



California's Postsecondary Schools Provide Bridge to State's Workforce Training.

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Congolese National Gains New Life Through Career Training

SANTA ROSA, Calif. -- The California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (CAPPS) says proper training is the key students need to develop their career path quickly and successfully.

Adelard Banza Muyakana, a Congolese National, is an extreme example. Orphaned at a young age, Muyakana faced overwhelming obstacles finishing school. But his perseverance and a sponsorship from a Santa Rosa doctor allowed him to transform his life when he moved to the United States through the State Department's Diversity Visa program.

Despite little computer experience, Muyakana enrolled at Empire College where within 15 months he graduated with a certificate in information technology. With president's honors and a 99 percent attendance rate, Muyakana was an ideal student. Upon graduation, he was hired for a six-month contract by Kaiser Permanente - ultimately becoming a salaried Kaiser employee.

"Empire really gave Banza the tools he needed to do well in what can be a very competitive high pressure environment," says Kaiser Senior Project Manager Darrel DeSouza, Muyakana's hiring supervisor. "When we first started I had a group of techs and immediately had to filter through to find those most technically capable - several came from Empire including Banza."

Today Muyakana lives in Rohnert Park and is happy to earn a good living. He hopes to become a United States citizen and eventually to vote. Muyakana is confident in his abilities thanks to his schooling at Empire. "He takes pride in the work he does, appreciates the opportunity and always has a smile on his face - he has all the foundations for the American dream," says DeSouza.

Empire College is one of California's 2400 postsecondary institutions and a member of CAPPs. Each year CAPPs members graduate nearly 200,000 students into occupational fields such as medical, dental, information technology, culinary, automotive, transportation, massage, movie and filmmaking, psychology, marriage and family counseling along with many other occupations the public interacts with on a daily basis. Private postsecondary institutions offer educational programs based on both academic and specific employer needs that reflect the demand of the modern workplace. Studies have shown that six to eight out of every 10 jobs in California require specific skills not normally available in a four year academic degree program.

"The postsecondary sector serves an enormously important role in California's overall economic big picture," says Robert Johnson, CAPPs Executive Director. "Member schools have developed training and educational offerings from doctoral programs to short-term certificate programs that promote employment in today's changing labor market. Many of today's jobs simply did not exist 10 years ago - and many more will be created in the next several years."

About Empire College

Serving the residents of Northern California for more than 47 years, Empire College is an accredited college offering a Juris Doctor law program and five Specialized Associate Degree programs, as well as training in legal and medical office careers, information technology, office administration, tourism and hospitality and computerized accounting.
www.empirecol.edu

About CAPPs

The California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (CAPPs) is a non-profit membership organization that has represented California private postsecondary schools and regulatory institutions since 1985. CAPPs works with the Governor's Office, the State Legislature, and various state regulatory agencies. CAPPs also provides training seminars and workforce development programs for member schools and scholarship opportunities for students attending private postsecondary schools.
www.cappsonline.org