

2024 OUTOBER

AWARD RECIPIENTS

SPONSORED BY STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES



Helen Acosta :

The Roadrunner's Kern County Rainbow Community Award

Helen Acosta (she/her) grew up in Bakersfield and moved away at the age of 15. A decade later, she was thrilled to return to Bakersfield to work at Bakersfield College after she received her BA and MA from California State University, Northridge in Communication Studies. Since 2009, she has been the co-advisor for the student LGBTQIA+ club at BC and has helped develop and deliver BC's first Safe Space trainings, worked closely with BC's Office of Student Life to develop a protocol that allowed students to change their screen names and BC IDs to their affirmed name and provided workshops to faculty and staff to heighten awareness of the needs of LGBTQIA+ students amongst many other things. She is the co-founder of the Bi/Pan+ community building workshops at The Center for Sexuality and Gender over the last decade and organized the first trans clothing swaps at The Center. She is a frequent speaker on Bi/Pan+ issues within the LGBTQIA+ community, Co-founder and former President of the Rainbow Voices (2009-2020), and a relentless activist and advocate for the rights of her community.



Olive Garrison:

The Roadrunner's CSUB Rainbow Campus Champion Award

Olive (they/them) is in their 10th year of teaching and second year in the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at CSU Bakersfield, focusing their research on LGBTQ+ educators in California. Olive has been a Club advisor for LGBTQ+ students since 2017, co-organized Oleander Pride, and worked as a union representative for six years. Also, an adjunct professor at Bakersfield College, Olive has served in various leadership roles, including curriculum developer for both Kern County and the California Department of Education. They've received several awards, including the Don Romesburg Prize and the Equity, Inclusion & Social Justice Award, GSA Advisor of the Year, and California Teacher Association's 2024 Human Rights Award for LGBTQ+ Advocacy in Honor of Nancy Bailey, a former CSUB teacher. Recently, their Two Spirit Lesson Plan was published in T Is for Thriving*.



Ignasio Castillo:

The Roadrunner's Distinguished Rainbow Alumni Award

Ignasio Castillo (he/him) graduated in Fall 2023, leaving a significant legacy during OUTober. As the ASI Vice President of Legislative Affairs, he was committed to having the PRIDE flag raised at CSUB for the month of October. He collaborated with various campus departments to develop the CSUB Flag Policy, with the PRIDE flag being the first to be flown under this new policy. In response to changes in Supreme Court rulings on public flag display, Ignasio ensured that the LGBTQ+ community's recognition would continue. His advocacy led to the agreement with the President's Cabinet to fly the PRIDE flag every October and military flags in May. When I learned about the new award, I immediately thought of Ignasio as the ideal inaugural recipient for his efforts to ensure the LGBTQ+ community is represented and recognized at CSUB.



LGBTQ+ PRIDE FACULTY AND
STAFF AFFINITY GROUP
CSU BAKERSFIELD