Jalisca Thomason, EdD

Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources
Bakersfield College
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Professional Summary

Forestry and natural resources professor, rangeland educator, and cattle rancher with expertise in range management, soil science, regenerative agriculture, grazing systems, curriculum development, and agricultural education. Experienced in building partnerships among higher education, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, agricultural producers, and community stakeholders.

Education

Doctor of Education, Post-Secondary Educational Leadership
Specialization in Curriculum and Instruction
University of Phoenix, 2021

Post-Graduate Certificate, Rangeland Management
University of Nebraska, 2014

Master of Science, Agricultural Education
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, 2012

Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Science
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, 2008

Professional Appointments

Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources
Bakersfield College, Kern Community College District | 2019–Present

Teach Range Management, Forestry, Ecology, Soils, and related agricultural and natural resource courses. Lead curriculum development, program planning, industry partnerships, and applied student learning in forestry, rangeland management, soil health, and regenerative agriculture.

Rangeland and Agricultural Experience

Cattle Ranching and Rangeland Stewardship

Operate a 8,500-acre cow-calf ranch in rural Monterey County alongside husband and small children, The operation produces grass-fed calves and uses rotational grazing to support forage utilization, livestock performance, and long-term rangeland health.

Grassland Restoration and Grazing Management Partnership

Our ranch partners with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to evaluate grassland restoration and grazing-management practices across more than 1,500 acres. Satellite imagery and in-person field observations are used to monitor ground cover, guide grazing decisions, reduce the risk of overgrazing, and protect livestock productivity during changes in management practices.

Member, Tulare County CattleWomen

Participate in an organization supporting California's cattle industry, agricultural education, rural communities, and public understanding of ranching and beef production.

Selected Programs and Professional Products

Founder, Bakersfield College Regenerative Farm

Created the Center for Education in Regenerative Agriculture, a 2.5-acre research, demonstration, and instructional facility at Bakersfield College's Delano Campus. The farm supports hands-on education and collaborative projects involving soil health, water conservation, plant production, grazing principles, agrivoltaics, and regenerative land-management practices.

California Renewable Energy Laboratory Agrivoltaics Initiative

Lead Bakersfield College's educational and workforce-development collaboration with the California Renewable Energy Laboratory (CREL) to establish an agrivoltaics research and training installation at the Delano Campus. The initiative examines how agricultural production and land stewardship can be integrated with solar-energy generation while providing students with applied experience in renewable energy, soil and water management, plant production, environmental monitoring, and emerging agricultural technologies.

Develop the instructional framework for a 12-week agrivoltaics training experience connecting classroom instruction with hands-on work at the installation. Coordinate across college programs, technical partners, researchers, and community stakeholders to prepare students for careers at the intersection of agriculture, natural resources, and renewable energy. The project also creates opportunities to demonstrate how working lands can contribute to California's energy, climate-resilience, and workforce-development goals.

Forestry Workforce and Partnership Development

Develop collaborative educational and workforce initiatives involving Bakersfield College, CAL FIRE, higher education partners, and community stakeholders. Current work emphasizes forestry and urban forestry training, fire-resilient landscapes, natural resource stewardship, and expanded career access for students in the southern San Joaquin Valley.