The 115th Online Community College: A New Tool to Reach Working Learners

115th Online Community College

For working adults who cannot attend a brick and mortar college because of job or family responsibilities

Will focus on short-term certificates not offered online by existing community colleges

Will use adaptive learning and be competency-based, meaning students don’t have to sit through what they already know

Will be flexible, self-paced and on-demand so students can start anytime, not just at the start of an academic term

Needs a separate and direct mission to quickly serve stranded workers

Existing Online Community College Offerings (OEI)

For undergraduate students focused on associate degree or transfer to a four-year university

Designed to ease transfer bottleneck to California State University by offering in-demand courses online

Follows traditional academic calendar used at brick and mortar colleges

Top programs offered online are in business, social sciences, liberal arts and public administration

Needs to focus on original mission and scale up to serve statewide undergraduate needs

Quality, public options taught by community college faculty

Affordable, with financial aid available

Supported by tutoring, advisement, 24/7 tech support and other support services

Hands-on component to be at college campus or work-based setting

For more information about online community college go to www.ccconlinecollege.org.
Help Millions of Stranded Californians
Yes to the 115th Online Community College

What Is a Stranded Worker?
Stranded workers are working adults who are unable to attend college in person or access traditional online offerings due to work or family obligations.

Many working adults face limited opportunities for advancement in their current field and may be at risk of displacement because of advances in automation or artificial intelligence.

Other working adults lost jobs during the recession, and recovery and wage gains have been uneven. Many Californians are unprepared to find comparable jobs in a rapidly changing economy unless they improve their skills.

Returning veterans, incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals and other adults seeking the flexibility offered by online education also could benefit from a fully online community college.

Who Are California’s Stranded Workers?

- 2.5 million men and women, ages 25-34
- High school graduates, no degree
- 80% are currently working
- An additional 6 million adults ages 35-65 would benefit

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