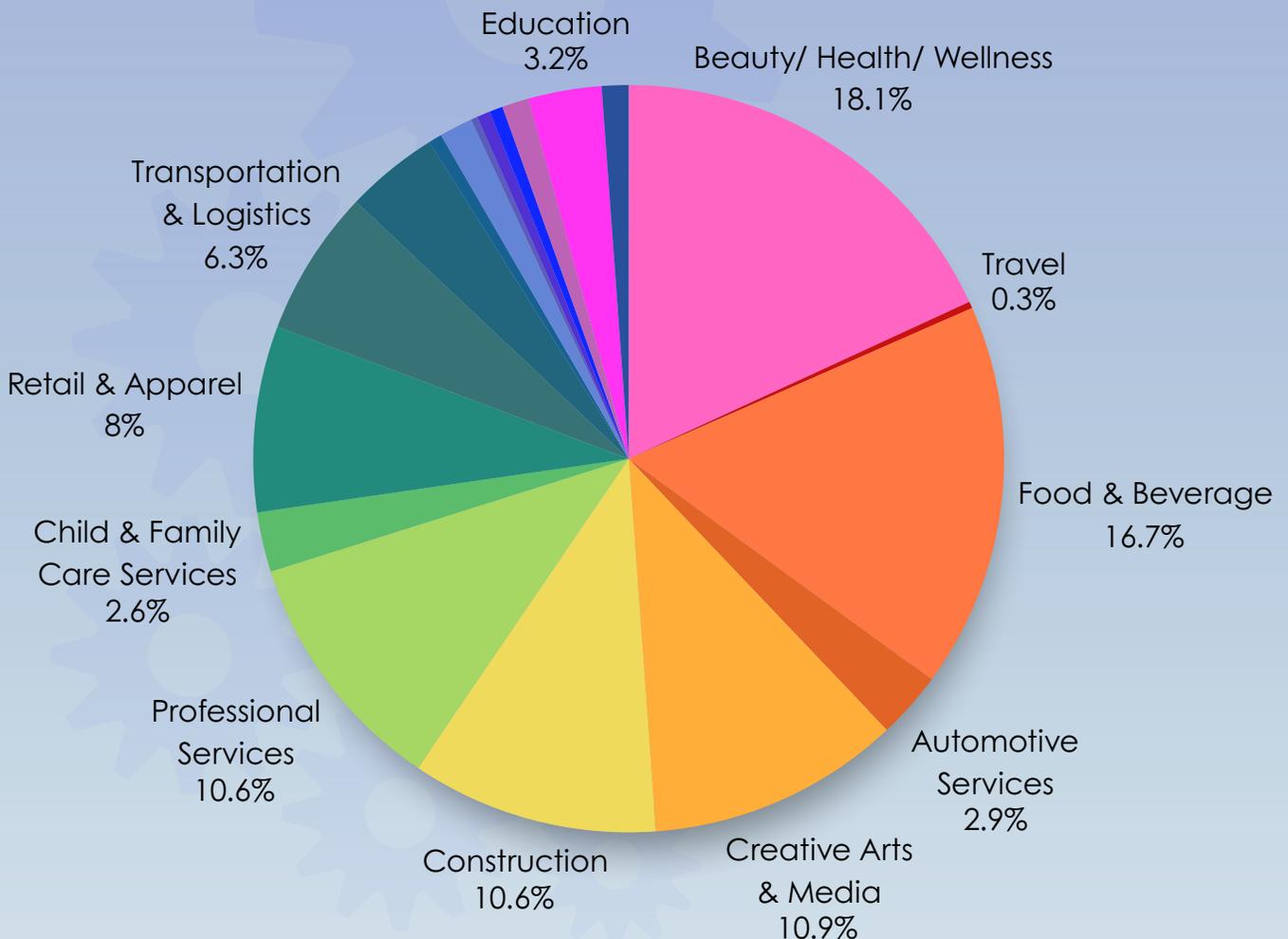
BC LAUNCHPAD ENTREPRENEURS AT A GLANCE

Entrepreneurs who engage with BC Launchpad represent a dynamic mix of industries and lived experiences. This diversity fuels innovation, strengthens Kern County's local economy, and reflects the many ways small businesses are taking shape across our region. From service-based ventures to product-driven businesses, the industries below offer a snapshot of where our clients are building, with Beauty, Health and Wellness, Food and Beverage, and Creative Arts and Media leading areas of growth among Launchpad-supported businesses.

Top Industries

- 1 Beauty, Health & Wellness
- 2 Food & Beverage
- 3 Creative Arts & Media

INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN OF BC LAUNCHPAD BUSINESSES



Our programs ignite growth that lasts far beyond completion. These featured entrepreneurs highlight how BC Launchpad alumni keep building, evolving, and turning early milestones into enduring success.



Electric Ghoul Hair Club

“After being a licensed Beautician for 15 years, I didn't realize just how important real infrastructure is for a solopreneur until I came to the Launchpad. They helped me tighten up the systems I needed so my business could run smoother and finally have room to grow. With the grant I received, I'm able to start my journey into Trichology and begin my next level of training in mesh and meshless integration, which allows me to create bespoke hairpieces for clients dealing with thinning hair and alopecia.”

 **Ruby Agarano - Owner & Founder**



Bizzy Bean

“BC Launchpad gave me knowledge and confidence at a time when funding and securing a co-packer felt overwhelming and uncertain. Receiving the grant felt like my hard work was paying off and gave me the confidence to move forward with production so I could finally bring Bizzy Bean to market and share it with the Bakersfield community. Beyond being a business, my goal is to provide a product that has been missing locally, launch in the local stores I grew up shopping in, and give back to the community that raised me while spreading positivity through every part of the brand.”

 **Myah Salinas - Owner & Founder**



Grit Valley Climbing

“Launchpad supported me at a crucial stage by strengthening my business plan and pro forma and connecting me with other entrepreneurs working through similar challenges. The grant funded the professional services I needed to secure my loan and helped cover the initial design and engineering of our climbing walls. Our next goal is moving Grit Valley Climbing from vision to reality as construction continues, with the aim of opening in late 2026 or early 2027 and creating a space that welcomes new climbers and contributes to the growth of downtown Bakersfield.”

 **Jonathan Yates - Owner & Founder**

BUSINESSES AWARDED

\$40,000

Round 1 Funding

- Foxtail Lounge
- Mill Creek Pets dba Fur and Feathers

\$25,000

Round 1 Funding

- A&B Naturals
- Acacia Chiropractic
- Awakened Consulting Inc.

\$20,000

Launchpad to Success Pilot Program

- 2 Queens Fitness
- Central Valley LDAs
- EZ Smog Lube and Tune
- Fresh Harvest Market
- Grit Valley Climbing
- Howie's Micheladas
- In The Black Business Services
- In Your Wildest Dreams
- Nerdy Works
- Strength and Health Gym

\$10,000

Round 1 Funding

- 2.0
- 34th Street Organic Cleaners
- Alex2ander
- Anthony and Associates
- Apollo Consultancy Group Inc
- Auntie's Babies and Childcare LLC
- Barrington's Jamaican Kitchen
- Beloved Skin Care
- Braxton Group LLC
- Brezi Styles at Crimson Salon
- Brothers Driveline Services Inc.
- Carolyn's Sewing Studio
- CC the Chiro

\$10,000

Continued

- Corner 10 Creative
- Crimson Salon
- Diamond H Hauling
- DJN Enterprises
- Ecoprint Solutions Inc
- Elite Tax Keeper
- Exquisite Kurves LLC
- Farma Clothing Co.
- Figueroa Consulting Co.
- Fluid Ink Literacy
- Frutzy LLC
- Frye Plumbing Inc.
- Glow Bowls Acai and Boba
- Golden Cabin Restaurant
- Good Desserts LLC
- Gracie Reed Services
- Hair by Danetra
- Heavyn's Treats
- Herms Barbershop Inc.
- Houses by Hall Team
- Izzy's Pest Control
- Jerry's Pizza
- KoKo's Designs & Consulting
- La Qaxaquena De Bakersfield
- Lollipopa LLC
- Lotus Sandwich Company
- LT Ready Mix Trucking
- Lux Beauty
- Meat, Cheese, and Things
- Mesh Cowork
- Momma Tee's Kitchen & Catering
- My Spot Downtown Grill LL
- Nails by Fina
- Nov's Soul Spot
- Oly's Daily Café and Flowers
- OMV Trucking LLC
- Passion Plus Core Haven
- Passions Arts and Jewlery
- Phase One Clinical Trials
- Princess Posse Magazine LLC
- Reed's Tech Solution
- Restoring Word Christian Bookstore

\$10,000

Continued

- Rhema Marriage, Family, and Child Therapy
- Rooster's Honky Tonk
- Rose Akyini Florists
- Royalty Hair Salon
- RP Cntry Designz
- S3 Consulting Services
- Silverbacq LLC
- Soriano Insurance Multiservices
- Straight Up Zero Proof Bar
- Sy Sy's Snacks LLC
- The Hens Roost
- The Light Tower
- The Small Stuff
- The Transformation Camp
- Tiffany Leslie IBCLC
- Trendsetters Barber & Beauty Salon
- UrbanCore Studios
- Vineyard Engineering Inc.
- We Care Tech Support
- Zip Appliance Repair & Service LLC

\$5,000

Round 1 Funding

- Accessories for Business
- Alicia's Alterations and Tailoring
- Alberto Productionz
- Alexander Hunt
- Amazing Reglazing
- Apollo 16
- Asistencia Latina Multiservices
- B&Y Insurance Agency
- Blodgie Rodriguez Real Estate Team
- BlueWave Pool Care
- Catalina House of Beauty
- Charcuterie by M
- Community Development Support LLC

BC Launchpad proudly recognizes the businesses funded through the **City of Bakersfield Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Technical Assistance and Grant Program**. Across Phase 1 and 2.0*, these entrepreneurs received support to scale their businesses, create jobs, and expand their impact in Bakersfield.

\$5,000

Round 1 Funding

- Dagny's Coffee Company
- Distinctive Coach
- Fight Forr Fitness
- Framart
- Grandma Whoople
- Grants for Good LLC
- Happy Whole You
- Iconic Multinational Investments
- Kimberlys Exceptional Cleaning Services LLC
- NEWZ1LUV LLC
- Osofit Pretty Scrubs
- Radio Sandwich
- Sah Jays Details
- Salt7even Float Center
- SAP Legacy Company LLC
- SNS Kreations
- SNSM Lashes
- Stallion Accounting Services LLC
- Street Art Supply
- Sweet Peas
- Ten Moore Books
- The Beautiful Life LLC
- The Happy Mommy Health Coach
- The Modern Muse
- The Social Security Advocate
- Upmarket

\$5,000

2.0 Funding / Round 2

- Alexis Hamey Photography
- Amor Backyard Farm
- Bakersfield Elite Martial Arts
- Bush Contracting Services LLC
- Burger Hut
- Captain B's
- Club Control
- Dona Lucy Gorditas
- JMV Car Wash and Detailing
- Hustlers Hauling & Backhoe Service
- Irene Wilkins LLC
- Joyful Transformations
- Jozay's Barbershop
- Kona Ice Central Bakersfield
- Miracle Cleaning
- L3gendary Brands LLC
- MLo3k
- Myrie Media Group LLC
- Relief Point Chiropractic
- Tarin Transportation
- The Bakersfield Skateboard Company LLC
- The Chantelle Salon
- Unique Customs
- V&S Investments Partners LLC

\$2,500

2.0 Funding / Round 2

- Bela Natural
- BJs Unique Financial Services
- Blanca Estrada Hair
- Blast Pest Control
- Brookside Property Management
- Buskies Alterations
- Dana Bryan
- Danilo Zapata Creations by Imagination
- El Taco Rojo
- First & Palm LLC
- Hair by Kristina Nunez
- Heavenly Path Inc
- KC Transporting
- LV Comprehensive
- Millions Mckillian Cleaning Service
- Monyae Riley Presents The Braid Boutique LLC
- Nathan Ortiz Insurance Services
- Pedals2Piston
- Photos with Sim
- Sankofa Comprehensive Home Health Services LLC
- Sarah Ruth Interiors
- S.O.S Beauty Rescue

**OVER \$1,520,000 AWARDED* TO
BC LAUNCHPAD BUSINESSES!**



Thank you to the **City of Bakersfield** for their ongoing support of local small businesses and their investment in our entrepreneurial community.

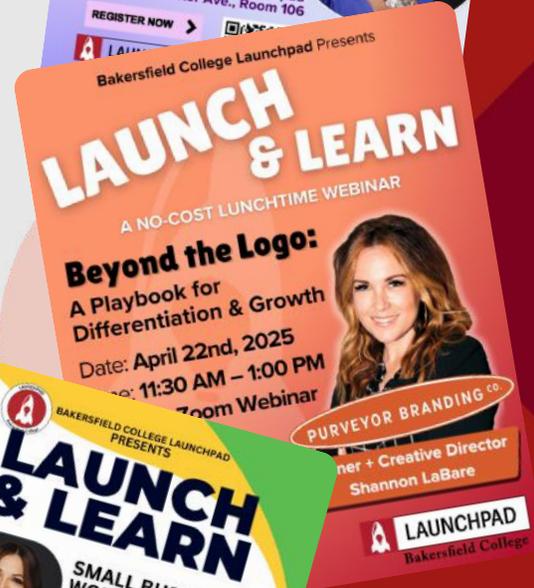
**Businesses Funded As of December 15, 2025*

LAUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR SERIES

Building on the success of our 2024 summertime Launch & Learn series, BC Launchpad Bakersfield College deduced these no-cost webinars throughout the year. In 2025, our free Launch & Learn sessions continued to connect entrepreneurs with industry professionals through engaging, easy-to-access learning opportunities. Open to the public, these webinars created space for community members to gain practical knowledge, ask questions, and feel supported at every stage of their business journey.

Throughout the year, local experts led sessions covering a wide range of topics, including small business taxes, access to capital, branding, product licensing, effective communication, and exporting. We are grateful to the many industry professionals who partnered with us to share their expertise and help strengthen Kern County's small business community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our Launch & Learn webinar series in 2026, with upcoming sessions featuring partners such as the City of Bakersfield, Chase Bank, and more.



Rewatch all past Launch & Learn webinars on the BC Launchpad YouTube channel!



CELEBRATING CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION

In 2025, BC Launchpad hosted three mixers designed to foster meaningful connections, celebrate local entrepreneurs, and strengthen our small business community.

We kicked off the year with a Business Mixer co-hosted with the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce at the Anthem Welcome Center. This event brought entrepreneurs, community leaders, and partners together in a welcoming space to build relationships, exchange ideas, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Our Meet and Treat Mixer, held at BC Launchpad, highlighted local food-based businesses by inviting our vendors to share samples of their products. This hands-on, community-focused event gave attendees the opportunity to support local entrepreneurs, discover new businesses, and connect directly with the people behind the brands.

We closed the year with our Hot Chocolate Social, a seasonal gathering that celebrated the winter holidays and reflected on a year of growth, connection, and impact. The event provided a relaxed and festive environment for entrepreneurs to reconnect, share successes, and look ahead to the year ahead.



We love our

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A thriving business community is built through partnership. This year, we worked alongside organizations across Kern County to expand resources, create new opportunities, and uplift local entrepreneurs. We are deeply grateful to our community partners for their ongoing support and commitment to our shared mission.



BOARDS AND ADVISORY:

- Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, CSU Bakersfield
- Kern County Community Development Financial Institution
- Entrepreneurship Resource Center (ERC) Advisory Board
- Kern Inclusive Entrepreneurship Hub

PARTNER WITH BC LAUNCHPAD

We offer a variety of ways to collaborate, from donating funds to sharing your ideas, and utilizing our facilities. Partnering with the BC Launchpad is a great way to make a positive impact in your community. Get involved today!

Email: launchpad@bakersfieldcollege.edu



**VALLEY
STRONG**
CREDIT UNION

Special Thanks to Valley Strong Credit Union

Valley Strong Credit Union has been a valued partner in supporting the Bakersfield College Launchpad through their contribution to our Foundation account. Their commitment helps make it possible for community members, partners, and supporters to invest directly in the success of local entrepreneurs. Through this shared support, BC Launchpad is able to expand awareness, strengthen programming, and create meaningful opportunities that encourage innovation and economic growth in Kern County. We are grateful for Valley Strong Credit Union's continued partnership and their dedication to empowering the next generation of business leaders.



BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE LAUNCHPAD FOUNDATION



The Bakersfield College Foundation is an essential partner in advancing the mission of the Bakersfield College Launchpad. Through the Foundation, community members, sponsors, and organizations who believe in local entrepreneurship can directly support this work. Their contributions expand access to programs and resources that encourage innovation and strengthen economic growth across our region.



To learn more or make a donation, scan the QR above or visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/bclaunchpad>.

LAUNCHING INTO 2026 Our Commitment in Action

This year, **BC Launchpad** remained committed to creating positive impact across our community. From new programs to expanded support for local entrepreneurs, 2025 marked a year of meaningful growth and accomplishment.

- Awarded additional grants through the City of Bakersfield Entrepreneurship Ecosystem **Technical Assistance and Grant Program 2.0**.
- Developed and launched the **Launchpad to Success Pilot Program**, graduating 10 businesses and awarding \$200,000 in funding.
- Expanded this success into the **Small Business Bootcamp**, offering in-person technical assistance through quarterly workshops.
- Launched the **Blast Off Report**, our weekly newsletter featuring news, resources, and Launchpad-supported entrepreneurs.
- Increased community outreach through our **KGET Studio 17** spotlight series.
- Expanded services to rural communities through our Rural Initiatives, including a Spanish-language **Money Matters Workshop** at the Arvin Educational Center
- Developed and launched **Small Business Pocketbook**.



As we move into 2026, BC Launchpad continues its commitment to uplifting our community. We're excited to build on this year's momentum with new initiatives designed to deepen our support for entrepreneurs and expand opportunities for local small businesses.

- Awarding additional grants through the City of Bakersfield Entrepreneurship Ecosystem **Technical Assistance and Grant Program 2.0**, continuing our work to strengthen and grow local small businesses.
- Launching Spring 2026's Small Business Bootcamp, expanding our in-person quarterly workshops that deliver hands-on technical assistance to entrepreneurs.
- Continuing our **KGET Studio 17 spotlight series**, thanks to the ongoing and generous support of **Valley Strong Credit Union**.
- Debuting the **5 in 15: The BC Launchpad Podcast**, bringing quick, insightful conversations with local entrepreneurs and community partners.
- Expanding into dedicated office space, giving our team room to grow beyond the Entrepreneurial Hub — *and out of the closets we currently call home*.
- Extending Technical Assistance and online services to small business owner and entrepreneurs in rural communities such as California City.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Stacy Pfluger
Interim President



At Bakersfield College, we are dedicated to creating opportunities that empower students, alumni, and community members to succeed. The Bakersfield College Launchpad embodies this commitment, serving as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic mobility across Kern County. By supporting entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey, the Launchpad strengthens our regional economy while expanding pathways to success for individuals and families throughout the communities we serve.

In 2025, the Launchpad expanded its reach countywide, bringing services to the Arvin and California City regions increasing access to business education, coaching, and capital for entrepreneurs in both urban and rural communities. This growth ensured that aspiring and established business owners alike could access the resources needed to adapt, grow, and thrive in an evolving economic landscape.

Throughout the year, Launchpad's work generated meaningful investment in the local economy, supporting hundreds of businesses through grant funding, technical assistance, and individualized coaching. These efforts highlight the important role Bakersfield College plays in fostering inclusive economic growth and creating opportunities that extend well beyond our campuses.

Looking ahead, Bakersfield College remains committed to building on this momentum through strong partnerships, thoughtful innovation, and a continued focus on access and equity. We are grateful to the entrepreneurs, community partners, and dedicated staff whose collaboration makes this work possible.

Together, we remain committed to expanding opportunity and strengthening our region, today and for years to come.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

At the Kern Community College District, opportunity is not an abstract idea—it is our mission in action. Every day, we serve as a catalyst for possibility, equipping the communities we serve with the knowledge, resources, and confidence to transform ambition into achievement. Entrepreneurship sits at the heart of that work. It fuels autonomy, drives upward mobility, and strengthens the economic vitality of our region. Through the Bakersfield College Launchpad, we are turning bold ideas into thriving businesses and lifelong dreams into measurable impact.

Each time I have the opportunity to meet with our BC Launchpad entrepreneurs, I am struck by their passion, resilience, and relentless creativity. These innovators embody the very best of Kern County—individuals willing to take risks, solve real-world challenges, and build something meaningful.

Programs like Launchpad ensure that this talent is not only nurtured but amplified, positioning Kern County as one of California's most promising environments for innovation, entrepreneurship, and capital investment.

The future of our region is being built right now by entrepreneurs who dare to imagine more. At Kern Community College District, we are proud to stand beside them as partners in progress.



Steven Bloomberg
Chancellor



Bakersfield College Launchpad Contact Information

Location: **The Weill Institute of Bakersfield College, Room 106**

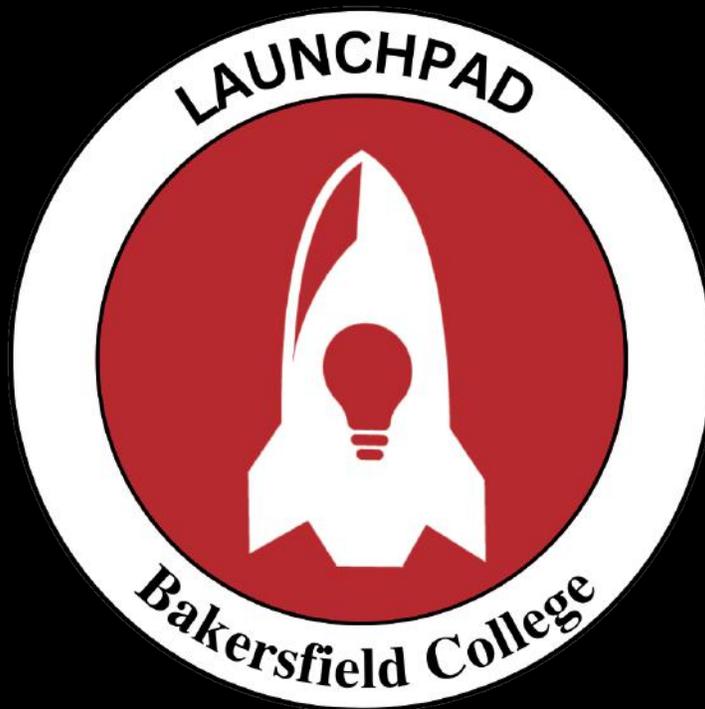
Address: **2100 Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301**

Office Phone Number: **(661) 395-4103**

Hours of Operation: **Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

Website: **bakersfieldcollege.edu/launchpad**

Email Address: **Launchpad@bakersfieldcollege.edu**



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