

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 11:22 AM
Subject: President/CEO Message - September 26, 2025

Campus Community,

I know some might be thinking, “Will he discuss the Return on Investment (ROI) and Economic Mobility in this President/CEO Message?” and the answer is **yes**. I want to ensure that the campus community is aware of the ROI and Economic Mobility movement happening in higher education, and we are well-positioned to support our students throughout their educational journey. In previous messages ([March 28](#), [May 2](#), [July 10](#), [July 31](#), [August 7](#), [August 29](#), and [September 19](#)), I’ve shared information and thoughts on ROI and economic mobility. Today, I wanted to share that since the summer of 2019, the following are the top 10 degrees and certificates awarded by Compton College.

- Social & Behavioral Sciences
- CSU Transfer Studies
- Arts & Humanities
- Biological & Physical Sciences
- IGETC
- Nursing
- Psychology for Transfer
- Administration of Justice
- Sociology for Transfer

As we continue to support our students at Compton College, I invite the campus community to reflect on the ROI and Economic Mobility of the degrees and certificates we offer. As you reflect on the [President/CEO Message of September 19, 2025](#), where I shared Compton College's federal Financial Aid information, we now have an opportunity to ask ourselves: Do the majors and certificates students are pursuing align with the labor market demand or long-term economic mobility?

This is an opportunity to ask ourselves:

- Do our current program offerings reflect high-demand, high-wage industries?
- Are students receiving clear guidance on the career and transfer outcomes associated with their chosen majors?
- How well are our Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) preparing students for success at four-year colleges and universities?
- Are students using federal financial aid to pursue programs that lack a clear path to employment or transfer?
- How can we better use the labor market and transfer data to inform program development, advising, and resource allocation?

I encourage faculty, classified professionals, and managers/supervisors to consider these questions. Please send your thoughts to kcurry@compton.edu on how Compton College can ensure every program leads to a viable career or transfer opportunity for our students. As previously mentioned, there will be many conversations and discussions on this topic throughout the 2025-2026 year.

Currently enrolled students, including dual enrollment students and adult learners, were sent an email on my behalf reaffirming Compton College’s unwavering support for students regardless of immigration status. Students were encouraged to attend one of the many upcoming [CHIRLA workshops](#), the [November 12 Student Forum](#), or an [Associated Student Government](#) meeting to stay connected. Students were also reminded of available resources, including “Know Your Rights” red cards and the [AR 3415 Protocol Guide](#). Click [here](#) to read the email.

Today's President/CEO Message includes a correction to the tenured faculty list, a reminder to sign up for Nixle alerts, a summary of my responses to recent requests related to immigration enforcement, and more.

Enrollment Update – Fall 2025

As of **September 25, 2025**, Compton College has generated 1,749 FTES for the Fall 2025 term. 12,581 (74%) of the available seats are currently filled.

Enrollment for Fall 2025 has continued to improve compared to the same time last year and two years ago. However, enrollment remains our top priority, and we must continue to encourage students to take full course loads while reminding them that support services, such as tutoring and workshops, are available to help them succeed. Please note that students can still enroll in eight-week "Late Start" classes, which begin on **Saturday, October 18, 2025**.

Please sign up today! Receive emergency notifications via cell phone or email.

Sign up to receive emergency notifications at Compton College Campus Police via Nixle, a free service that informs you of campus and community safety alerts. Through this system, you will receive alerts/notifications via cell phone, text message, and/or email. To register, go to www.compton.edu/campus-safety/nixle.

Are You #VoteReady?

National Voter Registration Week is a great time to check your voter registration status and make sure you're ready for the **November 4, 2025**, statewide election. **October 20** is the deadline to register and still receive a vote-by-mail ballot. Early voting and ballot drop-off begin on **October 6, 2025**. Visit registertovote.ca.gov to register or update your info, and voterstatus.sos.ca.gov to check your status.

Compton Community College District Board of Trustees Meeting

On **Monday, October 13, 2025**, the Board of Trustees will meet in the Board Room in the Administration Building. All regular session meetings are open to the public. The closed session begins at 5:00 p.m., with the open session commencing at 6:00 p.m. The Board Agenda is posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Agendas are posted on the BoardDocs website under the "Meetings" tab at <http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/compton/Board.nsf/Public>.

Prior to the Board meeting, a groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Quad, just north of the Physical Education and Visual and Performing Arts construction projects. Join the Compton CCD Board of Trustees as we celebrate the start of these transformative campus improvements.

President/CEO Closing the Loop

1. On **Monday, September 22, 2025**, I sent the following email to the members of the [Consultative Council Meeting](#) as a follow-up on a request at the Consultative Council Meetings:

As a follow-up to a previous request from the Consultative Council meeting and to my responses to the [Academic Senate – Summary of Decisions Made at the June 5, 2025, Meetings](#), the first request was for the district to consider labeling itself a "Safe Haven" institution. As per legal advice, this request is not approved. Similar to the request for the "Sanctuary Campus Designation," designating the district as a "Safe Haven" does not carry any legal authority and may create a false sense of security for our students, employees, or wider community that we cannot guarantee.

As previously stated, we are committed to creating a safe environment for all students, regardless of immigration status, and keeping our community informed. We stand ready to protect our students and employees to the fullest extent possible under the law. In a time of fear and misinformation, it is imperative to avoid giving a misleading impression that all risks are

eliminated, and instead focus on how we can help the most. As I previously shared, we have created and adopted [Administrative Regulation 3415, Immigration Enforcement Activities](#), which addresses immigration enforcement on campus, and [Administrative Regulation 5017 - Responding to Inquiries of Immigration Status and National Origin Information](#), which addresses responses to inquiries of immigration status and related information. We will continue to support policies and administrative regulations that comply with state and federal law and maintain the safety of our community.

As it relates to the second request, it is not appropriate for the district to send communications regarding First Amendment rights to employees or students. [Administrative Regulation 3415, Immigration Enforcement Activities](#), identifies staff's responsibilities, including how they should respond if they encounter U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on campus. All district employees are required to comply with [Administrative Regulation 3415, Immigration Enforcement Activities](#). This will best protect our employees and, most importantly, our students.

2. I responded to the [Planning and Budget Committee's](#) recommendation not to support the [2025–2026 Final Budget](#), addressing concerns about the hold harmless funding and future Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) targets. The [September 23, 2025, letter](#) reaffirmed that Compton CCD's funding is protected by a permanent funding floor established in the 2022 California State Budget Act, and that the institution has planned for the absence of COLA in future years. I clarified that the college is not adding new course sections but is instead focused on increasing fill rates for existing sections. I also shared that the books for the 2025–2026 fiscal year have officially closed, and updates to both the Five-Year Fiscal Management Plan and the General Fund to Capital Outlay transfer document are underway. These updates will be presented to the Planning and Budget Committee in **October 2025**.
3. The 2025-2026 Compton CCD Budget allocated \$100,000 to the [Enrollment Management Committee](#) (EMC) for enrollment projects/activities. The EMC received a total of six proposals, and five were recommended for approval by the President/CEO. This week, I reviewed the five proposals and approved four of them. The one proposal that was not approved was a \$30,000 proposal to offer a First Year Experience Summer Bridge Program at the University of California. This project could be funded from funds awarded to Compton College through the Ballmer Group Grant, which included \$300,000 to support summer residential programs. More information on the Ballmer Group Grant to Compton College was included in the [President/CEO Message – November 15, 2024](#).

With the non-approval of the summer residential program, the EMC has an additional \$30,000 in funds available to allocate this year and will discuss the steps for allocating the remaining funds at the next meeting. The next EMC meeting will be held via Zoom at 1:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**. Thank you to the EMC Committee for their review and recommendations for the 2025-2026 Enrollment Management funding allocations. Below are the approved proposals:

Project/Activity	Department	Project Description	Amount Funded
Promise Acceptance & Preview Day Mailer	Educational Partnerships	Mail Acceptance letters to HS seniors for the Promise Program and outreach invitations to Preview Day	\$10,000

Student Ambassadors	Educational Partnerships	Student Ambassadors are needed to staff various outreach and recruitment events	\$17,500
Laptops with Internet Service	Educational Partnerships	Provide 10 internet-enabled laptops to support real-time outreach and enrollment.	\$10,000
Welcome Center	Counseling & Guided Pathways	Expand staffing to manage high student demand and improve enrollment services	\$32,500

Correction to Compton Community College Tenured Faculty Honorees

We are pleased to announce an addition to the list of Compton College faculty members who will be honored for achieving tenure at the Ninth Annual Tenure Dinner. In addition to those previously listed, Shirlisa Johnson will also be recognized for this significant accomplishment.

The updated list of honorees includes:

- Nathan Lopez
- Dr. Schetema Nealy
- Jared Gordon
- Angela Burrell
- Steven Gonzales
- Shirlisa Johnson

The Ninth Annual Tenure Dinner will take place on **Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in the Multipurpose Room. An invitation was sent to faculty last week, and the RSVP deadline is **Monday, October 6, 2025**. In addition to celebrating newly tenured faculty, we will also honor faculty members for their years of service to the Compton Community College District.

Final Thoughts

Looking ahead, I'm excited to begin planning for Compton College's 100th Anniversary, which is tentatively scheduled to begin with the grand opening ceremony of the Visual and Performing Arts Complex in **February 2027** and conclude with the grand opening of the Physical Education Complex in **March 2028**. This milestone is an opportunity to honor our legacy, celebrate our progress, and engage our entire community. If you have ideas or suggestions for how we could celebrate or other events we should host in support of the 100th Anniversary, please send them to Sylvia Barakat at sbarakat@compton.edu. We will be forming a planning committee soon, and I look forward to working together to make this historic occasion truly memorable.

Please have a wonderful Friday, and thank you for all you do in support of Compton College students and the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Keith Curry, Ed.D.
(he/him/his)
President/CEO
Compton College