



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **Former ITT Tech Students Assisted by California Community Colleges Following Closure**

*More than 24 outreach events held in communities affected by for-profit chain's sudden collapse*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California community colleges, working with other state and federal partners, have participated in more than two dozen outreach meetings with former ITT Technical Institute students affected by the for-profit chain's sudden closure earlier this month and assisted more than 600 students at these events.

"What happened to these students is heartbreaking," said California Community Colleges Interim Chancellor [Erik E. Skinner](#). "Since the beginning of this crisis, our colleges have stepped up to help these students understand their options and the opportunities that community colleges offer. Some students have successfully made the transition and we expect to serve more at the start of the winter term."

One of those students, Jeremy Mauricio, of Ventura, was one year shy of completing a degree in electrical engineering and communications technology at ITT Tech. He previously attended Oxnard College in the Ventura County Community College District 16 years ago, serving in the Associated Student Government during his time on campus. He later enrolled at ITT Tech, but this month returned to Oxnard College to finish his studies, with the goal of transferring to a four-year college or university to complete a bachelor's degree.

"The nationwide shutdown of ITT has allowed me to return to a system and the college that was always there and had not let me down so many years prior," Mauricio said. "The fact that [Oxnard College] has stepped up to recognize the position that we were left in and in such a timely manner after this "crisis" only reaffirms my previously held beliefs."

Jeremy offered advice for fellow ITT students, as he understands everyone was affected differently by the sudden closure: "You are not alone, and your perseverance is what will see you through. Education is for everyone."

Gerardo Chavez, a 23-year-old student from Fillmore, is enrolling this fall at College of the Canyons. He spent more than three years at ITT Tech and was six months away from graduating with a degree in electronics. He met with a Canyons counselor, and they put together a two-year education plan for him, using his ITT classes to fulfill prerequisites and place him in college math. Gerardo wants to eventually transfer to California State University, Northridge to complete a degree in electrical engineering.

"The Chancellor's Office will continue to work with the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education to help students find a way to complete their educational goals," said Skinner.

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In addition to the outreach provided by the colleges, the "I Can Afford College" financial awareness campaign sponsored by the California Community Colleges is also supporting former ITT students by:

- Providing financial aid information resource materials to displaced ITT students at community events hosted by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE).
- Promoting online resources and community event information through the "I Can" social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram).
- Coordinating with the BPPE to provide on-site support at the community events through "I Can" information tables and one-on-one assistance connecting students directly to financial aid resources at their local community college.

California's 113 community colleges offer hundreds of affordable programs including associates degrees, [Associate Degrees for Transfer](#), career technical education certificates and workforce training. Many of the programs are similar to the programs ITT Tech was offering, including writing and computational skills for business, health information technology, management and team building, information technology management and small business management.

Additional Resources:

- Students can learn more about their options through the Federal Student Aid website at: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/itt>.
- Students can find resources on financial aid, enrollment, student performance outcomes and career orientation at: <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.
- Students can apply for the Student Tuition Recovery Fund with the BPPE at: <http://www.bppe.ca.gov/students/strf.shtml>.
- Students can learn more about their rights when a school closes down at: [http://www.bppe.ca.gov/students/itt\\_closure\\_information.shtml](http://www.bppe.ca.gov/students/itt_closure_information.shtml).

*The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 113 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/CACommColleges> or <https://twitter.com/CalCommColleges>.*