Heather Hiles Resigns as CEO and President of Calbright College

On Monday, January 13, 2020, Heather Hiles resigned as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and President of Calbright College after less than a year on the job (see "Heather Hiles Named CEO and President of the California Online Community College District" in the February 8, 2019, *Community College Update*).

Hiles was hired in February 2019 with a four year contract, as the first CEO and President of the online community college that was envisioned by former Governor Jerry Brown in the 2018–19 State Budget Act, the final budget of Brown's tenure.

The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, which serves as the board of trustees for Calbright College, unanimously voted to accept Hiles' resignation, effective March 31, 2020. Board President Tom Epstein thanked Hiles in a statement and also said that an interim CEO for the college will be selected until a permanent replacement can be found.

Calbright College officially opened October 2019, and has enrolled over 300 students in one of its three program pathways: medical coding, information technology support, or cybersecurity support. However, the college has faced critiques from the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and the California Federation of Teachers that the new college is duplicating online courses that are already being offered by other colleges in the system.

The 2018–19 State Budget Act included $100 million in one-time funds to establish the college, and Calbright also receives $20 million annually for its operations. Governor Gavin Newsom's 2020–21 State Budget proposal that was released last week keeps the annual $20 million funding intact.