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## FACT SHEET: SB 850 (Block) Community College Workforce Baccalaureate Degrees

### Summary:

SB 850 creates a pilot program authorizing a limited number of California Community Colleges to offer a baccalaureate degree. Campuses will be allowed to participate in this pilot provided three conditions exist: a demonstrated local workforce need is identified, the local universities cannot meet the need, and local community colleges have the capacity to meet the need.

### Background:

Our state faces an urgent and staggering need to increase the number of Californians with four-year degrees by 2025. This means we must produce an additional 60,000 baccalaureate degrees per year, on top of the 150,000 baccalaureates now produced by California's public and private colleges.

SB 850 is patterned after the applied baccalaureate degree model offered in the community colleges of more than twenty other states. With nearly four million jobs left unfilled nationally due to a lack of skilled workers, SB 850 seeks to find new methods of addressing the skills gap identified in California.

This legislation gives community colleges an opportunity to partner with local workforce investment boards and local businesses to strategically address critical employer demands across our state. A community college campus would only be allowed to participate in the pilot if a local workforce demand is identified, and the proposed pilot program does not duplicate a program already being offered by a public university.

Governor Brown's proposed 2014-2015 budget clearly makes baccalaureate degree achievement a priority – and it will take innovative and targeted programs to address California's skills gap. SB 850 is one such program that will give students an opportunity to get the education they need to fill jobs in their communities

### For More Information:

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