

**From:** Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2026 6:07 PM

## President/CEO Message - July 9, 2026

Campus Community,

Good evening, and I am excited to share that the 2026 Compton College Commencement photos are now available online, including the graduate class photo. Congratulations again to the Class of 2026! Click [here](#) to view the commencement albums.

I also want to acknowledge the tragic loss of Eric Washington, who was killed during a Fourth of July shooting in Compton. Eric attended the former El Camino College Compton Center, earned an associate degree in political science, and continued his education and career in public service. I had the opportunity to get to know Eric through his work in Assemblymember Mike Gipson's office and his continued involvement in our community. In fact, on **January 25, 2026**, while in Sacramento, CA, I had the opportunity to talk to Eric, and he was so proud of our accomplishments and of having attended Compton College. The pride and joy he had about the institution was evident to me, and his passing deeply saddens me. We extend our condolences to Eric's family, friends, colleagues, and all who are grieving this loss.

This week's message includes enrollment updates, information about New Student Welcome Day, Return on Investment and Economic Mobility, a reminder about locating and following College policies and procedures, and an update on the final 2026–2027 California State Budget.

### **July 9, 2026, Compton College Summer Enrollment Update**

- **Summer 2026:** 599 FTES, and 4,936 (74%) of the available seats are currently filled.
- **Fall 2026:** 909 FTES, and 6,157 (34%) of the available seats are currently filled.

### **2026–2027 California State Budget**

[Governor Gavin Newsom signed the final 2026–2027 State Budget on June 29, concluding this year's state budget process.](#) The final budget includes several important investments for California Community Colleges, including ongoing funding for enrollment growth, a statutory cost-of-living adjustment for the Student-Centered Funding Formula, support for student equity and achievement, one-time funding for deferred maintenance and instructional equipment, and continued investments in dual enrollment, Credit for Prior Learning, and the Common Cloud Data Platform.

**Today, July 9, 2026**, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, in collaboration with the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), the Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO), and the Community College League of California, released the [2026–2027 Joint Analysis of the Enacted Budget](#). This comprehensive resource provides a shared factual foundation to support further analysis and implementation across the system. For ongoing updates and additional resources, please visit the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Budget News Page.

For Compton College, these investments are encouraging as we continue to focus on enrollment recovery and growth, student success and equity, workforce preparation, facilities' needs, and long-term fiscal stability. Over the next few weeks, we will review the enacted budget and make necessary adjustments to the [2026–2027 Compton CCD Tentative Budget](#) as we prepare the 2026–2027 Compton Community College District Final Budget, which will be presented to the Compton CCD Board of Trustees at their meeting on **Monday, September 14, 2026**.

### **Return on Investment and Economic Mobility**

It's been a while since I shared information on Return on Investment and Economic Mobility in a President/CEO Message. In previous President/CEO Messages, I have shared a lot of information and reports

related to the conversations on Return on Investment (ROI) and Economic Mobility ([March 28](#), [May 2](#), [July 10](#), [July 31](#), [August 7](#), [August 29](#), [September 19](#), [September 26](#), [October 24](#), [November 7](#), [November 14](#), [November 21](#), [January 16](#), [January 23](#), [February 27](#), and [May 1](#)). Today, I wanted to remind everyone that we are part of the [Return on Investment and Economic Mobility Framework Initiative](#) and that we have secured \$250,000 to implement it. I wanted to share some additional reports and information on ROI and Economic Mobility that I have come across in the past couple of months.

1. ESG's [The Great Value Shift](#) provides a high-level framework to understand current trends and opportunities in ROI.
2. Strada's State Opportunity Index measures the [% of graduates in each state who earn a positive ROI within 10 years](#). They find that, overall in the USA, 70% of graduates (73% BA; 60% AA) earn a positive ROI, and in California, 75% (78% BA; 58% AA).
3. Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education released this advocacy report, [Higher Education's Return on Investment: The Case for Why Higher Education Matters](#). It also supported a more neutral academic report titled [Selected Returns on Higher Investment](#) from the University of Kentucky.
4. Pursuant to a legislative mandate + funding, the University of North Carolina System released this [third-party evaluation of university programs](#), which explains findings from its systemwide [Student ROI Dashboard](#) and [State ROI Dashboard](#).
5. Third Way's [Price to Earnings Premium](#) and [Economic Mobility Index](#) reports, both based on [College Scorecard](#) data, offer another way to think about ROI and visualize it across geographies nationwide.
6. California Competes Reports: [Degrees of Value: Exploring How College ROI in California Differs by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex](#), [ROI Metrics Matrix](#), and [Degrees of Value: Mapping the Return on Investment for California's College Graduates](#)
7. Colorado Commission on Higher Education [Minimum Value Threshold](#).

I have more resources that I will share in a future [President/CEO Message](#). There are so many more conversations happening in higher education around ROI and Economic Mobility than there were two years ago, and I anticipate the conversation will intensify as the U.S. Department of Education begins implementing the earnings benchmark, which was included in the [President/CEO Message – May 1, 2026](#).

### **New Student Welcome Day – Wednesday, August 19, 2026**

All students (current and prospective) are invited to attend the New Student Welcome Day at Compton College on **Wednesday, August 19, 2026**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Students will learn about Compton College and the excellent student resources available to help them succeed in college, take a campus tour, participate in workshops, and have the opportunity to win prizes! For more information and to RSVP for the on-campus event, click [here](#).

### **Know Where to Find Compton Community College District Board Policies and Administrative Regulations**

Compton Community College District [Board Policies \(BPs\) and Administrative Regulations \(ARs\)](#) provide the framework for many of the College's day-to-day operations, including purchasing, contracts, travel reimbursements, facilities use, keys, and other administrative processes.

Employees are encouraged to become familiar with the policies and procedures that relate to their work responsibilities. If you are unsure how a policy or procedure applies to a particular situation, please contact the department responsible for that area for guidance and clarification. Asking questions helps ensure that processes are followed correctly and consistently across the institution.

While Board Policies and Administrative Regulations may sometimes be complex, they establish the standards by which the College conducts its operations. Consistent application of approved policies and procedures helps ensure fairness, accountability, compliance, and effective service to our students and community.

Current Board Policies and Administrative Regulations are available [here](#). As a reminder, newly approved or revised policies and regulations are routinely shared with employees following Board of Trustees action via a [President/CEO Message](#).

### **President/CEO Closing the Loop**

Due to technical difficulties, the first Fall 2026 drop-for-non-payment process will not occur, and an email communication will be sent to students this evening regarding this decision. The College will focus on the second drop-for-non-payment deadline, scheduled for **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**. Students are encouraged to check their account balances regularly and make payments promptly – online via MyCompton or at the Bursar’s Office in SSB-161. Students who need assistance covering the cost of college should contact the Financial Aid Office (SSB-170) and are encouraged to apply for financial aid, even if they are unsure whether they qualify. Financial aid may include grants, fee waivers, scholarships, and other support programs that do not require repayment.

### **Final Thoughts**

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday weekend. Next week, in the President/CEO Message – July 16, 2026, we will begin announcing the new classified professional positions funded in the 2026-2027 Compton CCD Budget, and additional budget approvals will be announced soon after. I am excited about our annual planning for Compton College and the many recommendations we’ve received. My concern is that we can’t fund every position, program, or activity requested through the annual planning process. I appreciate everyone’s commitment to the process, and I look forward to making these funding announcements so the work can begin.

Please mark your calendar for the mandatory Fall 2026 Professional Development Day on **Thursday, August 20, 2026**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium. All full-time employees (faculty, classified professionals, and managers/supervisors) are required to participate in the mandatory Fall 2026 Professional Development Day. We are working to finalize the agenda and anticipate sending it to all Compton College employees before **Thursday, July 30, 2026**.

Sincerely,

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