Sacramento State’s College of Continuing Education (CCE) advances our economy through work with higher education, workforce development, and economic growth. CCE has been at the forefront of professional education and the home of lifelong learning opportunities in the Sacramento region since 1951.

CCE touches the lives of over 13,000 adult learners each year and provides essential advancement opportunities for adult learners who can secure their foothold in a competitive economy across the region and throughout the state. Through CCE’s flexible educational options, adults of all backgrounds can complete their degree, earn an industry-recognized certificate, or attend a training to improve their career trajectory and financial well-being.

Additionally, CCE provides educational enrichment opportunities for youth, exposing them to career options, experiences learning from university professors, and the opportunity to complete coursework for early college credit. Building on Sacramento State’s leadership in enrolling first-generation students, CCE’s summer programs empower youth of all economic backgrounds.

CCE also provides essential lifelong-learning, workforce-development, and degree-completion programs which are critical to the future of California. The Public Policy Institute of California predicts by 2030 there will be a shortage of 1.1 million college graduates to meet the needs of California employers. California can only stay at the forefront of the country’s economy if we have an adequately sized, talented, and skilled workforce.

CCE is committed to increasing the number of individuals in the region with a degree or postsecondary credential. In Sacramento County, 60,000 adults are within 15 units of completing their degree. CCE can play an important role in helping these individuals complete their degree and improve our region’s future economic stability and growth. Individuals with postsecondary credentials are:

- 25% more likely to be employed;
- 47% more likely to have health insurance;
- 72% more likely to plan for retirement.

CCE’s learners positively contribute to their family, their personal future, and our economy.
Learner Support

- Increase both the volume of courses as well as the breadth of educational support to help tens of thousands of adults realize their dream of a post-secondary credential or degree. “Working age adults are an economic powerhouse who have earned valuable life and work experience,” says President Robert S. Nelsen. “They deserve our support in earning their degree or credential.”

- Create scholarships for current and future learners. Individuals who fell short of completing their degree face immense barriers returning to school later in life including tuition, transportation, course materials, child care, and time away from work and home. Scholarships can help an adult complete their degree for professional advancement and give them a renewed sense of pride and motivation, driven by a desire to honor a donor’s contribution.

Youth Programs

- Invest in growing Summer Academies and academic programming to reach more middle and high school students from underrepresented communities throughout the Sacramento region. Youth scholarships provide teens with opportunities to attend diverse and exciting programs that provide hands-on experiences which can open their eyes and ignite their passion in different careers. Additionally, attending week-long courses on a college campus exposes youth to the possibility of education beyond high school, which will entice many of them to become future Hornets.

- Expand youth course offerings in fields that are expected to be in the greatest demand in the next 8-12 years including health care, digital forensics, robotics, and more.

Campaign Priorities

Spotlight Victoria Rochester ’18
A story of perseverance

Victoria Rochester possessed years of work experience, from a probation office supervisor and a counselor for at-risk children to other mid-level office jobs. But professionally she felt stuck.

“I found that my ability to promote or advance in other areas was limited because I lacked a four-year degree,” said Rochester. She earned two associate degrees, one in criminal justice and the other in corrections, and then set aside her college dreams.

Rochester raised three children while working full time, and “life’s responsibilities took priority over higher education,” she said. But, at 47 and with her kids grown, she returned to Sierra College, finished her last few courses, and successfully transferred to Sacramento State.

Rochester and her oldest daughter, Taylor, attended Sacramento State at the same time. “My family kept me going,” she recalled, “especially when things got really hard juggling life and school. They reminded me how important my degree was.”

In 2018, Rochester earned her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice through an online degree completion program, a partnership between the College of Continuing Education and the College of Health and Human Services at Sacramento State.

With her bachelor’s degree in hand, Rochester received the promotion she’d been eyeing. As an attendance supervisor in the San Juan Unified School District, she sees to it that truancy laws are followed and among her responsibilities, she chairs formal hearings for students, parents, and guardians.

She often shares a personal story of becoming “a successful graduate at 50,” and will catch the students’ look of surprise followed by respect.

“She set an example for us,” said Rochester’s daughter, who will become the second college graduate in the family. “Our mom persevered, and it was a beautiful thing to see.”

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How To Give

At Sacramento State, we are On the Rise and need your support to reach the next level of excellence for our students and community. Your investment will allow us to do even more for our students, our region, and the world.

GIVE ONLINE
csus.edu/campaign

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ABOUT ON THE RISE
The goal of the $225 million On the Rise campaign is to amplify Sacramento State’s impact in the region, the state, and the world by doubling our current level of private support. The campaign has three priorities: supporting students through increased financial aid and student programs; advancing knowledge through innovative learning approaches; and strengthening the larger Sacramento community through diverse, engaged and impactful teaching and research.

On the Rise campaign is committed to uplifting generations of people in an equitable and sustainable way.