

From Setback to Success: *Meeting Comebacker Students Where They Are*

February 2024

www.californiacompetes.org

Poll *Questions*

1a. What *sector(s)* do you represent within California's education and workforce ecosystem?

1b. If you selected higher education, what best describes your *role*?

2. What responsibilities did you *juggle* while you were in college (for those who went)?



California Competes:

Higher Education for a Strong Economy

What we *believe*

Higher education is both a vaccine and an antidote against economic stagnation and social stratification—for individual Californians, our communities, and the state’s economy.

Our Policy *Priorities*

College Access & Success for Adult Learners

Effective & Accessible Online Education

Higher Education & Workforce Alignment

Coordinated Policy Setting & Implementation

Today's *Agenda*

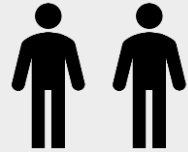
About CaliforniaAttain!

Overview of the Report

Panel Discussion

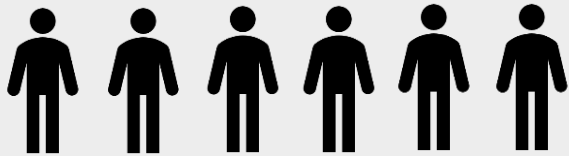
Q & A

How to Do We *Better Serve* Prospective Students to Meet State Needs?



2 Million

Shortfall of college-educated professionals



6+ Million

Adults with some college but no credential (SCNC)



CaliforniaAttain! 

- Research-practice partnership with Sacramento State, Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District, and ProjectAttain!
- How do we reengage, reenroll, and propel SCNC to completion?

Our *Approach* for Year 1



From Setback to Success:

Meeting Comebacker Students
Where They Are

FEBRUARY 2024



CALIFORNIACOMPETES.ORG

New Report Released Today!

Explore details at:



[californiacompetes.org/
from-setback-to-success](https://californiacompetes.org/from-setback-to-success)

Four Key Recommendations Areas For Meeting Comebackers Where They Are



Adapt to Meet the Needs of Today's Students



Conduct Strategic Outreach



Remove Reenrollment Barriers



Provide Ongoing Support



Adapt to Meet the Needs of Today's Students

STUDENT VOICE: SHARA

“[Online classes] really made it possible for people to do things they would not have. There's no way I'd have been able to do school without online classes.”



Increase flexible learning modalities and structures.

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Conduct Strategic Outreach

STUDENT VOICE: ANTHONY

“I didn’t get a call; I didn’t get anything. So, I kind of just felt alone.”



Reframe academic probation and provide support.

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Remove Reenrollment Barriers

STUDENT VOICE: JOHN

“I could have been out somewhere in the job market instead of being tied down to finish that one course; so close to getting my degree.”



Reinstate students’ priority registration status upon return.

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Provide Ongoing Support

STUDENT VOICE: BRUCE

“It’s that piece of inclusivity, where you feel like you’re a part of it. You have a group of people around you and you know you’re not alone.”



Facilitate a Community of Support

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Now Is the Time to *Reengage, Reenroll, and Propel* Adult Learners to Success



Adapt to Meet the Needs of Today's Students



Conduct Strategic Outreach



Remove Reenrollment Barriers



Provide Ongoing Support

STUDENT VOICE: NATALIE

“I have built my career and done things that are just beyond my wildest dreams.”

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Today's *Panel*



Melanie Dixon

Executive Director,
ProjectAttain!



Benjamin Fell

Interim Associate Dean,
College of Continuing
Education, Sacramento
State



Buffy Tanner

Director of Innovation
and Special Projects,
Shasta College



Laura Bernhard

Senior Researcher,
California Competes
(Moderator)

Contact Us!

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Download the full report:



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