Where were you twenty years ago?

It was the 90s. The average price of gas was $1.22 per gallon and you could see a movie in the theater for $5. President Bill Clinton called to congratulate Tiger Woods when he became the youngest golfer to win the Masters at the age of 21. Madeline Albright became the first female U.S. Secretary of State in the same year we lost Princess Diana and Mother Teresa. Microsoft became the world’s most valuable company, valued at $261 billion, and bought a minority stake in Apple Computers for $150 million. The first Harry Potter book hit shelves in the U.K.

How are you doing with this little journey back in time? Seems like more than twenty years ago. Let’s bring it a little closer to home.

In 1997, a new nonprofit organization joined the ranks of OC charities working to make the future a better place for our kids. They started with a single learning center in Costa Mesa serving about 100 kids each day after school. Within that space, a vision was born. Dedicated volunteers looked at public education and recognized a gap in support and resources for low-income kids. Teachers were doing amazing work but some kids needed more people in their corner to achieve at the same level as their middle- and upper-class peers.

THINK Together was founded to pursue that vision of equity and excellence in education for ALL kids. Twenty years later, THINK Together is partnered with 43 school districts in California, providing programs and services at 422 sites, and serving more than 100,000 kids each year.

Founder & CEO Randy Barth communicated that founding vision in a recent article, “Our hope is to help students on the wrong side of the achievement gap beat the odds, making it so that their zip code never becomes a roadblock to building their own American Dream.”

While the vision is the same, the methods for achieving it demonstrate THINK Together’s agility and innovation in the educational support services space. Their core afterschool expanded learning programs have been joined by more opportunities in early learning, recognizing that the first five years of a child’s life have a huge influence on how successful they are in the rest of their journey. Along with their affiliate Principal’s Exchange, which is investing in teacher development, THINK Together is identifying new and creative ways to contribute to California’s educational ecosystem on behalf of students.

It’s work that merits a celebration. And twenty years in, THINK Together is inviting the community to raise a glass and raise vitally important funds to support the continued pursuit of equity and excellence in education for our kids. The anniversary celebration will take place at University of California, Irvine, one of THINK Together’s research partners, on April 27. Eric Boden, Chair of the Board of Directors and an event sponsor, said, “I’m so proud of the work we’re doing and every child I meet reminds me of the impact these programs have in unlocking their futures.”

More information can be found at www.thinktwenty.com.
Develop your leadership and strategic thinking skills at top-ranked UC Irvine Paul Merage School of Business. Our full-time, part-time (online and on-campus) and executive MBA programs provide a personalized approach to managing your education and career trajectory. Learn more about these programs by contacting an advisor or by attending an information session. Visit: merage.uci.edu/MBAprograms

Be an Extraordinary Leader
High school is a time for students to explore their unique interests and grow their talents. For those who are ready to delve into certain career fields, JSerra Catholic High School offers five professional Magnet Programs that afford students a unique connection to potential career paths in an environment that promotes faith, intellect and character:

- **The Arts Magnet Program** provides pre-professional training in the visual and performing arts through seven tracks: Music, Dance, Theater, Drawing and Painting, Graphic Design, Photography and Broadcast Journalism. Students are mentored by working artists, as well as through relationships with colleges, museums and businesses in the community.

- **The Business Magnet Program** affords students an instructional curriculum, co-curricular activities and hands-on opportunities to apply knowledge. Five courses are articulated through Saddleback College, and credits are transferrable to most colleges.

- **The Engineering Magnet Program** exposes students to a variety of specializations including aerospace, chemical, civil, electrical and industrial engineering. Students learn how to use 3D CAD software, acquire strong teamwork and communication proficiency, and develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

- **The Law Magnet Program** is comprised of a combination of academic classes and clinical practice modeled after actual law school courses — teaching students how to raise and defend an argument, develop analytical thinking and reasoning skills, and write legal briefs. A Property/Real Estate Law course is now articulated through Saddleback, and credits are transferrable to most colleges.

- **The Medical Magnet Program** shadow industry-leading surgeons, neurologists, orthopedists, nurses and administrative hospital professionals. Students must enroll in double science and math courses compared to the typical high school science-based curriculum.

With graduates attending schools such as Harvard, Stanford, MIT, Duke, Berkeley and UCLA, JSerra cultivates a vision for our students that extends well beyond the four years they are with us. Learn more today.

For more information, please visit www.jserra.org/magnets or call 949.493.3007 ext. 2.
Advance your career by enrolling in a degree or certificate program at CSULB.

Certificate programs include:
- Human Resources Management
- Global Logistics Specialist Professional Designation
- Meeting and Event Planning
- Medical Insurance Billing

Master’s degrees include:
- MBA (Full and Part-time)
- MS Health Care Administration
- MS Emergency Services Administration
- MS Supply Chain Management

…and many more.

Visit www.ccpe.csulb.edu/OCBJ
or call (800) 963-2250 for more information.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH
COLLEGE OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
A Revolutionary Way to School in Orange County

Fusion Academy is a private middle and high school, but don’t be quick to envision uniforms and lecture halls. At Fusion, classes are one-to-one, just one student and one teacher per classroom. This allows for the personalization of curriculum for each individual student’s strengths, interests and learning style. Fusion is so unique that it has, in fact, broken many traditional school paradigms since its conception in 1989.

This education model was born of frustration with the status quo, and out of a passionate belief in the power of positive relationships to unlock academic potential. This unique, relationships-based school began when founder, Michelle Rose Gilman, began tutoring and mentoring students out of her home in Solana Beach, CA.

After demand outgrew their space, Gilman and her teachers moved into a building and expanded their offerings to be the private, accredited, one-to-one school Fusion is today. In 2010, the first campus replication opened in Los Angeles, CA, and the model has grown exponentially since to more than 40 campuses across the country in California, Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Virginia and Washington D.C.

The educational experience at Fusion is completely customized to ignite a student’s passion for learning. Classes are self-paced, and course materials are presented in ways that suit students’ individual interests, strengths and challenges. It was modeled around the needs of students who weren’t finding their place in more traditional school environments – whether they struggled with mild learning differences, social issues, the rigid scheduling of more traditional schools or the boredom of a classroom not geared to accelerated learners.

Along with personalized curriculum, Fusion’s one-to-one teaching model also allows for the customization of scheduling. Students may enroll at any time of the year, and take classes at a time of day that works best for them, which appeals to students who have demanding schedules outside of school because of sports or artistic involvement.

Each campus is unique, but has a similar “vibe” and culture as the original Solana Beach campus. Each also includes a state-of-the-art recording studio and mixed-media art studio for students to express their creativity, and two Homework Café® spaces, one silent and one social, where students complete their homework before leaving for the day.

Some students enroll full-time, while others utilize Fusion’s tutoring and mentoring services. Their tutors are their teachers who are passionate about and have mastered their subject matter. Families also turn to Fusion to support their homeschooling efforts by taking classes for credit like world languages and lab sciences.

From algebra to yoga and everything in between, Fusion offers more than 250 middle and high school courses, all of which meet state standards. Classes are available at three levels: essential, college prep and honors. Fusion teachers have also created classes for students if there is something students would like to learn that isn’t available in their catalog, while still adhering to state standards.

Creative expression is at the core of Fusion, as they understand the pivotal role it plays in students’ well-being. They offer a robust roster of elective classes like DJ Performing Arts, Graphic Design, Music Theory, Vocal Fundamentals, Recording Arts, Studio Art, Digital Photography, Film Studies and more.

Fusion’s Wellness Program complements the academic experience – providing balance and offering opportunities for emotional and social growth. It consists of 20 sessions across four elements: Art Expression, Music Expression, Physical Wellness and Healthy Habits. Like everything at Fusion, it too is customized to each student. Art and music are considered pathways to healthy self-expression for Fusion students, helping them achieve more balance and deal effectively with stress, anxiety, low self-esteem, body image issues, social pressures and substance abuse.

What makes Fusion work is the commitment to meeting each student right where they are, creating a meaningful connection and finding the very best way to unlock each student’s passion for learning and discovery. Beyond academics, Fusion partners with outside therapeutic professionals to support students’ emotional health and help foster a balanced life.

Summer school at Fusion gives options for students to catch up, get ahead or try something new. They offer the summer school basics like classes for credit and test preparation, in the same one-to-one learning environment. Other programs include Roadtrip Nation, a journey of self-construction and discovery around students’ passions, and the Fusion Summer Exploratory where students can have the “full Fusion experience” in just four to six weeks. Visit their website at FusionSummerClass.com to learn more.

While it’s impossible to put our students into categories, we generally serve students with the following backgrounds: ADHD, accelerated/gifted learners, dyslexia, dysgraphia and learning differences, social challenges and school anxiety, or students with challenging schedules. Students who attend Fusion have one thing in common: traditional school isn’t working.

To learn more about this truly revolutionary way to school, connect with Fusion Academy Huntington Beach or Fusion Academy Mission Viejo by visiting FusionHuntingtonBeach.com or FusionMissionViejo.com.

Fusion Academy Mission Viejo
WhyPickFusion.com
866.437.6925
23456 Madero, Suite 140
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Fusion Academy Huntington Beach
WhyPickFusion.com
866.259.1297
7711 Center Avenue, Suite 120
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
Are you hearing: “I feel disconnected, unsupported, or misunderstood at school”?

For some kids, traditional schools don’t work.

You know kids learn best when they get the support they need. That’s why we pioneered a private school with the smallest class size possible: one student and one teacher per classroom - always.

Fusion Academy is a non-traditional community of learning that understands there’s more to a child's success than their grades. Our primary focus is to build positive relationships as a foundation for learning, then personalize curriculum and teaching style so students can truly understand and master the content.

We’re also able to customize scheduling: students may enroll at any time (even during the summer) and take classes at a time of day that works best for them.

If you know a middle or high school student who is not reaching their full social, emotional, and academic potential, maybe it’s time for a change.

Connect with us at WhyPickFusion.com to learn more, or contact your nearest campus in Orange County to speak with one of our Directors of Admissions.

---

I was referred to Fusion Academy Oak Brook by an educational consultant. I felt frustrated and overwhelmed by the traditional educational systems. My son is not a typical student, but very bright. When he began classes, he slowly became inspired. He discovered that he could learn at his own pace and level of instruction. He actually enjoyed going to school.

- Paula Mitchell, Fusion Parent

---

Fusion Mission Viejo
FusionMissionViejo.com
866-437-6905
23456 Madero, Suite 140
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Fusion Huntington Beach
FusionHuntingtonBeach.com
866-259-1297
7711 Center Avenue, Suite 120
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
MAT Program
As the national teacher shortage continues, 8,000 educators are needed in California right now. In Orange County, first-year credentialed teachers with a master’s degree can earn $53,000 to $57,000 in starting salary. Many school districts throughout the state are offering hiring bonuses to attract exceptional new teachers.

Chapman University’s College of Educational Studies (CES) new cohort model Master of Arts in Teaching program (MAT) offers two start dates annually: January and May. You can receive both your teaching credential and master’s degree in one year. The low student-to-faculty ratio at Chapman University offers a personalized education where world-class faculty know your name.

Several different credentials are available in this innovative program, including Multiple Subject, Elementary Bilingual (Spanish), and Secondary (English, Social Studies, Science, Math or Music). A joint credential in Special Education (mild/moderate) and Multiple Subject is also available.

Chapman’s newly designed teacher preparation program offers both cutting-edge coursework and extensive field experiences in diverse school communities. Our teaching programs emphasize linguistic and culturally responsive pedagogy to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population in California schools. Themes developed through this program include teacher as constructivist, nurturer, moral educator, reflective practitioner, mediator of diversity and change agent. Graduates will be prepared to meet the needs of traditional, and dual immersion schools across the state.

Chapman’s New Programs Attract Student-Centered Innovators
This program is targeted to individuals who wish to begin teaching careers with both a teaching credential and a master’s degree. Oftentimes, a career in teaching is someone’s second or even third career. Many applicants are simply looking for new opportunities in a field of high demand. MAT students have varied backgrounds, ages and ethnicities, but all are taking the next step in their career to do what they love most – making a difference in students’ lives.

MLD Program
CES also offers a pioneering Master of Arts in Leadership Development (MLD) which can be completed in 18 to 24 months. Taught by highly qualified faculty, the program recognizes that leadership depends on both local and global knowledge. Graduates learn to look beyond content and task outcomes to focus on relationships and critical processes.

While working towards your leadership degree, you will see yourself collaborating with many different sectors including government, community and non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, corporations and businesses. You will gain the skills to be creative and innovative in driving purposeful and sustained change.

MLD appeals to a wide range of professionals in educationally diverse settings. In this program, you will advance your professional career through a rigorous, yet self-designed curriculum that asks you to develop a deep understanding, specific expertise and practical experience related to leadership development.

For more information, visit www.chapman.edu/ces.
TEACHERS WANTED.

Graduating quality teachers and leaders is the mission of the College of Educational Studies (CES). A Learning Policy Institute report concludes that the U.S. is experiencing the worst shortage of teachers since 1990, with school districts nationwide needing to hire up to 60,000 new teachers. Student enrollments are projected to grow by 3 million in the next decade.

The CES offers teaching credentials in multiple subject, single subject, special education, school counseling, school psychology and graduate degrees in Curriculum & Instruction, Leadership, School Counseling and School Psychology. Our PhD program offers four emphases: Cultural and Curricular Studies, Disability Studies, School Psychology and Leadership Studies.

Receive a personalized education and become a leader who challenges the status quo and serves as a change agent in both schools and society.

Join us for an information session:
Thursday, March 16, 7-9 p.m.

For more information, visit chapman.edu/ces

Dr. Michelle Samura
Assistant Professor & Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, College of Educational Studies, Chapman University

Chapman University | College of Educational Studies

Chapman University | One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866 | Chapman.edu/CES
Concordia University Irvine School of Business graduate Paul Greive '07 was working a desk job when he decided to make a change. Seeking a lifestyle with greater meaning and quality, he and his family began raising pasture-fed chickens for local consumption. In just four years, Greive's family farm, Primal Pastures, has ballooned to $700,000 in annual sales.

Greive, who was a business major at Concordia University Irvine, as well as a gifted athlete, took full advantage of Concordia's liberal arts community and was "super involved on campus."

"I loved the small classes, the small vibe," he says. "Compared to my friends at big public schools, I had ten times as many friends. I loved every minute of Concordia and thought it was the best place ever."

He came to play baseball, but burned out on the sport and was recruited instead to throw the javelin.

"Track was amazing because the team was super diverse," he says. "I had roommates from all over the world: Africa, Mexico, Asia. It was a really cool group of people. Coach Blutreich will forever be the ultimate mentor to a college kid. He shared his faith in a way that was so unique and compelling to a college athlete. He was a big part of my life in college. I still want to be like him."

And when a national race-walking coach visited campus and urged him to pursue the sport, he did just that. Five weeks later, Greive had qualified for nationals and earned sixth place at championships, making him an All-American race-walker and javelin hurler. Greive also helped found the Chinese language club and became a member of the handbell choir.

After graduation and a four-year career in the Marine Corps as an intelligence officer, Greive returned to civilian work, earned his CPA license, and landed a job with a good accounting firm. But "I wasn't passionate about what I was doing," he says. "I always knew I wanted to do entrepreneurship."

After raising a batch of 50 chickens and selling them on Facebook, Greive and his family members realized they had a viable business. Greive began plowing money into the operation before and after work. They soon won a $15,000 entrepreneurial award from UCLA, which made it realistic to try farming full-time. "It's not all fun and games," Greive says, recalling how difficult it was to leave a regular salary. A major boost came from a 2013 Kickstarter campaign that caught national attention and was featured on MSNBC, L.A. Weekly and AOL.com. Dubbed the "Let's build a farm together" campaign, it raised $60,000.

And Primal Pastures was born. It sells pasture-raised chicken, lamb, pork, beef, turkey, eggs and raw honey directly to consumers. It is one of just a handful of farms in the area that raises animals for consumption in a rotational grazing method, allowing the animals to eat and live close to nature. Primal Pastures now has 5,000 customers and limits its market to California, Arizona and Nevada by design because they believe consumers should be able to see where their food is raised.

Greive, who earned his MBA at UCLA, has now expanded the rotational grazing ethic of Primal Pastures to a national scale. His idea, called Pasturebird, involves a proprietary technique to graze chickens in much greater numbers on grass, eating bugs and worms. Its mission is to provide wholesale pastured poultry to restaurants and grocery stores.

"If we want to change the world we need to bring prices down close to what they sell for in the store," he says. "Pasturebird scales the idea way up, producing pasture poultry close to a conventional price using methods that are healthy for the land, the animal and the consumer."

The Pasturebird idea won $25,000 from the American Farm Bureau, and more than $30,000 in a separate award. Pasturebird is now totally operational and is expected to become the largest pastured poultry operation in the country in 2017. Its client list includes the LA Lakers, LA Dodgers, celebrity chef Curtis Stone, and some of the best restaurants and butcher shops in Southern California.

Greive says he is grateful "to rely on my passion for what I do for a living. The ultimate blessing is waking up every morning knowing I'm making a difference and getting chicken out of the factory farms and outside into pasture. With this venture I feel like I'm having an impact on things that matter.”

To read more about Paul Greive and the Concordia University Irvine School of Business, please visit www.cui.edu/business.
Concordia business grads aren’t afraid to roll up their sleeves.

Prepare yourself for a career path in any field, even an actual pasture, with a business degree from the Concordia University Irvine School of Business. Our students learn what it takes to grow a business from scratch. Concordia offers a flexible, practical curriculum taught by experienced instructors who are eager to mentor emerging business talent.

Our School of Business includes degree programs in Accounting, Data Analytics, Economics, Finance, International Business, Management, Marketing, Sport Management, and an MBA. For more information, visit www.cui.edu/business.

MBA Classes Start Mar 6  800-229-1200 or cui.edu/mba

Visit cui.edu/business to learn more.
Masters students at UC Irvine’s Merage School are thriving in the School’s culture of excellence in business education, immense personal attention and team-based learning that together yield a high return-on-investment. The Merage School offers four MBA programs: a Full-Time MBA, Fully Employed MBA (FEMBA), Executive MBA (EMBA) and Health Care Executive MBA (HCEMBA). In addition, the School offers PhD, a Master in Professional Accountancy, Master of Finance, an MS in Biotechnology Management, an MS in Engineering Management, and two undergraduate business degrees.

“I had several goals when entering the Merage School MBA program: launching a successful business, becoming a better leader and overall personal growth,” said Jon Rettinger, FEMBA ’11, president and founder of TechnoBuffalo LLC. “Not only were all of my goals realized but it was one of the best experiences of my life,” he added.

“Venture capitalists weren’t willing to talk to me before I started at the Merage School,” noted Rettinger. “Then, several faculty and staff members facilitated connections to executives they believed would be interested in my concept. Shortly thereafter, my business was born; TechnoBuffalo is now in the top-tier of technology blogs with over 12 million page views per month. The Merage School gave me the skills and confidence to launch on my career path.”

Like Rettinger, all MBA students have direct access to world-renowned faculty who look forward to helping them succeed in and outside of the classroom. Merage School professors provide a challenging yet highly personalized learning environment creating an educational experience that helps them achieve their unique career goals.

The Full Time and Fully Employed MBA programs offer a curriculum that provides students the flexibility to customize the program around their career objectives and graduate in as few as 21 months while still providing the international experiential learning opportunity and executive residential that make the Merage School program unique. A new Hybrid format for Fully Employed students combines the best in online learning with four on-campus experiences per quarter. Partial merit-based scholarships are available for qualifying MBA and Master’s program students.

Commitment to Unparalleled Educational Quality

“We have made a commitment to our students to provide the highest quality education possible,” said Eric R. Spangenberg, dean of the Merage School. “Our faculty, students, staff and the business community give us invaluable feedback on how we can continue to improve our curriculum and resources to better meet the demands of our students and the employers that hire them. We listen closely and implement many suggestions. This open dialogue provides tremendous value to our School, our students and the business community.”

Upon entry into the Merage School, MBA students are assigned to small study teams that are maintained throughout the program. These teams are hand-selected by faculty and staff to provide a diverse, balanced learning experience for the students and help them develop strong teamwork and leadership skills.

“By personally assigning teams, we challenge our students to thrive academically and develop the teamwork and management skills that will take them to the next level in their careers,” said Tony Hansford, senior assistant dean of the Fully Employed and Executive MBA programs. “We want every student to be challenged by their peers, and be held accountable for their individual contributions to team projects. This approach gives our students the confidence to handle any type of management challenge.”

Building Business Acumen and the Value of World-Class Resources

“The Executive MBA Program provided me a strategic perspective on leadership in a global environment, delivered the right level of business knowledge to enhance my ability to make impactful decisions, and equipped me for success in achieving my career goals,” said Sharon Singleton, EMBA ’13, Director of Enterprise Application Services for First American Title.

According to Michael Miyamoto, MD, FACC, HCEMBA ’12, cardiologist for Mission Internal Medical Group, “My experience gave me the tools and inspiration for innovation and entrepreneurship – essential to success in our constantly changing health care landscape.” During his Merage School experience, Dr. Miyamoto put his entrepreneurial ideas into action. In 2011, Dr. Miyamoto was among five teams of scientists awarded up to $100,000 each to commercialize their ideas for new, lower cost health care technologies. The new innovations addressed long-standing needs for more affordable and efficient chronic disease management and preventive health care, particularly in underserved communities. Miyamoto was awarded $75,000 for a system he created related to heart failure monitoring and disease management.

Top Rankings, ROI and Accolades You Can Rely On

The Merage School is one of the top 30 business schools in the U.S. and in the top 50 worldwide, according to a 2017 Financial Times ranking that places the school among the top 5 percent of all programs accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in the U.S.:

- No. 13 Full-Time MBA in the U.S. among public universities.
- No. 23 PAR Extra (Public Accounting Report) among schools with 15 or fewer full time accounting faculty.
- Top 30 among Executive MBA programs in the world (Ivy Exec 2016)
- Top 30 nationally for Health Care Executive MBA among health care master degree programs (Leading Healthcare publication, 2015)

Located in the heart of America’s Tech Coast, the Merage School combines the academic strengths and best traditions of the University of California with the cutting-edge, entrepreneurial spirit of Orange County.

The Fully Employed MBA program is accepting applications for Spring 2017; the Full Time MBA, Executive MBA, Health Care Executive MBA and specialized masters programs are accepting applications for Fall 2017. For more information on our MBA and specialized masters programs, visit merage.uci.edu/mbaprograms or call 949.824.4565 to speak with an admissions advisor.
The University of La Verne has partnered with American Honda Motor Co. Inc. to provide a Master of Science in Leadership and Management degree program to Honda employees, with the first group of students starting in 2017.

University of La Verne President Devorah Lieberman and Honda Executive Vice President John Mendel signed the agreement during a ceremony at the university.

“We continuously strive to provide the best access possible to all student populations,” Lieberman said. “Research suggests that professional adults are the fastest-growing population seeking college degrees, and we are honored to provide the employees of Honda and other corporations the tools they need to be successful and effective leaders.”

The University of La Verne provides on-site education for corporations, government agencies and other organizations to make it more convenient for working adults to pursue a college degree. According to the Lumina Foundation, 38% of today’s college undergraduate students are older than 25, 58% work while in college and 26% are raising children.

The university and Honda expect to launch the program with one to two groups of 15 students each. The cohorts are open, meaning employees of other corporations may join. Each Honda employee enrolled receives a number of benefits including the convenience of a workplace classroom location, tuition reimbursement, transportation and childcare stipends, and more.

“I began pursuing a Master of Business Administration after I had already entered the corporate world, so I understand the challenges and pressure of being a working professional while continuing an education,” Mendel said. “My wife and I are very supportive of lifelong learning and helping Honda associates achieve their career goals.”

The Master of Science in Leadership and Management is a versatile degree that can be used to pursue leadership roles in any organization, human resources management and organizational development.

Founded in 1891 and located 35 miles east of Los Angeles, the University of La Verne is a private, nonprofit, comprehensive institution founded on four core values: lifelong learning, ethical reasoning, civic and community engagement, and diversity and inclusivity. The University of La Verne serves nearly 8,400 students at its historic La Verne campus and across nine other California regional locations.

The University of La Verne’s Irvine Campus is located at 2855 Michelle Drive, Suite 250. To request information or RSVP for the next information session, call 714.505.6936.

You’ve been thinking lately about how best to move your life and career forward. But where should you start?

The rapidly changing Southern California economy has stimulated businesses, organizations and individuals to re-think their current position and future direction. There are many diverse educational options for today’s working professional, particularly in Southern California with its abundance of community colleges, state universities and private institutions. The Internet has added yet another accessible dimension to education. Consequently, when considering continuing one’s education, today’s toughest choice is more likely to be “where and how” rather than “should I or shouldn’t I.”

The College of Continuing and Professional Education (CCPE) at California State University, Long Beach offers several routes to help you get to where you want to be:

Certificate Programs

Maybe you want a career change or to gain broader knowledge in your current field. If so, certificate programs provide an opportunity to meet peers, develop skills in a specific professional area, and show your competence to current or prospective employers. CCPE gives you options with more than 50 certificate programs and three professional designations to choose from, including programs in healthcare, computer technical skills, project management, global logistics and more.

University Credit Programs

You might have a desire to go back to school for a degree. CCPE offers both non-credit professional development education and university credit programs (accelerated MBA, Summer Sessions, Winter Session, Open University, degree completion, etc.).

CCPE’s capabilities extend internationally, providing the global community with access to quality educational programs and services. Some programs can be offered at a company’s work site. For more information about these educational opportunities go to www.ccpe.csulb.edu or contact CCPE’s Student Services Center at 800.963.2250.
Can the strength of your classroom’s broadband lead to better learning? Education leaders in Southern California think so and are using technology to provide enhanced learning experiences that capitalize on today’s digital world. With advanced internet connectivity, Educators can deliver instruction tailored to each student’s level and learning pace regardless of student location, time and capability. And, with sophisticated assessment tools, Educators and Administrators alike can gain greater insight into academic achievement and streamline functions through better use of data and cloud-based applications.

Given these benefits, it is not surprising that education technology professionals rank improving broadband and network capacity as their number-one priority.¹ For the 2017-18 school year education technology leaders recommend a mid-sized school district have Internet connections of at least 1 Gbps per student (Gbps) per 1,000 students and wide area network (WAN) access with 10 Gbps of bandwidth per 1,000 students.² So how does increased bandwidth impact the learning experience? There are a wide range of education applications that are driving Internet and WAN bandwidth needs for K-12 schools, including:

▶ 1:1 Learning and BYOD: BRING-YOUR-OWN-DEVICE: Rather than device sharing, schools are increasingly adopting one-device-per-student (1:1) learning models. A recent analysis finds 1:1 programs can deliver a positive impact on student test scores.³ In addition to school-supplied devices, those carried to school by students are increasingly supported through bring-your-own-device (BYOD) Wi-Fi initiatives.

▶ Online Assessment: The vast majority of U.S. states are implementing the national Common Core curriculum and California is leading the way. In 2016 more than two-thirds of California students participated in the online California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).⁴ Network performance is critical to students’ online assessment experience.

▶ Digital Content and Curriculum: Educators are embracing digital tools to maximize educational achievement for students with differing abilities and learning styles. More than six in ten K-12 districts have digital content and curriculum programs in place, including technologies like interactive whiteboards, document cameras, and digital displays.⁵

▶ Online Learning: K-12 schools are turning to online classes to provide expanded learning opportunities for students and staff. Nearly seven out of ten school districts offer online classes and one-half of those have increased the number of online courses.⁶

SoCal Education Game Changer
School districts on Southern California’s Tech Coast are stepping up to the broadband challenge. In the spring of 2016 the Orange County Department of Education plugged into the world’s first 100-Gbps K-12 network connection.

“This latest upgrade to our infrastructure creates faster and far more robust Internet connections than ever before, enabling the expanded use of rich educational content,” explained Dr. Al Mijares, Orange County Superintendent of Schools.⁷

Other innovative school systems along the Tech Coast are making strategic investments to stay ahead of the network curve. The Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) serves more than 16,000 students at eight schools northwest of Los Angeles, Calif. OUHSD selected Spectrum Enterprise to scale its network and today runs 10-Gbps Ethernet Private Line WAN circuits to each of its eight schools. Through the power of its network, OUHSD is now offering many innovative applications, including BYOD Wi-Fi access for all its students and staff.

“We wanted to build a foundation for supporting all our applications, current and future,” explained Puneet Sharma, Director of Information Technology Services, OUHSD. “That is a major game-changer for us.”

To gain the benefits of high-performance networking researchers estimate 42 percent of America’s school districts upgraded their broadband connections in 2016. Because service providers are making broadband significantly more affordable, school districts that invested in upgrades on average gained a 300-percent increase in bandwidth while only increasing cost by 7 percent.⁸

Green Dot Public Schools serves more than 12,000 students in 19 high-

achieving charter schools in Southern California, plus six additional schools in Tennessee and Washington. Over the past 15 years Green Dot has transformed struggling schools into environments where 90 percent of graduates are accepted to college. Green Dot is also on the cutting-edge of building and scaling high-performance networks to serve their large campus user base and application mix.

To get students excited and engaged in learning, we want every tool at our disposal,” noted Dr. Kevin Keelen, Chief Information Officer for Green Dot Public Schools. “Having the right network and IT infrastructure helps us deliver.” To do so, Green Dot selected Spectrum Enterprise (Formerly Time Warner Cable Business Class) to install a fiber-based Metro Ethernet Wide Area Network (EWAN) that delivers 1 Gbps of broadband connectivity to each school, Green Dot’s centralized data center and the public Internet. With smart investments in high-performance network infrastructure with service-provider partners like Spectrum Enterprise, schools can enhance administrative efficiency and drive results in the classroom.

To learn more, watch our video, How Green Dot Public Schools Uses Fiber Technology to Transform Student Lives here: https://enterprise.spectrum.com/k12video

For more information, contact:
Jeannie Horton-Irreal, Education Solutions Manager
Jeannie.horton-Irreal@charter.com

² The Broadband Imperative II: Equitable Access for Learning,” SETDA, September 2016
⁴ “State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Reports More Than Two-Thirds of California’s Eligible Students Have Begun CAASPP® Testing;”, May 10, 2016
⁶ “State of the K-12 Market;” MDR, January 2016
⁷ “Path-Breaking 100Gb Connection Between Orange County Department of Education and CENIC Networks;” April 2016, CENIC, OCDE and CDE
⁸ “2016 State of the States” EducationSuperHighway, January 2017