

**Senate Hearing on the Online Community College**  
**Testimony by 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 set the competencies for hiring completers.
  - Flexible and responsive design of modules that can be assembled to meet specific needs.
  - Recognizes learning outcomes with badges, credentials, and certificates that are aligned with industry certifications and/or meet targeted employment entry skills or "up-skill" needs.
  - Reflects today's workforce which is not placed-bound or employer and salary-bound.
3. Many of the above design elements are among those in 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 to 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.
  - I have often referred to the governor's proposal as developing a "charter community college" that breaks new ground in permissible structure and function.
  - Challenges remain in governance, financial aid, accreditation, and financing. However, the "charter community college" principle give the legislature the opportunity to reimaging 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.