Rebuilding a stronger, more inclusive California and remaking how we educate and train workers

The legislature provided Calbright with a seven-year startup timeline to build a new kind of community college, and — two years since launching — we are on track and meeting every benchmark.

- **Reach:** More than 90% of our students are over 25, and more than 50% are people of color.
- **Programs:** Calbright offers four skills-based pathways into in-demand jobs in IT support, cybersecurity, medical coding, and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) administration.
- **Faculty:** Calbright has hired full-time faculty, and welcomed the California Teachers Association and our local — the Calbright Faculty Association — as our official faculty union.
- **Accreditation:** Calbright is ahead of schedule and expected to achieve full accreditation by 2023.
- **Growth and Scale:** At our current stage of growth, we have maintained a steady level of ~500 students, and our strategic vision puts us on a trajectory toward ~5,000 students by the end of 2023.

As a part of the California Community College system, the progress Calbright is making as we develop new and innovative ways of reaching and supporting some of the hardest hit Californians, benefits the system and its equity mission as a whole.

### Giving back to the system and the state

We are the state’s only statewide, digital community college — as such, our mission also includes the research and development of models to inform not only our own work, but to also create best practices for serving these students in online education for the community college system and others invested in creating maximum postsecondary opportunity.

As a statewide institution, Calbright is able to be responsive to regions of the state where need is greatest post-pandemic, including the Inland Empire and Central Valley.

“An online community college exclusively focused on meeting the needs of working adults with the skills-based education and training needed in a changed economy has *never* been more necessary. We have the opportunity before us to build a more equitable economic recovery for Californians.”

Ajita Talwalker Menon
President & CEO of Calbright College

### A public alternative to for-profit colleges

Historically, enrollment in predatory for-profit colleges increases with recessions and high unemployment. In today’s post-COVID economy, they are again targeting displaced and stranded Californians with false promises of lucrative careers.

Calbright complements the CA Community College system, offering programs uniquely focused on those same working Californians whose lives make online, self-paced education programs their only or most viable option.

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*National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, Current Term Enrollment Estimates Fall 2020, December 2020*
Mapping the Need for Calbright Across California

Currently, 8 million California adults age 25 and over have completed high school but don't have a degree. They represent at least a quarter of the population in every county — in some as much as two thirds. Meanwhile, the pandemic has driven up unemployment, making an already tough job market even tougher for these adults. In December 2020, county-level unemployment rates ranged from 5.5% to 17.7%. Because unemployment rates exclude people who have dropped out of the workforce, current rates understate COVID-19’s impact on unemployment, especially for women.

- Calbright's program pathways lead into fast growing industries, offering Californians a debt-free, skills-based education that allows students to complete at their own pace. We also offer integrated career services to support students as they navigate job searches.

- The pathways, coursework, and support we offer are shaped from the start by conversations with our partners, including public and private employers, industry associations, workforce development officials, labor leaders, and other experts.

A joint pilot program with Bakersfield College will increase access to skills-based badging and micro-credentials. We are also building a new Working Learner Innovation Alliance with community college districts eager to work together on better serving adult learners.

In partnership with Compton College, we are building bridges for Calbright students into Compton's certificate and degree programs, and giving Compton students access to additional job-search support.

Calbright College is a California Community College, first established by the California State Legislature in 2018 for the purpose of offering flexible, competency (skills-based) programs that provide tangible economic value for both working adults and their future hiring managers.