

The Online Community College
Bill Scroggins
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The Online Community College as outlined in the governor's proposed budget and in trailer bill language has several distinct advantages:

1. This fully online community college will have a statewide mission and offer opportunities to meet all competencies online. Existing college online programs primarily serve district or regional students who take online courses to supplement in-person courses.
2. The program and curriculum design includes
 - credit for prior learning,
 - competency based assessment,
 - open entry that starts when needed and concludes when competencies are obtained,
 - program integration of apprenticeship and work experience-based learning,
 - course and program development in partnership with business and industry experts who validate the competencies needed to hire completers,
 - flexible and responsive design of modules that can be assembled to meet specific needs.
 - badges, credentials, and certificates which recognize learning outcomes that are aligned with industry certifications and/or meet targeted employment entry skills or "up-skill" needs.
 - a design which reflects today's workforce which is not placed-bound or employer and salary-bound.
3. Many of the above design elements are among the twenty-five recommendations of the Strong Workforce Taskforce.
 - Most of these have not yet been implemented by existing community colleges.

- In that regard, the Online Community College provides a unique pilot for proof-of-concept of these educational design and delivery methods.
4. The statutory basis of the Online Community College allows the creation of the above elements many of which have barriers in existing law and regulation for the 114 community colleges.
- The governor's proposal may be thought of as developing a "charter community college" that breaks new ground in permissible structure and function.
 - Challenges remain in governance, financial aid, accreditation, and financing, and I have shared my thoughts with Chancellor Oakley and the LAO. However, the "charter community college" principle gives the legislature the opportunity to reimagine how these elements of the Online Community College can be freshly created.
5. I am often asked if the Online Community College will "compete" with the existing 114 community colleges, including Mt. San Antonio College.
- With the design as a fully online CTE competency based college delivering badges and certificates, my opinion is that the Online Community College will not appreciably overlap with other community colleges—including Mt. San Antonio College.
 - References in the Trailer Bill to a wider mission of offering two-year associate degrees and lower division preparation for transfer to baccalaureate institutions would create an Online Community College that directly competes with others as well as with Mt. SAC.
 - It is my opinion that the existing online system created and funded by the Legislature as the Online Education Initiative (OEI) meets this broader education mission.