

# Compton College Campus Climate Survey



December 2018

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In Spring 2018, Compton College surveyed staff, faculty, and students about their experience and beliefs about the college climate. This cover letter combined with the *Compton College School Climate Spring 2018* PowerPoint presentation, serves as the summary of the findings and recommendations from this effort.

In all, 501 students completed the survey (63% response rate), and only 65 employees (staff, faculty, and administrators; 15%) responded to the survey. Due to the low response rate, the employee findings should be interpreted with caution.

## How do students feel about the school climate?

Overall, most students view the college in a positive light. Students were very positive about their classroom experiences, with over 95% of students reporting that they felt comfortable asking questions in the classroom and that instructors are concerned about their well-being. However, student responses did highlight some areas that could be strengthened. Students reported:

- The physical upkeep of the campus could be improved.
- Student connection to the college is limited. For example, 75% of students reported that they did not often participate in college events.
- A small but consistent percentage of students (about 15%) reported needing more counseling, academic, and financial aid support.

Other findings highlight opportunities to better align with student need:

- While 61% of students were in favor of building residence halls, 44% reported that they would consider living on campus.
- Over one-third (36%) of student respondents noted that they would be interested in starting classes at 7:30am.

## How do faculty, staff, and administrators feel about the school climate?

Unfortunately, the findings from this survey are not generalizable to the entire staff, faculty, administration at Compton College due to the low response rate. Nevertheless, the

respondents did report some concerning issues that the College may consider for improvement, such as:

- A majority of respondents (about 65%) do not believe the President/Vice Presidents/Deans care about their well-being and four out of five respondents said their needs were not being met.
- Similar to students, employees (84%) said that the campus is not well-maintained.
- 68% of employee survey respondents do not believe their input results in meaningful change. This finding is aligned with recent feedback at the Tartar Talk when staff shared that they do not know what happens with their recommendations and they want help “closing the loop” to know who considered their input while making final decisions.
- Almost all (92%) of respondents are concerned about the transition to an independent college.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- Students are very positive about the college learning environment, which should be celebrated. Students reported that faculty were creating culturally rich, safe environments.
- Students do not feel an authentic connection to the college, nor do employees. The College may consider ways to develop deeper connections to the College and is already investing in case management and professional development. Further, a subset of students report needing services. How can the College target these students for support?
- Most respondents feel safe during daylight hours, but that sense of safety does decline at night. The College may prioritize recommendations to improve nighttime safety features, such as lighting or police patrols.
- Many respondents commented negatively about the environment. The College may consider investing in the physical space by improving ground maintenance and fast-tracking new buildings.
- Employee survey respondents report poor communication and often don't know when their recommendations are considered by administration. The College may consider ways to improve the communication process among committees and stakeholder groups (e.g., Academic Senate, classified union, and faculty union).
- Employee respondents also do not feel valued. The College investments in better communication and strengthening the consultative practices on campus should address some of these concerns. However, the College should consider additional survey questions or focus groups with employees in the next administration of the School Climate survey to get detail about how to address these shortcomings.