Student Prospectus:
Digital Upskill Sacramento
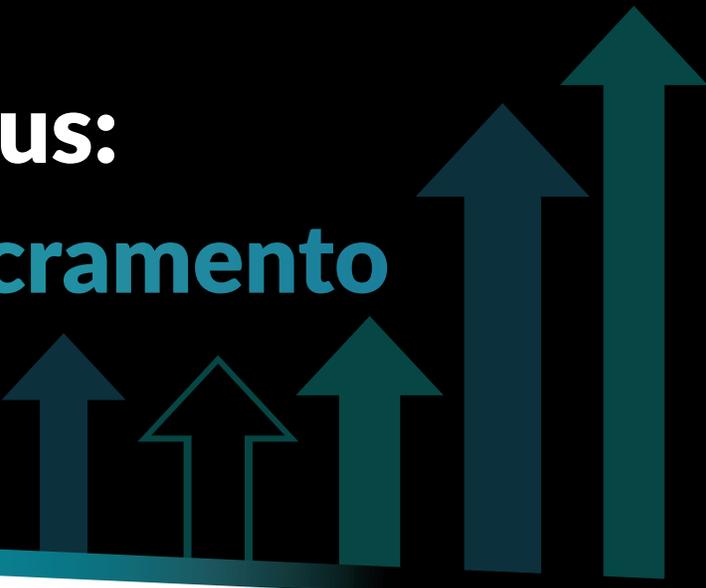
Program Overview

The Greater Sacramento Economic Council (GSEC) applied for CARES Act relief funding and the City of Sacramento received $787,650 for the program. The Greater Sacramento Urban League (GSUL) and GSEC are partnering to digitally upskill disadvantaged and displaced workers in some of Sacramento's most impacted communities. More than 5,000 people throughout the City of Sacramento applied for the 40 available spots. The goal is to ensure training these students met the nation industry standards.The Greater Sacramento Economic Council engaged General Assembly and Merit America who both have successful track records delivering high-quality immersive instruction.

Program participants will receive the following: laptop, stipend to provide internet, $400 per week over nine weeks, completion stipend of $1,800 and a digital certificate in either **IT Support or Advanced Data Analytics**. The pilot program will consist of 40 students, who will be selected after completing an application and admissions screen and will complete the training by the end of calendar year. This allowed students to have the proper tools and support to be focused on learning their new skills and being ready for the job market.

Training Partners

General Assembly (GA) is providing the training for the **advanced data analytics** and is a pioneer in education and career transformation, specializing in today's most in-demand skills and the leading source for training, staffing, and career transitions. GA initially started as a co-working space in 2011 and has since grown into a global learning experience with campuses in 20 cities and over 35,000 graduates worldwide. As individuals and companies struggle to compete in an increasingly technological economy, General Assembly provides award-winning, dynamic training to close the global skills gap. GA has partnered with Louisville, Kentucky to deliver a similar program.

Merit America is providing the training for the **IT Support** has a long and distinguished track record in upskilling those adults without bachelor's degrees and those from a disadvantaged background. By combining new technologies with significant in-person support, Merit is developing the most effective and scalable model in the field. With a focus on near term wage gains, graduates of Merit America average an increase if $418,000 per year in annual earnings. Merit America's students learn IT skills in a flexible format along with key professional skills so the students are well rounded and immediate contributors in their new career.

Qualifications

IT PROFESSIONALS

Merit America's information technology Professional Pathway (full-time, nine-week program resulting in a Google Professional Certificate), to reskill novices for full-time employment in an entry-level information technology role. Learners gain skills employers demand, including: technical support & troubleshooting, computer networking, operating systems, information technology security, computer networking, Ssystems administration, Office 365 administration and deployment.

ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS

This program trains students to be able to gather, organize, manipulate and interpret large data sets and make real-time decisions based upon data. IBM estimates that there will be 2.7 million job openings in the field of data analytics by 2020. Students will be prepared for entry-level positions as data analysts, data visualization specialists, research and management analysts. The students will gain skills in SQL, Tableau, Excel and other data analysis tools.

Each of the graduates will have the following skillsets:

IT SUPPORT

- **Google Professional Certificate**
- **IT security**
- **Office 365** administration and deployment, operating system and system administration
- Computer networking
- Technical support and trouble shooting

DATA ANALYTICS

- Data wrangling in **Excel** and **SQL**
- Connecting data across multiple data sources
- Understanding data structures, classes and inheritance
- Data visualization and storytelling using **Tableau**
- Programming fundamentals and **Python** basics

Types of Positions graduates have obtained:

IT SUPPORT

- Technical Support Representative
- IT Support Specialist
- System Administrator
- Desktop Support Specialist

ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS

- Data and Business Analyst
- Research Analyst
- Data Coordinator
- Analytics Consultant

GREATER SACRAMENTO
ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Greater Sacramento
Urban League

City of
SACRAMENTO

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

merit
AMERICA

Student Demographics

The makeup of students enrolled in the Digital Upskill Sacramento can be found below. As of November 12, 2020, 39 of the 40 students are still enrolled with 20 in the General Assembly data analytics program and 19 in the Merit America IT support program.

Gender:

Male: 23 or 58%
Female: 17 or 42%

Ethnic Breakdown:
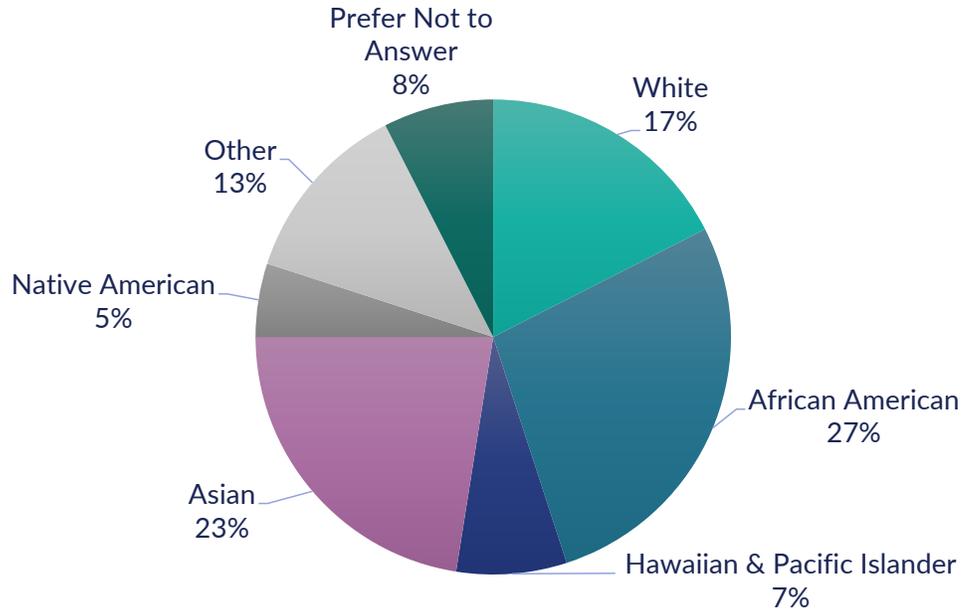
With at least 75% of the cohort identifying as a race other than white, the makeup of this group is more diverse than that of the Greater Sacramento region. (This number could be higher given the 8% prefer not to answer).

	Student		Greater Sacramento
	Count	Percentage	Percentages
White	7	18%	51%
African American	11	28%	8%
Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	3	8%	1%
Asian	9	23%	14%
Native American	2	13%	2%
Other	5	8%	25%
Prefer Not to Answer	3	5%	0%

Other includes those with multiple races and Hispanic along with those that declined to answer.

Of the 40 students, 14 have a four-year college degree and 21 have some college or an associate's degree. Only five have just a high school diploma and one did not provide an answer.