

# MOORPARK COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT FEBRUARY 2026



## BACHELOR'S DEGREES ENHANCE PATHWAYS

### A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats

According to the US Census Bureau in 2024 the population of Ventura County was 835,000. As of 2025 only 23% of people over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree. According to the Social Security Administration "There are substantial differences in lifetime earnings by educational attainment"

Men with bachelor's degrees earn approximately \$900,000 more in median lifetime earnings than high school graduates. Women with bachelor's degrees earn \$630,000 more. Men with graduate degrees earn \$1.5 million more in median lifetime earnings than high school graduates. Women with graduate degrees earn \$1.1 million more.

By law, California Community Colleges can now offer bachelor's degree programs in academic areas with a regional labor market need. In fact, the Board of Governors may approve up to 30 new programs across our state per year.

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors granted Moorpark College official degree approval for a B.S. in Biomanufacturing January 2023. The program launched Fall 2024 semester with an inaugural cohort of 14 students. The Applied Cyberdefense and Network Operations (ACNO) degree was approved in late January. Moorpark College is seeking to start the inaugural cohort in Fall 2026. The Applied Cyberdefense and Network Operations (ACNO) degree is the second Bachelor's degree that Moorpark College will be offering.

By offering accessible and affordable bachelor's degrees Moorpark College has a direct positive effect on the population of Ventura County by providing an accredited pathway to a better life by improving wage and educational outcomes.

### FACULTY QUOTE

*"For many of our students, a CSU isn't inconvenient — it's impossible. This program removes that barrier and lets talented, hardworking students keep moving forward without leaving their jobs, families, or community."*

~ Kevin Rickard, Professor CNSE

BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM  
**BDP**  
EST. 2024  
AT MOORPARK COLLEGE





# CLOSING EQUITY GAPS

In California, income inequality is at or near record levels (Kimberlin & Hutchful, 2019). Lower rates of college access and completion among Black, Indigenous, and Latina/o/x, and economically disadvantaged Californians worsens the state's economic divide and puts California further behind in meeting its workforce needs (Johnson & Cuellar Mejia, 2020). Moorpark College's baccalaureate program presents new opportunities to concretely provide more accessible, affordable, and place-bound bachelor's degrees to advance social mobility for racially and ethnically diverse students, and to meet local workforce demands.

## THE BIOMANUFACTURING PROGRAM

consists of 2 full-time faculty members and 6 part-time faculty members.

## THE APPLIED CYBERDEFENSE AND NETWORK OPERATIONS (ACNO)

degree has 2 full-time faculty members.

## AS PART OF THE VCCCD

our sister campuses also offer bachelor's degrees: Ventura College offers a B.S. in Automotive Career Education, and Oxnard College offers a B.S. in Dental Hygiene.

## MOORPARK COLLEGE IS ACCREDITED BY ACCJC

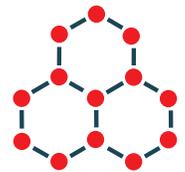
and our bachelor's degree programs fall within this accreditation. Graduate programs will accept Moorpark College bachelor degrees in the same way other accredited undergraduate programs are accepted. .

## BOTH DEGREES COST UNDER \$11,000

and often times students receive scholarships.

## WITH THESE DEGREES

Moorpark College is able to reach undeserved and non-traditional students such as veterans, minorities, first generation students, working parents, homebound students and students with disabilities.





# LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

## BIOMANUFACTURING:

Large biotech companies such as Amgen and Takeda, both with facilities in Ventura County have stressed the need for graduates from the Biomanufacturing program at Moorpark College. Both companies have also hire interns from the program.

## CYBERDEFENSE:

Labor Market Alignment: Both real-time and traditional labor market indicators demonstrate strong demand for applied cybersecurity and network operations skills across Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. Projections estimate 546 annual job openings, with 66% requiring a bachelor's degree and total 2024 hires at 3,974. Additionally, computer occupations in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties have over 8,000 annual job openings which far exceed the 2,926 bachelor's degree-level completions with median annual earnings of nearly \$98,000, underscoring the program's workforce relevance and wage potential. The program includes industry-recognized 17 certifications and aligns with occupational classifications that reflect regional and statewide need.

## STATEWIDE GAP STAT

Recent data (*The Potential of California's Community College Baccalaureate for Closing Racial Equity Gaps UCLA Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles, April 2023*) highlight the existence of very large disparities in bachelor's degree attainment among different racial/ethnic groups in California. For example, despite the fact that Black and Hispanic people comprise 5.9% and 38.1%, respectively, of California's total population, they only account for 4.1% and 11.5%, respectively, of California's bachelor's degree or higher holders (*Statistical Atlas, 2018a; 2018b*).

# QUICK STATS

## BIOMANUFACTURING

Female: 67%

Male: 29%

Other: 4%



Hispanic: 46%

White: 46%

Other/multiple ethnicities: 8%

Involved with STEM Impact Program: 63%

Current/previous completed internship/apprenticeship: 38%

Selected for the California Biocom Institute fellowship: 25%

Received a Moorpark College Foundation scholarship: 29%

## CNSE/CYBER SECURITY

Female: 17%

Male: 79%

Other: 4%



Hispanic: 44%

White: 34%

Asian: 10.5%

Black/African American: 3%

Other/multiple ethnicities: 8.5%

Age 24 and younger: 56%

Age 25 and older: 44%



## PARTNERSHIPS & RECOGNITIONS

### BIOMANUFACTURING

The pharmaceutical company Takeda, donated \$250,000 to support the biomanufacturing program at Moorpark College. The donation is four-year sponsorship to the Moorpark College Foundation, which is providing funding for the lab.

Moorpark College unveiled its new cutting-edge biotechnology analytical lab in 2024. The state-of-the-art facility, sponsored by the pharmaceutical company Takeda, is situated within the college's main biotech lab.

The lab promises to revolutionize the learning experience for students pursuing degrees in the growing field. Students are also provided access to training, scholarships, mentoring and internships.

Moorpark College will be graduating the first cohort of its first-ever bachelor's degree in Applied Biomanufacturing in May of 2026

### CNSE/CYBER SECURITY

Moorpark College is designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (NCAE-CD) by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA).

Moorpark College is seeking to start the inaugural cohort in Fall 2026 for The Applied Cyberdefense and Network Operations (ACNO) degree

The college and faculty will continue to enhance the learning experience for students pursuing degrees in this growing field. Students are also provided access to training, scholarships, mentoring and internships.



## IN THEIR WORDS

### **MARISSA, SINGLE MOM**

“As a single mother with limited financial resources and a woman pursuing cybersecurity, this new bachelor’s program at Moorpark College means everything to me. Having a high- quality, cost-efficient option makes earning a bachelor’s degree feel possible in a way I truly could not have considered otherwise. I’m incredibly grateful to the wonderful CNSE staff, especially Ed Garcia, who fought tirelessly for this program and made this opportunity a reality for students like me.”

### **SIDNIE, BIOMANUFACTURING COHORT 1**

“I learned about the Biomanufacturing bachelor’s degree program from my field biology professor when I was still unsure of my career path, and after taking Intro to Biotech I immediately fell in love with the field. I feel the curriculum is preparing me for a successful career after Moorpark, and with our equipment and attentive professors I don’t believe I could get better hands-on training/education anywhere else. Being a student worker at the lab has also been a highlight during my time at Moorpark so far, broadening my lab skills beyond biotech and solidifying key skills taught in class.”

### **DOUGLAS, U.S. NAVY RETIRED**

“With so many veterans and defense contractors in Ventura County, training cybersecurity professionals locally just makes sense. This program keeps talent here instead of commuting in from Los Angeles.”

### **KEIRA THORGUSEN, BIOMANUFACTURING COHORT 1**

Keira joined the Biomanufacturing program in Fall 2024, and is on track to graduate this spring. Keira is currently a California Biocom Institute Fellow, and president of the Biotechnology and Manufacturing Club. Keira also completed an internship at Amgen last summer, and has been offered a position there after graduation.



### **NATHAN, SENIOR NETWORK ENGINEER**

“After 12 years in IT, the only thing holding me back from senior roles is the bachelor’s degree requirement. Moorpark’s applied, real-world curriculum finally gives me a path forward without quitting my job.”

### **RUDY, CSNE/CYBER STUDENT & IMPACTO MENTOR**

“Professor Garcia....You have no idea how great these news are, more like prayers answered, I have patiently waited for this bachelor’s degree program since it was just a rumor roaming around the campus several years ago, and now it’s finally a reality....This moment marks a turning point in my life and many other students especially ones I mentored for IMPACTO, this news is also giving hope to the students that didn’t think they could do it but now know they can.”

# MOORPARK COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS



VCCCD ATTENDS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVES ANNUAL MEETING ON THE FILM INDUSTRY



BLACK STUDENTS UNION HOST BHM KICKOFF EVENT



"GO RED BREAKFAST" EVENT IN WESTLAKE VILLAGE.



HS ACADEMIC COUNSELORS TOURED MC CAREER PROGRAMS



FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL RETREAT GUESTS



GREATER CONEJO VALLEY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB EVENT



MC BASEBALL @HOME



CCVC LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE@MC



KEITALY & ASSOCIATES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING