



# YOUR **FIRST CHOICE** FOR A BETTER **FUTURE**



The Greater  
Sacramento Region  
of California  
Community Colleges  
has the tools you  
need to succeed



**ADVANCED  
MANUFACTURING**



**AGRICULTURE, WATER  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
TECHNOLOGIES**



**BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**



**ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION  
AND UTILITIES**



**GLOBAL TRADE AND  
LOGISTICS**



**HEALTH**



**INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGIES/DIGITAL  
MEDIA**



## HELPING STUDENTS REACH THEIR GOALS

Depending on which field, career or position a student pursues, they will achieve their professional goals by completing one of these programs at their local community college:

### **CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Provides business and technical skills. Can require as few as 18 units and be completed in as soon as two semesters.

### **ASSOCIATE DEGREE**

Obtained by completing general education requirements and a minimum of 18 semester units for a major. Allows graduates with Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS) degrees to enter directly into the workforce, often with higher financial benefits.

### **ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER**

A specific type of degree that guarantees priority admission to California State University and University of California systems. Also requires students to complete fewer units in a CSU or UC baccalaureate program to earn their bachelor's degree.

### **SKILLS BUILDER PROGRAM**

Caters to people established in the workforce but looking to advance their career or change industries. Typically part-time and connects students with courses needed for advancement.

*Salary and career information in all sidebars from [SalarySurfer.cccco.edu/SalarySurfer.aspx](http://SalarySurfer.cccco.edu/SalarySurfer.aspx).*

**EXPLORE IN-DEMAND CAREERS AND FIND  
ONES THAT ALIGN TO YOUR GOALS AT  
[WWW.CALFORNIACAREEREDUCATION.ORG](http://WWW.CALFORNIACAREEREDUCATION.ORG)!**

# A STUDENT'S BEST CHOICE

**California Community Colleges  
of the Greater Sacramento  
Region provide critical tools for  
student success**

BY BRITTANY WESELY

**W**hen it comes to career development, each person's path is different. Sometimes, it's a ladder with clear steps. Other times, that path can be more of a lattice with steps that seem too complicated to navigate. Luckily, there is a way to easily and quickly build skills and boost income in the Greater Sacramento Region — California Community Colleges.

California Community Colleges take pride in catering to these unique journeys and provide an array of education offerings, course formats and schedules to meet the needs of every student.

"Community colleges are great for folks who don't have a clear pathway in mind," said Jeffrey Mrizek, Dean of Effective Practices at California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. "It's an affordable way to explore different options."

Community colleges also offer more than a pathway to something greater, Mrizek said. With associate degrees and short-term job training certificates in more than 175 fields, California Community Colleges are the largest provider of workforce training in the nation.

"We're serving people for many different purposes — whether they're looking to upscale their careers, start new careers or to pursue lifelong learning," Mrizek said.

Since classes are offered throughout the day, late in the evenings and on the weekends, anyone — no matter their situation — is sure to find courses to suit their schedule. Plus, California Community Colleges lead the way in distance education, giving students an education without requiring them to be physically present in the classroom. Not only are 14 percent of classes available via web, television and video conferencing, nearly half of all California Community Colleges offer certificates and degrees that can be completed without ever stepping foot on campus.

With enrollment fees at only \$46 per unit, California Community Colleges are the state's most cost-effective system



**"EDUCATION ISN'T ONE-  
SIZE-FITS-ALL. WE  
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PATH OPPORTUNITIES."**

**Jeffrey Mrizek**  
*Dean of Effective Practices, California Community  
Colleges Chancellor's Office*

of education. These schools also offer a variety of financial aid options, making education accessible. Grants and scholarships are available to qualifying students to help them pay for college without having to pay anything back. Work-study programs are also offered, allowing students to work in exchange for college funds.

Mrizek said the faculty's primary focus is to help students identify their career paths early on, providing guidance and support along the way.

"Education isn't one-size-fits-all. We have the means to make meaningful and tailored [career] path opportunities," Mrizek said. "We're making our systems reflective and responsive to meet students where they are to help them get through the process much easier."

Whether you're a first-time student, returning student or have been attending college for a while, California Community Colleges of the Greater Sacramento Region have opportunities and support systems in place to help you succeed.

**“STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS IS A SCARY THING, IT’S IMPORTANT TO HAVE STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY. WE REALLY FOUND ALL THAT AT FLC.”**

**Sheeva Koch**  
Co-Founder of three education-focused small businesses



Thanks to their local community college, Chris and Sheeva laid the foundation for their family and three businesses.

**PHOTO BY  
MELISSA UROFF**

# A FAMILY’S BEGINNING

**A personal and professional impact that can last a lifetime**

BY BRITTANY WESELY

**C**hris and Sheeva Koch both chose to start their higher education at their local community college after graduating from separate high schools, primarily because it was affordable. Neither knew that Folsom Lake College (FLC) would also be where they’d meet their future spouse and lay the foundation for three small businesses.

“Having a transition period at FLC where I was slowly embarking on my journey was just really nice,” Sheeva Koch said. “It’s such an intimate community.”

While at FLC, Chris Koch served as student body president, and through that role, he actively worked to build relationships with faculty and administration which lasted far beyond his time at the college.

“The former president was one of my greatest champions and still is today,” Chris Koch said.

A few years after the couple transferred to different universities, Chris Koch was invited back to FLC to be the keynote speaker at the school’s graduation ceremony. It was that day, back in the library where their story began, Chris Koch got down on one knee to ask Sheeva Koch to be his wife. She, of course, said yes.

To supplement their income as university graduates and newlyweds, Sheeva Koch started substitute teaching and tutoring on the side. She found it not only brought her a lot of joy, but there was also a high demand for tutors. So much so that she couldn’t keep up with all the requests. Chris Koch decided to help.

“We were searching for what would come next, but we had already found what we love — building a community and

supporting students,” Chris Koch recalled. “So we decided to start our own business.”

Since 2008, the Koches have used their experience to create three companies that empower students: Tutoring Rocks (for kindergarten through 12th grade), Aria College Planning (for prospective college students) and Venture Gained (for aspiring entrepreneurs).

Community college small business programs have critical skills for any student looking to grow their dream — whether it’s a new idea, like the Koches’, or a lifelong one.

“You don’t have to be a business person to be an entrepreneur,” said Cornelius Brown, Business and Entrepreneurship Deputy Sector Navigator for the Greater Sacramento Region of California Community Colleges. “We’ll teach you the skills you need to know so that you can focus on your craft.”

The Koches attribute their success as entrepreneurs to the foundation they established at FLC.

“Starting your own business is a scary thing, it’s important to have strong relationships and a supportive community,” Sheeva Koch said. “We really found all that at FLC, and we’re just so thankful for it.”

The couple hope one day their daughter, Hazel, will want to continue the community college family tradition.

**For more information on the Business and Entrepreneurship sector contact your local college or visit [www.smallbusinesssector.net](http://www.smallbusinesssector.net).**



## ENVISION A BUSINESS CAREER

Do you have a flair for operations or leadership? Have an idea or business plan you want to bring to life? Programs in the Business and Entrepreneurship sector may have just the career plan you’re looking for.

### RETAIL STORE OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

Education needed: **Certificate**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$74,990**

### MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT & SUPERVISION

Education needed: **Certificate**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$64,417**

### SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Education needed: **Certificate**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$44,000**

# RECRUITED IN THE CLASSROOM

Close connections with industry lead to job offers from the classroom seat

BY MATT JOCKS

As a Building Information Modeling (BIM) Technician and Drafter, Pedro Benuto visualizes how a building will function long before the first wall goes up. What Benuto couldn't initially envision, however, was how quickly a couple of drafting classes in high school would blossom into a rewarding career.

Those high school classes led Benuto to the Design Technology program at American River College (ARC). There, Benuto learned to transfer his drafting skills to the computer.

"At first," he said, "I found out that I wasn't quite as prepared as I thought. It was pretty challenging."

Benuto, however, was up to the challenge. It wasn't long before a rudimentary knowledge of computers evolved into the ability to apply his drafting skills in a way that was marketable.

His work did not go unnoticed. When companies looking for skilled employees asked the faculty for recommendations, Benuto quickly had a job offer.

"I felt like I needed to impress the professors," Benuto said of his motivation. "Because I had seen it happen. I saw one guy do well in one of the basic classes and he was recommended to a company."

An expanded skill set is important, but Benuto said his professors and prospective employers look at the bigger picture.

"I think it was more the work ethic that made an impression," he said. "There were others who probably knew a little more than I did. But they tended to be less motivated."



Pedro Benuto was found by his current employer while at his local community college. He had a job soon after, starting his career while completing his education.  
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

Benuto was hired by Buehler & Buehler Structural Engineers during his last semester at ARC. His story is hardly an exception, according to Orion Walker, Prop 39 Clean Energy Workforce Director for the North/Far North Region of California Community Colleges.

"Industries are pretty desperate for skilled workers in these areas," he said. "One of the things we see is that students are often securing jobs while completing programs, or as soon as they finish."

**"ARC GAVE ME THE FOUNDATION AND HELPED ME GET HERE. I'M REALLY ENJOYING WHAT I'M DOING."**

**Pedro Benuto**  
*BIM Technician and Drafter, Buehler & Buehler Structural Engineers*

Walker said the Construction sector is constantly expanding its reach to benefit both students and employers. The sector currently has strong HVAC, Solar Installation and Construction programs across several community colleges in the Greater Sacramento Region.

One of Walker's goals is to emphasize regional alignment, allowing students to move from basic courses at one campus to more advanced study at another.

All the while, industry employers are watching — waiting for new talent to be developed.

In Benuto's case, he landed a position so quickly that he was still learning some of the more advanced computer skills on the job.

"ARC gave me the foundation and helped me get here," he said. "I'm really enjoying what I'm doing."

**For more information on the Energy, Construction and Utilities sector contact your local college or visit [www.ecusectordwm.com](http://www.ecusectordwm.com).**



## ENVISION A CONSTRUCTION CAREER

Are you skilled with your hands or like bringing innovative concepts to life? A profitable career in the Energy, Construction and Utilities sector may hold a future for you.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TECHNOLOGY

Education needed: **Associate degree**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$58,715**

### CARPENTRY

Education needed: **Certificate**  
Average salary after five years:

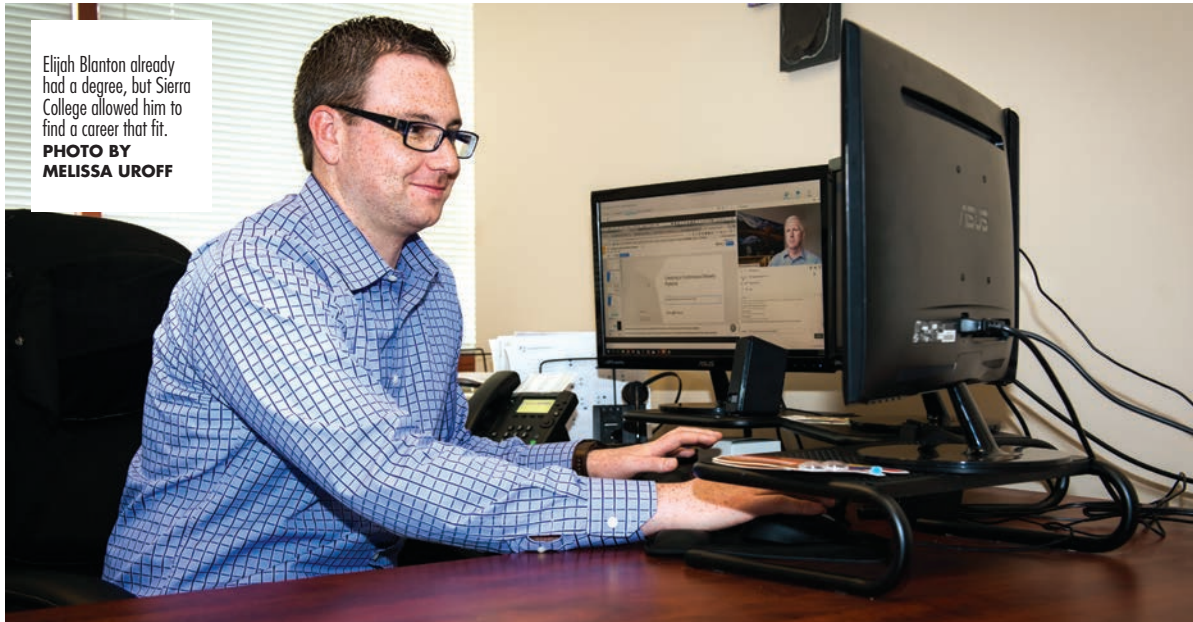
**\$45,386**

### ELECTRICAL

Education needed: **Associate degree**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$74,379**

Elijah Blanton already had a degree, but Sierra College allowed him to find a career that fit.  
**PHOTO BY  
MELISSA UROFF**



**“COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
ARE A WAY UNDERVALUED  
RESOURCE. YOU CAN GET AN  
UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNT OF  
EDUCATION FOR THE COST.”**

**Elijah Blanton**  
*Director of Product Management, Total Rewards Software*

# FROM STUDENT TO MANAGEMENT

Opening doors and career possibilities for students in high-demand fields

BY MATT JOCKS

**E**lijah Blanton didn't discover his inner computer geek until relatively late. But when he did, the world quickly opened for him.

Having already earned a psychology degree not relevant to tech, Blanton was armed only with a willingness to learn when he entered the Computer Information Systems program at Sierra College. Before he was even finished with the program, he was already on track for a profitable career at TotalRewards Software, where he now serves as Director of Product Management.

“I had no idea this would be the result,” Blanton said. “I started because tech seemed cool. My previous degree didn't directly apply to anything I was looking at doing.”

As a newcomer, Blanton said he didn't have an appreciation of how wide open the job market was or just how strong the relationship was between community colleges and the private sector.

He soon learned.

Blanton started working in a service-oriented position at TotalRewards Software after following his career counselor's advice to check job sites. From there, he moved to his current full-time position — leveraging the skills he learned at Sierra to move into a high-paying position at the same company.

The opportunities that Blanton found are similar to ones available throughout the tech sector at large, which has matured from its initial dot-com explosion but is still rapidly growing.

“There's a generational shift taking place,” said Markus Geissler, Deputy Sector Navigator for Information and Communication Technologies/Digital Media (ICT) for the Greater Sacramento Region of California Community Colleges. “Many of those who got into the growing IT business in the '70s and '80s are retiring now.”

Those positions, as well as new ones in the growing area of cyber-security, are opening rapidly. Local community colleges are uniquely positioned to provide those workers,

because they offer an affordable education and work in tandem with the private sector to identify current workforce needs.

The ICT sector covers multiple disciplines — computer science, computer engineering, software engineering, information systems, information technology and cyber security. Pathways can be created for transfer to four-year schools, industry certifications (which often lead to employment before a student finishes classes), or internships where work experience counts for college credit.

Blanton continues to learn about the benefits of community college, recently discovering that one of his Sierra courses was directly transferable to a master's program at Colorado State, something he said he never would have imagined.

“Community colleges are a way undervalued resource,” he said. “You can get an unbelievable amount of education for the cost. I never would have made this switch without it.”

**For more information on the ICT sector contact your local college or visit [www.ict-dm.net](http://www.ict-dm.net).**

## ENVISION A TECH CAREER



Are you passionate about computer systems, programs and all things technology? If you're technologically minded — or want to be — a career in the ICT sector is within your reach.

### COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Education needed:

**Certificate**

Average salary after five years:

**\$49,001**

### COMPUTER NETWORKING

Education needed:

**Associate degree**

Average salary after five years:

**\$65,291**

### COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Education needed:

**Associate degree**

Average salary after five years:

**\$60,863**

# THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY

Student finds the specific tools she needs to compete in an international marketplace

BY ANNE STOKES



Nancy Alatorre is working toward a career in international exports by boosting her professional skills with California Community Colleges' global trade and logistics program.

PHOTO BY  
MELISSA UROFF

Whether through the food you eat, the clothes you wear or the electronic devices you use to communicate, global commerce affects your daily life. It's a burgeoning industry with over four million jobs in California, 7,000 in the Sacramento region alone.

Nancy Alatorre wants to help more local companies do business globally. As an International Marketing Assistant at the Center for International Trade Development (CITD) in Sacramento, she's learning how to navigate the complex world of global business.

"In today's society, everything is more globally bound," she said. "I'm hoping that in the future I can dive into more international trade and focus on helping others get their merchandise and products into other countries."

Alatorre graduated with a degree in international studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2017, but said it didn't fully prepare her for the career she wanted. As a freshman, she initially didn't have a clear career path in mind, let alone a plan to achieve her goal. It took three expensive years to find her passion in international studies.

"My first university didn't offer a business degree, it was all economics-focused, which is great, but I wanted to know more about the business aspect," she said. "Looking at master's programs, a lot of them require an understanding of business."

In retrospect, she said filtering out career options might have been easier had she started out at a community college. After

graduating with her bachelor's degree, Alatorre returned to school at Cosumnes River College (CRC) to take business courses. Alatorre also found that the smaller class sizes at community colleges afforded closer connections with instructors, which led to her current internship with the CITD.

"My professor in my marketing class last semester has his master's in international business, and I said, 'That sounds really interesting, I want to know how you got there,'" she said.

"I'm really grateful that I was able to network more and to know more about what's in my area."

In an effort to help faculty "globalize" curriculum, Los Rios Community College District — which includes CRC — recently implemented a global trade program to give students international career prospects across many disciplines.

According to Brooks Ohlson, Global Trade and Logistics Deputy Sector Navigator for the Greater Sacramento Region of California Community Colleges, those prospects require employees to understand how

to sell, package and market products as well as be familiar with licensing requirements, shipping logistics and cultural practices. "It's basically Business 101 with a lot of extra pieces added to it," he said.

For more information on the Global Trade and Logistics sector contact your local college or visit [www.citd.org](http://www.citd.org).

**"IN TODAY'S SOCIETY,  
EVERYTHING IS  
MORE GLOBALLY  
BOUND."**

**Nancy Alatorre**  
*International Marketing Assistant,  
Center for International Trade  
Development*



## ENVISION A GLOBAL CAREER

Do you have a "big picture" mentality? Like to travel, work closely with diverse people and companies, and aspire to make a worldwide impact? Then a career in the Global Trade and Logistics sector could be yours.

### MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Education needed:

**Associate degree**

Average salary after five years:

**\$38,709**

### INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & TRADE

Education needed: **Certificate**

Average salary after five years:

**\$46,234**

### BUSINESS & COMMERCE

Education needed: **Certificate**

Average salary after five years:

**\$42,726**

To pass a licensing exam, Jared Hajik found the education he needed at his local community college.  
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

# CHANGE YOUR CAREER, CHANGE YOUR LIFE



## ENVISION AN AGRICULTURE CAREER

Passionate about the environment? Always pictured yourself working with animals or plants? Check out the opportunities in the Agriculture, Water and Environmental Technologies sector.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN & MAINTENANCE

Education needed: **Certificate**  
Typical salary after five years:

**\$40,763**

### AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS, SALES & SERVICE

Education needed: **Associate degree**  
Typical salary after five years:

**\$42,598**

### VETERINARIAN TECHNICIAN [LICENSED]

Education needed: **Associate degree**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$36,391**

## Turning interests into lifelong opportunities and well-matched careers

BY BRITTANY WESELY

**J**ared Hajik spends his days outdoors, enjoying fresh air and surrounded by plants — and he gets paid to do it. As a Pest Control Advisor, it's Hajik's job to consult with farmers to help their crops flourish while still protecting the environment. It's the kind of job he'd always dreamed of, but he didn't know it at first.

Hajik first attended college at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

He majored in political science and participated in the ROTC program to prepare him for military service. After graduating, Hajik was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant and deployed to Afghanistan.

When Hajik returned from deployment, he realized that a military career wasn't what he wanted long-term. He decided it was time to make a change.

He thought back fondly to his childhood growing up in rural Reedley and the summers he spent as a teen working in fruit packing sheds. Hajik began to explore the various career options that suited his interests and learned about pest control advisors. However, to be a pest control advisor, he'd need to take additional college courses and pass a state licensing exam.

Having recently moved to Woodland with his wife, Hajik enrolled at Woodland Community College. There, he began taking classes in physical and biological sciences, crop health, pest management and agriculture production systems.

For students with agriculture-based interests, like Hajik, there are a lot of options to find the perfect career fit. "There is a place for every student to find something that would interest them in agriculture, whether

it be farming, or sciences, or business and marketing. The opportunities in the industry are endless," said Carrie Peterson, Agriculture, Water and Environmental Technologies Deputy Sector Navigator for the Greater Sacramento Region of California Community Colleges. "A pest control advisor, like Jared, can earn their two-year certificate, take a state licensing exam and be making over \$60,000 per year!"

Beyond the technical skills he learned, Hajik also received a lot of encouragement and support from the school faculty and staff.

"One of my teachers was also my academic adviser," Hajik said. "She let me know what classes would be available and helped me plan out my classes to take each semester."

One year into his studies, Hajik explored internship options and found Wilbur-Ellis, a leader in the agribusiness industry with a nearby office. Hajik began an internship there shortly after. He said his internship enhanced his education and gave him opportunities to apply what he'd already learned.

"A lot of what I saw in the classroom was the same things I saw in the field and visa versa," Hajik said. "It was very helpful."

After completing his courses, Hajik passed the exam for the Pest Control Advisor License. He now works full-time at Wilbur-Ellis.

**For more information on Agriculture, Water and Environmental Technologies sector contact your local college or visit [www.calagcc.org](http://www.calagcc.org).**

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**Jared Hajik**  
*Pest Control Advisor, Wilbur-Ellis*

Darrell Desmond was able to turn a lifelong dream into a master's degree and rewarding career thanks to his community college education.  
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

# A DREAM BROUGHT TO LIFE

## Putting students in touch with tools to turn career goals in the health field into reality

BY BRITTANY WESELY

**D**arrell Desmond always knew he wanted to be a nurse. His mother was a nurse and, as a child, he'd often go to work with her and watch her with the elderly patients she helped.

At age 36, Desmond moved from Boston to live with his aunt in Sacramento and attend Sacramento City College (SCC). Desmond wanted to go to nursing school, and he'd heard SCC had a good program that was affordable and accepted more students than universities. The flexible community college schedule would also allow him to work and go to school at the same time.

Desmond only had to complete a few semesters of prerequisites before he was accepted into the nursing program.

the confidence they need to succeed in high-stress environments and when caring for sick patients," said Julie Holt, Health Deputy Sector Navigator for the Greater Sacramento Region of California Community Colleges.

By his third semester, Desmond was in the hospital room supporting a live birth. He was the first person to give the baby a bath and to help the new mother begin to breastfeed.

"It was a very calm experience when the baby was born. I bonded with the mother," Desmond fondly recalled. "That whole day I felt like I was floating. It was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had."

In his final semester of the SCC nursing program, Desmond began working as an extern in the oncology unit at the UC Davis Medical Center, which paved the way for his future.

Upon graduation, Desmond accepted a permanent position in the UC Davis oncology department. He stayed there for 12 years while he obtained both bachelor's and master's degrees, moving up the ranks to be Nurse Manager of the dialysis program at UC Davis.

"Nursing is a very challenging career to pursue. You have to be disciplined. You have to be a self-learner," Desmond said. "I was successful only because I got such a strong start at SCC. They taught me how to study and how to prepare. I truly owe my success to SCC, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart."

**For more information on the Health sector contact your local college or visit [www.ca-hwi.org](http://www.ca-hwi.org).**

**"[SCC] TAUGHT ME HOW TO STUDY AND HOW TO PREPARE. I TRULY OWE MY SUCCESS TO SCC AND I MEAN THAT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART."**

**Darrell Desmond**  
*Nurse Manager, UC Davis Medical Center*

"Once you're in the nursing program, your first semester is make or break. They're testing to see if you have the intellect to do calculations quickly and that you have the critical thinking skills to excel," Desmond said. "It also shows you the seriousness of taking care of someone's life."

These skills are not only critical for nurses, but essential for public health. "Our clinical instructors are good at making sure students gain the skills and

## ENVISION A HEALTH CAREER



Does helping others inspire you? Do you like applying practical skills in hands-on situations? Then breaking into the ever-growing Health sector might be right for you.

### DENTAL HYGIENIST

Education needed:  
**Associate degree**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$64,030**

### RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

Education needed:  
**Certificate**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$76,623**

### REGISTERED NURSING

Education needed:  
**Associate degree**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$83,931**

**“I KIND OF GREW INTO THIS BUSINESS WORKING FOR MY DAD. THANKS TO THE EDUCATION I RECEIVED, I’M ABLE TO DO WHAT I WANT TO.”**

**Anthony Herrera**  
Owner, North Valley Welding



Anthony Herrera built upon skills he’d learned from his father to start his own business, North Valley Welding, and become his own boss.  
**PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF**

# BUILDING ON TRADITION

**How a local community college empowered one student to turn a family trade into his own business**

BY MATT JOCKS

**F**or Anthony Herrera, the path to a fulfilling career began with family and ended with family.

In between, Herrera reaped the benefits of a community college education.

Welding is in the Herrera family and Anthony remembers learning the basics at the side of his father, Abel. And while his father might have been a little skeptical of his decision to follow the college path at first, Anthony Herrera has seen it pay off in the best of ways.

After first working professionally for someone else, Herrera used the skills he honed and the business administration degree he earned at Yuba College to start his own business.

“What kind of kickstarted getting my own business was when I asked for time off for family reasons,” Herrera said. “I had a difficult time with that.”

Herrera’s time is now his own, whether used for managing his business or his home life. His business, North Valley Welding, primarily provides repair services for the large trucks used by Recology for recycling and waste disposal.

Herrera’s general education courses at Yuba College prepared him for a future as a businessman, in addition to honing the skills and technological knowledge in his trade.

“Paperwork, accounting, tax classes — all of it has helped me,” Herrera said. “I also took speech classes. Now, when I go to committees and I have to speak to small crowds, I feel much more comfortable.”

Herrera’s business path was unique to him, but in a way, typifies the benefits of community college education and training in the manufacturing field.

Steve Dicus, the Advanced Manufacturing Deputy Sector Navigator for the Greater Sacramento Region of California Community Colleges, said it’s about options. For some, that means working toward a four-year degree or more. Others move straight from community college into the workplace.

“I taught shop in high school,” Dicus said. “Most of the students were the kind who wanted to know how things worked, to get under the hood. They don’t necessarily need a high-level degree to succeed. The cool thing about community college is you can focus on courses for a specific career pathway.”

Dicus sees some students starting from the ground level, while others are older and already in the workplace but want to get more training or work toward a higher degree.

For Herrera, his local community college was a stepping stone on a road that isn’t about to end.

“I see bigger things,” he said. “I’d like to get more into the fabrication end of this field. I kind of grew into this business working for my dad. Thanks to the education I received, I’m able to do what I want to.”

**For more information on the Advanced Manufacturing sector contact your local college or visit [www.makingitincalifornia.com](http://www.makingitincalifornia.com).**



## ENVISION A MANUFACTURING CAREER

Do you have a passion for building with your hands or mastering large tools and technologies? Your interests could earn you money with a career in the Advanced Manufacturing sector.

### ENGINEERING

Education needed: **Associate degree**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$57,389**

### WELDING TECHNOLOGY

Program needed: **Associate degree**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$37,916**

### INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY & MAINTENANCE

Program needed: **Certificate**  
Average salary after five years:

**\$72,248**

# TOP 10 REASONS

## WHY COMMUNITY COLLEGES SHOULD BE YOUR TOP CHOICE

BY ANNE STOKES

### 1 COST

At \$46 per unit, a full-time community college student can expect to pay \$1,104 for an academic year — a bargain compared to tuition in the UC (\$12,630) and CSU (\$5,742) systems.

### 2 DIVERSITY OF CAREER PATHWAYS

Whether you're setting the foundation for a four-year degree, starting on a new career path or updating your skills as a seasoned professional, counselors can help you decide whether a certificate program, associate degree or an associate degree for transfer is right for you.

### 3 QUALITY SKILLS

California Community Colleges keep curricula relevant by working closely with community partners to ensure coursework is transferable to four-year college programs and to determine what current methods, technology and industry standards students (and employers) need most.

### 4 OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

UC and CSU admissions include a host of A-G coursework and GPA requirements. But so long as you attend class and pass a basic Ability to Benefit Assessment, community colleges have a place for you — whether you're fresh out of high school, a lifelong learner in your 80s, or don't have a GED or high school diploma.

### 5 LOW RISK

Regardless of your educational background, work schedule or income, community colleges are a low-risk and low-cost way to dip your toe in the college pool and see how higher education can fit into your life.

### 6 SUCCESS RATES

According to a 2016 study by the Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment, students who transfer from community colleges to four-year institutions tend to have higher grade point averages than students who enrolled as freshmen.

### 7 CAREER SALARY POTENTIAL

Graduates of community colleges consistently see a significant increase in earnings across career paths and industries. Visit [SalarySurfer.cccco.edu](http://SalarySurfer.cccco.edu) to see how a degree or certificate can improve your salary potential.

### 8 CONVENIENCE

While some students have the flexibility to work their lives around class schedules, for many it's the other way around. At many community colleges, students can take classes at one of the many campuses across the Greater Sacramento Region, online or a mix of the two.

### 9 CLOSE CONNECTIONS

Traditionally, California Community Colleges classes average approximately 35 students — smaller than many educational institutions — making it easy for students to connect with professors and instructors.

### 10 ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS

The California Community College system has been enriching students' lives for over 100 years. Its well-established programs have continuously provided employers with skilled employees, offering students life-changing career options in the process.

**GET A QUALITY EDUCATION THAT FITS INTO YOUR LIFE — WITH DIVERSE OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM AND UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES.**



Brook Oliver is Lead Counselor for Career Connections and Internships at Sierra College.  
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

# MANY PATHS TO SUCCESS

## A Q&A with a California Community College Counselor

BY ANNE STOKES

**“AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
... THERE’S MORE OF  
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AND THE NUMBER OF  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
THAT WE HAVE.”**

**Brook Oliver**  
*Lead Counselor for Career Connections and  
Internships, Sierra College*

**B**rook Oliver, Lead Counselor for Career Connections and Internships at Sierra College, helps students turn their goals into profitable careers every day. Here are some aspects of local community colleges that make them an invaluable resource to students from all walks of life.

### **What kind of students can succeed in the community college system?**

Everyone and anyone, with any goal and at any age. I think community colleges do a great job with a “whole student” approach. There are a lot of programs outside the classroom, including tutoring, counseling — whether it’s personal, career or academic counseling — or workshops to help develop skills like time management, study skills and how to fill out financial aid applications. Anything that can help with the barriers that might get in the way of being successful as a student.

### **What kinds of educational pathways are available?**

Many students come here to transfer later, so we support those goals through our ADTs, or associate degrees for transfer. That program is designed for students transferring into a CSU. It’s a packaged set of classes that meet lower division requirements. Six of the nine undergraduate and graduate UCs offer TAG, or the Transfer Admission Guarantee. We work very closely with the UCs to make sure our students are matching

their requirements. From an associate degree in arts or science to a baccalaureate degree is typically 60 additional units.

We also offer something called certificates. There are skill certificates, which are under 18 units, or certificates of achievement, which are 18 or more units. Those packages have all been built based on advice from advisory committees made up of industry leaders.

### **What makes community colleges a preferred option over CSU and UC programs?**

Lower costs for the same courses and the same quality. At a community college, there’s less pressure on students because there is less tuition money and risk attached. And there’s more of a connection with smaller class sizes and the number of programs and services that we have.

### **How do community colleges help students be competitive in the job market and prepare them for the workplace?**

We have advisory committees made up of industry leaders and educators that provide input on what we should be teaching and how. Committees help us connect the curriculum to careers, a lot of times through internships. If you have an internship on your résumé, you’re much more likely to get an interview at least because it shows that you can do more than learn these things in class, you can apply it to the workplace.

## HOW TO APPLY

College is often required to reach a higher level of success, but that doesn’t have to mean a four-year degree. Depending on your needs, an associate degree, industry certification or certificate of achievement can provide all the education needed for professional achievement. No matter the career pathway, every California Community College student goes through the same enrollment process.

### **1. APPLICATION**

Find the right campus and program for you and apply online at **[www.cccapply.org](http://www.cccapply.org)** either at home or in-person at your local campus’s admission office.

### **2. PLACEMENT**

Placement can be made either by an exam or through official high school or college transcripts to determine what classes you need.

### **3. ORIENTATION**

Get acquainted online or in-person with some basic college systems, programs and expectations, such as how to register for classes, financial aid opportunities and extracurricular activities.

### **4. COUNSELING**

Talk to a counselor to find the best pathway for your educational and professional goals, ensure you’re on-track and find out if you’re eligible for financial aid or other resources.

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## FIND YOUR CAMPUS

Satellite campuses are represented as smaller circles

### Main campuses:

1

#### AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE

[www.arc.losrios.edu](http://www.arc.losrios.edu)  
916-484-8011  
4700 College Oak Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
(Five more locations!)



2

#### COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE

[www.crc.losrios.edu](http://www.crc.losrios.edu)  
916-691-7344  
8401 Center Parkway  
Sacramento, CA 95823  
(One more location!)



3

#### FOLSOM LAKE COLLEGE

[www.flc.losrios.edu](http://www.flc.losrios.edu)  
916-608-6500  
10 College Parkway  
Folsom, CA 95630  
(Two more locations!)



4

#### SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE

[www.scc.losrios.edu](http://www.scc.losrios.edu)  
916-558-2111  
3835 Freeport Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95822  
(Two more locations!)



5

#### SIERRA COLLEGE

[www.sierracollege.edu](http://www.sierracollege.edu)  
916-624-3333  
5100 Sierra College Blvd.  
Rocklin, CA 95677  
(Three more locations!)



6

#### WOODLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[wcc.yccd.edu](http://wcc.yccd.edu)  
530-661-5700  
2300 E. Gibson Road  
Woodland, CA 95776  
(Two more locations!)



7

#### YUBA COLLEGE

[yc.yccd.edu](http://yc.yccd.edu)  
530-741-6700  
2088 North Beale Road  
Marysville, CA 95901  
(Two more locations!)

