

- Alum Increases Opportunities for Adults to Complete Degrees

VANESSA EVELETH ('23) - Westminster alum **Marie Martin is leading an effort in California for adults to finish degree programs they started but haven't completed.** Marie successfully wrote the grant proposal and leads the project implementation of the UC Degree Completion Program, a collective initiative from University of California campuses to support adults who want to complete their college degrees or obtain a certification from UC.

“As an educator, an academic administrator, and a researcher in higher education, I'm confronted every day by the need to serve students that, historically, higher education often forgets,” says Marie, who graduated from Westminster in 2008 with an HBA in political science. “I attribute much of my own personal success to resources, advisors, and mentors I found at Westminster College so I know how important support structures can be to ensuring student success.”

Marie is the director of academic quality, integrity, and assessment at UC Riverside University Extension.

“My work on the University of California (UC) Degree Completion program is driven by a desire to make a direct impact on students' lives, help students achieve their personal and professional goals, and increase educational attainment rates for underserved and underrepresented populations in California,” Marie says.

The grant secured a two-year \$4.85 million in-state funding for the UC Degree Completion Program, which hopes to provide nearly 800 California students the opportunity to complete their degrees.

[Read more about the UC Degree Completion Program.](#)



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