



BRICK_{BY} BRICK

**Compton
Community
College
District**

The Road to Accreditation



Office of the Special Trustee

During the last few years we have successfully addressed some of the most difficult challenges the Compton Community College District has ever faced. Now we are entering a new and very exciting phase for the district, one in which the organization that monitors community colleges throughout the western United States will soon begin to review Compton's readiness to operate an independently accredited community college again.

That decision will not be made quickly and can only come after the accrediting commission — which receives its authority from the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. — is confident that the performance of our board of trustees, faculty and staff conforms, in all material respects, to the Commission's rigorous standards.

Our goal, therefore, is to meet or exceed the high standards expected of us and our plan to get there is outlined in this report to our community.

As we pursue our goal, I hope we can count on your enthusiastic support and look forward to your continued interest in our progress. Please enjoy your copy of "*Brick by Brick*."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Landsberger".

Peter Landsberger
Special Trustee

"At the Compton Community College District, we are working hard with our partners from El Camino College to bring an accredited college back to Compton. Our plan to reach accreditation is described in this document and, to make it work, everyone (El Camino College, Compton Center, and the community) will need to work together. We'll also need to make it a 100 percent effort by all; one that every Compton employee supports enthusiastically.

We have an important task ahead of us. It will take time, commitment and tenacity, but it will restore the district to its proper place. Please join us as we continue to move the district forward."

Lawrence M. Cox, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Compton Community College District

They Are What It's All About



JAMAL STOKLEY

"I believe in the pursuit of higher education and putting yourself in the best position to succeed. El Camino College Compton Center helped me get there."

- Graduated with associate degree June 2010
- Transferred to San Francisco State University



TERRANCE STEWART

"I want to show kids with tough backgrounds that we can all design a positive path for ourselves."

- Graduated with associate degree June 2010
- Transferred to UC Riverside



LUIS PAREDES

"El Camino College Compton Center has provided me with the strong educational foundation necessary to pursue my career goals."

- Valedictorian of the Class of 2010
- Plans to transfer to UCLA



ROCÍO CUEVAS

"Taking advantage of business management classes and the transfer Center services at El Camino College Compton Center have put me on track to achieve my goal of earning an MBA."

- Plans to transfer to UC Berkeley

A Proud History



Compton Community College was established in 1927 as a component of the Compton Union High School District.

In 1933, the campus was devastated by a major earthquake which struck the region, leaving two buildings standing. Fortunately, no one on campus was killed.

In the 1940s several thousand Compton College students entered the armed forces and during World War II the campus housed a military unit and a defense plant.

In 1950, voters approved a bond issue separating the college from the high school district. The new college campus was then constructed at the college's present site, 1111 East Artesia Boulevard. Classes began on the new campus in the Fall of 1953.

1927 to 2010 Eighty-Three Years of Education

Some of Compton's most recognized graduates have been:



Joe Perry



Don Wilson



Alvin "Pete"
Rozelle



Gwendolyn Crews



Carolyn Scott



Coolio

Photo Courtesy of LA Wave

Difficult Days



Eight Decades of Graduates

Accreditation

is very important to colleges and universities because it provides public certification that they meet specific standards of quality and responsibility. Without this certification, course credits completed by students are not recognized and are not transferable to other colleges and universities. Accreditation is also used by the federal government and other organizations to determine eligibility for financial aid funds for students and other forms of financial assistance.

Despite its many accomplishments and long history of serving the community, the former Compton College faced mounting administrative and financial troubles in the 1990s and early 2000s. By 2004, the problems had become so severe that the California Community College Chancellor's Office intervened, issued Executive Order 2004-01, and installed a Special Trustee to assist the Compton Community College District. By August 2004, the State Chancellor issued Executive Order (2004-02) which removed the authority of the elected Compton Community College District Board of Trustees members.

In June 2005, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (Accrediting Commission) informed Compton College of the Accrediting Commission's decision to revoke its accreditation. The Interim President and the Special Trustee at the time, began the appeal to the Accrediting Commission to prevent the revocation of accreditation.

In June 2006, the Accrediting Commission denied the appeals, and revoked Compton College's accreditation. At that point, there was no accredited institution of higher education to serve the Compton District residents. With the intent of keeping the doors to higher education open for Compton area residents, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 318 (D-Dymally) into law on June 30, 2006, giving the Compton Community College District a loan to help with recovery and the opportunity to partner with a college of good standing to offer accredited courses.

On August 22, 2006, the El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees and the Special Trustee for the Compton Community College District entered into an agreement. Based on that agreement and language in AB 318, the El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center was established as a center of El Camino College located in the city of Compton.

The primary goal of the agreement between the El Camino Community College District and the Compton Community College District is full recovery and accreditation of a college in Compton that will be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Compton District Board of Trustees once local control is returned to the board by the State of California.



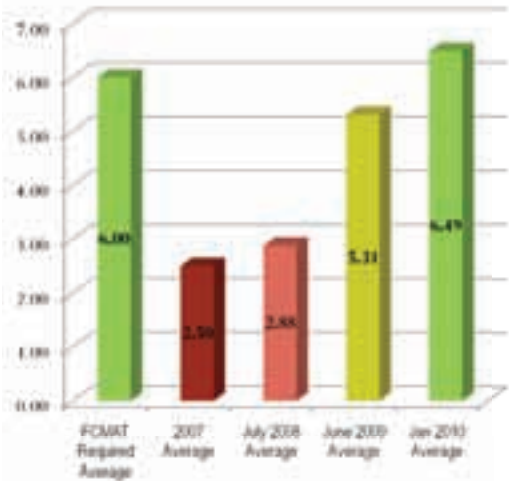


Great Progress

Our Teaching & Operations Have Improved Dramatically

The State has designated the Fiscal Crises and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) as the independent agency charged with monitoring the Compton Community College District's performance and reporting on its progress towards recovery. FCMAT uses more than 150 standards to evaluate Compton's performance. A FCMAT team visits Compton approximately once every six months and, after reviewing District operations, assigns the District a score for each of the standards. In general, the District needs scores of least 6.0 to demonstrate that it is performing in compliance with FCMAT standards. With hard

work and a concerted effort, the District has improved its scores from an average of 2.5 in 2007, to an average score of nearly 6.5 in 2010.



Enrollment Is Increasing and Graduation Rates Are Climbing!

Our enrollment is increasing annually, which is a strong sign that community residents are returning to their local community college with confidence!

- In the past four years, ECC Compton Center experienced a significant increase in headcount. Enrollment increased 14 percent in 2007-2008 over the previous year, and then increased another 31 percent in 2008-2009.
- Most recently, enrollment increased 18 percent in fall 2009, and then increased another 14 percent in fall 2010.
- Students continue to graduate from ECC Compton Center with degrees issued by our academic partner, El Camino Community College District. A total of 591 degrees and certificates have been awarded in the last four years.
- From 2007 to 2008, the number of degrees/certificates awarded increased by 35 percent.
- A total of 150 students were awarded degrees in 2008-2009, an increase of 44 degrees over the previous academic year.
- In 2009, the number of AA degree recipients increased by 55 percent.
- In 2010, 168 students graduated with associate degrees, and 74 students earned certificates.



Where We Go From Here

NOTE: Our goal with the following information is to try to explain the very complicated process that all community colleges go through to receive accreditation. In this case, it's potentially even more challenging because the former Compton College was the first California community college to lose its accreditation. Hospitals and many health and science-related institutions also go through similar processes. If after reading this, you have any questions about the road to accreditation, you may submit your e-mail address and comments or questions at: <http://district.compton.edu/accreditation/>. Thank you!

PHASE 1: Getting Started and Moving to Eligibility

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (Accrediting Commission) is the only organization authorized by the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., to evaluate colleges on a series of performance criteria. The steps to achieving accreditation include: eligibility, candidacy, and initial accreditation.

El Camino College and the Compton Community College District have jointly developed a planning document, entitled "*The Process to Accreditation*," outlining the process to obtain accreditation eligibility for the Compton Center. Once accreditation eligibility is granted by the Accrediting Commission, candidacy status, and eventually, initial accreditation follows. The planning document specifies how the accreditation process will be organized, the anticipated timelines, and the assignments of various committees, task groups, and individuals who will lead each task. The document is available online at: <http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/vpaa/accreditation/docs/Process-to-Accreditation-v2.pdf>

Organizing

Under the leadership of Compton Center's CEO, El Camino College's Vice President, Compton Center, and Compton Center's Faculty Council President, the Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) will include students, faculty, classified staff, and administrators. Five subcommittees of the ASC will oversee organization, instruction and faculty, student services and public information, financial integrity, and planning and evaluation. The subcommittees will research, review, and assess the Compton Center's proficiency in each of the twenty-one eligibility criteria, and provide relevant evidence demonstrating the Compton Center's readiness to apply for accreditation eligibility.

The topics covered by the twenty-one **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** include:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Authority | 9. Academic Credit | 16. Information and Learning Resources |
| 2. Mission | 10. Student Learning and Achievement | 17. Financial Resources |
| 3. Governing Board | 11. General Education | 18. Financial Accountability |
| 4. Chief Executive Officer | 12. Academic Freedom | 19. Institutional Planning and Evaluation |
| 5. Administrative Capacity | 13. Faculty | 20. Public Information |
| 6. Operational Status | 14. Student Services | 21. Relations with the Accrediting Commission |
| 7. Degrees | 15. Admissions | |
| 8. Educational Programs | | |

Additionally, a Communications Plan will be developed to keep the Compton Center employees and the community informed regarding accreditation issues. Regular newsletters, open forums, and web updates will be included in the plan.

Applying for Eligibility for Accreditation

The Process to Accreditation anticipates that the ASC will review an initial draft of an application for accreditation eligibility during spring 2011. Once El Camino College and the Compton District agree the document is ready, El Camino College will submit the application to the Accrediting Commission's Eligibility Committee. (Because the Compton Center is a part of El Camino College, the Commission's rules require El Camino to submit the application for eligibility to the Commission rather than Compton.)

The Accrediting Commission's Eligibility Committee meets twice each year in January and June. As a result, ECC and Compton Center leaders will need to determine if the eligibility application should be submitted for review at the January 2012 meeting, or the June 2012 meeting.

PHASE 2: Moving from Eligibility to Candidacy

All timelines are established and driven by the Accrediting Commission. Our goal is to achieve and maintain excellence and by doing so, we make the best case for future accreditation.

Completing a Self Study and Preparing a Self Study Report

Once the Accrediting Commission Eligibility Committee completes its review of the Compton Center's application for accreditation eligibility, the Accrediting Commission will inform the President of El Camino College whether the application is approved. When accreditation eligibility is granted, the Accrediting Commission will begin to develop a timeline for the Compton Center's self study for candidacy status.

The self study for accreditation candidacy is a lengthy and detailed process by which the Compton Center will appraise and detail its programs, services, operations and other relevant characteristics in terms of the Accrediting Commission Standards for Accreditation.

Following the timeline developed by the Accrediting Commission, the Compton Center will complete a self study report using the standards of accreditation and various Accrediting Commission policies and resources including the "Self Study Manual," the "Guide to Evaluating Institutions," and the "Accreditation Reference Handbook." The timeline to prepare and submit the self study report takes 18 to 24 months.

Applying for Candidacy Status

When the self study report is completed, El Camino College will apply for candidacy status by submitting the self study report to the Accrediting Commission and the members of a visiting team appointed by the Accrediting Commission. The visiting team will utilize the report as part of its review in determining whether the Compton Center meets the Accrediting Commission accreditation standards.



After reviewing the site visit report, the Accrediting Commission will grant the Compton Center candidacy or will issue an extension, deferral, denial, or termination of candidacy. Once the Accrediting Commission grants candidacy, Compton Center must remain in compliance with the standards of accreditation throughout the entire candidacy period, which is at least two additional years.

PHASE 3: Moving from Candidacy to Initial Accreditation

Completing a Second Self Study and Preparing a New Self Study Report

The Accrediting Commission requires that the application for initial accreditation of the Compton Center be submitted by El Camino College. This step can be taken once the Compton Center has provided relevant evidence that the standards of accreditation have been met and sustained as a candidate for accreditation for at least two years.

Applying for initial accreditation requires an additional self study report. As with the first self study report, the new report must be supported by relevant evidence that the Compton Center continues to meet the accreditation standards and all other applicable Accrediting Commission policies. Once a new self study report is submitted, a site team will again visit the Compton Center to determine whether it has continually met all standards and policies of the Accrediting Commission.

After reviewing the visiting team's report, the Accrediting Commission will act to do one of three things: grant initial accreditation to the Compton Center, extend the period of candidacy, or deny initial accreditation.

Sustaining Accreditation

Once the Accrediting Commission grants initial accreditation to the Compton Center, it will no longer be an "educational center." It will be a new and separate community college, fully recognized within the California Community Colleges system. Like all other new colleges, it then begins a six-year cycle of review which has several parts, including: a six-year comprehensive evaluation, a midterm evaluation in the third year, annual reports and annual fiscal reports to the Accrediting Commission, as well as other progress reports and visits as deemed necessary by the Accrediting Commission.

Presuming local control has been restored to the Compton Community College District, El Camino College will immediately take steps to transfer the newly accredited college to Compton. With that transfer, Compton and El Camino College will have achieved the primary goals of their partnership agreement — full recovery of the Compton Community College District and the accreditation of a new college in Compton under the jurisdiction of Compton's Board of Trustees.

Q & A

1. What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a status granted to an educational institution that has been found to meet or exceed stated criteria of educational quality. Institutions voluntarily seek accreditation and it is conferred by non-governmental accrediting bodies authorized by the U.S. Department of Education. Accreditation has two fundamental purposes: to assure the quality of the institution, and to encourage institutional improvement.

2. What is the Accrediting Commission?

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (Accrediting Commission) is the only organization authorized by the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., to evaluate community colleges in California. Steps to achieving accreditation include: eligibility, candidacy, and initial accreditation.

3. How will we know what is happening with the accreditation process?

A Communications Plan is being developed to keep the Compton Center employees and the community informed regarding accreditation issues. Regular newsletters, open forums, and web updates are all a part of the plan.

4. What does it mean to achieve “accreditation eligibility”?

Achieving accreditation eligibility means that the Compton Center has successfully met the Accrediting Commission’s twenty-one eligibility criteria. Once accreditation eligibility is granted, the Accrediting Commission will begin to develop a timeline for the Compton Center’s self study for accreditation candidacy status.

5. What is a self study report?

The self study report is a lengthy written document that describes the results of the self study and contains evidence to back up those results. The self study for accreditation candidacy is an extensive and detailed process by which the Compton Center will appraise and detail its programs, services, operations and other relevant characteristics in terms of the Accrediting Commission Standards for Accreditation.

6. Who does the research, writes the reports and presents the results for accreditation eligibility, candidacy and initial accreditation?

Under the leadership of Compton Center’s CEO, El Camino College’s Vice President, Compton Center, and Compton Center’s Faculty Council President, the Accreditation Steering Committee which includes students, faculty, classified staff, and administrators, has established five subcommittees to oversee organization, instruction and faculty, student services and public information, financial integrity, and planning and evaluation. These subcommittees will research, review, and assess the Compton Center’s proficiency in each of the twenty-one eligibility criteria, and provide relevant evidence demonstrating the Compton Center’s readiness to apply for accreditation eligibility.

7. When did the former Compton College lose its accreditation?

On June 30, 2006, the Accrediting Commission officially revoked the accreditation of Compton College. On August 22, 2006, El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center was established as a Center of El Camino College in the City of Compton through AB 318 and the agreement between the Compton Community College District and the El Camino Community College District.

8. When did the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees lose its authority?

In August 2004, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges issued Executive Order 2004-02 that revoked the authority of the Board of Trustees, and put in place a Special Trustee with the authority to oversee the Compton District.

9. How long will the accreditation process take?

Once accreditation eligibility has been established, the timeline for completing all subsequent steps towards initial accreditation are largely determined by the Accrediting Commission. The experience of other institutions seeking accreditation shows that the whole process can take up to five years, sometimes longer.

10. When Compton Center becomes an accredited college, when will the Compton Community College District have local control?

When Compton Center is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the Compton Community College District will assume governance.

How You Can Help

For 80 years, this institution has met the educational needs of the community, providing higher education to thousands of graduates. El Camino College Compton Center is your education solution with six academic divisions, each offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may graduate with an associate degree, transfer to a four-year university, earn a certificate, and train for a career.

- **Register As A Supporter On Our Website**

Add your e-mail or cell phone number to our information list to ensure that you receive updates about new courses, key registration deadlines, news and events taking place at ECC Compton Center. Visit our website <http://district.compton.edu/accreditation/> to register.

- **Register For A Course**

ECC Compton Center has a wide variety of courses that you've probably wanted to take for a long time, but just never believed you had the time or knew that a course was available here in your own community. Visit our website for a complete listing of courses: www.compton.edu

- **Register Your Son Or Daughter For College**

Studies have shown that if high school graduates don't enter a college within the first year after graduation, their chances of ever returning to college diminish significantly. Take a moment to speak with your high school student or new graduate and encourage he/she to take at least one course that they might enjoy. High school students may also enroll in college courses concurrently.

- **Take A Course To Enhance Your Skills On The Job**

During these difficult economic times, find out what type of courses might improve your standing on the job. If you're not certain, contact our career center to schedule an appointment with a career counselor.

Our Plan for Recovery





September 30, 2010

Board of Trustees and Special Trustee
Compton Community College District

Dear Board Members and Special Trustee:

I want to lend my enthusiastic support to this plan designed to return the Compton Community College District to local control and to achieve accreditation for a new Compton College.

You have made significant progress so far. I am confident that this good work will continue.

Sincerely,
Jack Scott, Ph.D.
Chancellor



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
16097 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, California 90506-0001
Telephone (310) 532-3670 or 1-866-ELCAMINO
www.elcamino.edu

October 27, 2010

When the El Camino Community College District agreed to partner with the Compton Community College District to establish the El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center, we knew this journey would be challenging and rewarding. The hard work of the employees at both the Compton Community Educational Center and El Camino College has already enriched lives. Each time a student successfully completes a course, earns a degree or certificate, or lands a job in an exciting career, we realize the true value of the partnership.

El Camino College's faculty, staff and administrators are working with colleagues at the Compton Center in the process to accreditation candidacy and eventual independent accreditation. We understand this process requires great effort and time: we will attain our goals.

The El Camino Community College District constituents are committed to obtaining independent accreditation for the El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center and will eventually establish a newly accredited college for the Compton District.

Thomas M. Fallo, Superintendent/President
El Camino Community College District



Compton Community College District Board of Trustees
1111 East Artesia Boulevard
Compton, CA 90221
Telephone: 310-900-1600

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Compton, CA
Permit #59



COMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter Landsberger, *Special Trustee*
Lorraine Cervantes
Charles Davis
John P. Hamilton

Andres Ramos
Deborah Sims LeBlanc
Opal Williams, Student Trustee
Lawrence Cox, CEO

The Compton Community College District is committed to providing equal opportunity in which no person is subjected to discrimination on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or retaliation.