



GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE

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PRESS RELEASE

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GWC Selected to Participate in Statewide Initiative to Expand Nursing Programs

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office will lead project in effort to meet state's regional nursing shortages



Huntington Beach, Calif. — The California Community Colleges announced on August 8 the launch of a new initiative to increase the number of nurses to meet the growing needs of California's aging and diverse population.

Golden West College was one of 12 community colleges that convened in a virtual kick-off of the associate degree for nursing demonstration project led by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. The goal of the

initiative, part of the community colleges' Vision 2030 strategic framework, is to increase enrollment in associate degree nursing programs to address the shortage of registered nurses in rural and remote areas while ensuring equity in access to the profession.

"California community colleges offer accessible, flexible, hands-on training that lead to high-wage careers which makes these institutions uniquely positioned to address the state's healthcare workforce shortage," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Sonya Christian. "By leveraging the resources and reach of community colleges, California can not only bridge the nursing gap, but also foster equity in healthcare delivery."

MORE



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Forthcoming data by the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) are expected to show regional nurse shortages. Areas with the greatest gaps include rural areas within the Northern and Sierra regions and are expected to worsen without intervention. This project's focus will also ensure access to the profession and boost continued supply of RNs in other parts of the state to head off future shortages.

"Nursing shortages have reached a critical point across the state, including in Orange County," says GWC School of Nursing Director and Associate Dean Alice Martanegara. "Golden West College has already expanded its nursing program to offer affordable and accessible pathways to nursing degrees starting in high school all the way up to a bachelor's degree in nursing through our Concurrent Enrollment Program partnership with Cal State San Bernardino. We are honored to be selected for this initiative and continue our efforts to meet the growing demands of the healthcare industry."

The project will establish a statewide blueprint to increase nursing associate degree production with an emphasis on collaboration with regulatory and employer partners. It will also focus on supporting incumbent workers by developing flexible pathways that facilitate their entry into nursing programs.

The pilot program will involve a multifaceted set of key strategies designed to expand associate degree nursing program capacities across all community colleges, including:

- Integration of simulation labs to enhance hands-on learning experiences.
- Strategic scheduling processes to accommodate diverse student needs, including accelerated and fast-track programs, year-round schedules and admission timelines and evening cohorts.
- Increase in night rotations to provide flexible clinical experiences.
- Increase in hospital-based faculty members to expand program capacity and enrich educational experience for students.
- During this demonstration project, colleges will be eligible to enroll on a rolling basis, with the next cohort starting in Spring 2025 and new cohorts added each subsequent fall and spring semester.

The 12 colleges participating in the demonstration project are: Butte College, Cabrillo College, Monterey Peninsula College, Bakersfield College, Modesto Junior College, Cuesta College, Ventura College, Golden West College, Saddleback College, Mt. San Jacinto College, Riverside City College, and College of the Desert.



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Located in the coastal community of Huntington Beach, also known as “Surf City,” [Golden West College](#) is highly regarded for academic quality and innovation. Founded in 1965 as part of the multi-college Coast Community College District, GWC provides enriching and innovative programs that help students: transfer to four-year institutions, earn associate degrees, complete certificates in career and technical education, advance their careers, and demonstrate college readiness.