From Setback to Success: Meeting Comebacker Students Where They Are

6+ million Californians ages 25–64 have some college but no credential

TO BETTER SERVE THIS POPULATION

4 partners in the CaliforniaAttain! collaborative conducted
52 interviews with students and advanced reforms through
1 community of practice

TO DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS

Adapt to Meet the Needs of Today’s Students
- Increase flexible learning modalities and structures.

Conduct Strategic Outreach
- Reach out to students who stop out.
- Use inclusive marketing materials and language.
- Reframe academic probation and provide support.

Remove Reenrollment Barriers
- Reinstate students’ priority registration status upon their return.
- Review catalog rights policies.
- Offer credit for prior learning.
- Help students overcome failed grades.
- Forgive institutional debt.
- Waive application and reenrollment requirements and fees.
- Offer payment plans and other forms of financial assistance.
- Develop a comebacker-specific orientation.

Provide Ongoing Support
- Provide adult-focused advising.
- Leverage online resources.
- Facilitate a community of support.
- Take the uncertainty out of academic planning and progress.

Read the full report: CALIFORNIACOMPETES.ORG