



Former Brightwood Students Graduate from Unitek College

Unitek demonstrates their dedication to nursing students and the future of healthcare.

Sacramento, California – October 15, 2019 – In 2019, Unitek opened its doors to various nursing students from Brightwood College. All Brightwood locations began to shut down in [late 2018](#). Students who started in July were only entering their second term when the school closed its doors. For a time, it seemed as if these students would have to start over. Then the leadership team at Unitek honored their commitment to the community by extending a warm welcome to the Brightwood students.

Furthermore, Unitek hired Brightwood's former Program Director, Dr. Sonja Sheppard, and several of her faculty members to help the students complete the program at Unitek. Of the 50 students affected by the closure, 36 of them resumed their studies at Unitek's Sacramento campus. All of these individuals were in varying stages of their former program.

In order to accommodate their needs, the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians ([BVNPT](#)) allowed additional cohorts at the Sacramento campus. Unitek was only one of two colleges given special dispensation from the BVNPT to assist former Brightwood students. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Dr. Sheppard and the Unitek team, exceptional courses were created to keep the students on track. They might have left Brightwood in December of 2018, but they graduated from Unitek on October 1, 2019.

"With all the time and effort we had put in to the program thus far, it felt as if everything was coming down on us and there was nowhere to turn and no solution to the problem. And then Unitek happened," said Monique Martinez, a former Brightwood student who gave a speech at her pinning ceremony. "We overcame everything that was thrown our way, even in times we thought we could not, because we all knew why we were there and that we wanted to succeed. After all the hard work, dedication, and sleepless nights, we finally made it."

Janis Paulson, the Chief Executive Officer at Unitek College, greatly assisted former Brightwood staff and students with the transition. She recently commented on the experience: "We are thrilled to have helped these students resume their education and realize their dreams. In helping others, we hope to create a better future for the next generation of nurses."

Unitek College is one of California's reputable healthcare and nursing colleges. Taught by experienced professionals, Unitek programs teach the clinical technique and theory used in the field today. Equipped with a multitude of sought-after skills, Unitek graduates are prepared to excel in many of the fastest-growing careers in healthcare and nursing.

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