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President/CEO

February 26, 2020

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Titles III, V, and VIII Eligibility for FY 2020

Dear Secretary DeVos,

On behalf of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, I am writing to appeal the Department of Education's decision to deny Compton College's ability to apply for Titles III, V, and VIII Eligibility for FY 2020.

I would like to provide a recap of the college's history for clarification. In June 2006, the former Compton Community College's accreditation was revoked by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). In August 2006, a partnership with El Camino Community College District was formed, and the El Camino College Compton Center was established to serve the diverse communities within the Compton CCD. In March 2015, the ACCJC granted accreditation eligibility status to the Compton Center. In January 2017, El Camino College submitted a Self-Evaluation Report for the Compton Center to the ACCJC for candidacy status. In February 2017, the governing authority of the Compton CCD Board of Trustees was restored. In March 2017, an ACCJC external evaluation team reviewed the Compton Center Self-Evaluation Report and conducted a site visit of the Compton Center. At the ACCJC meeting on June 7, 2017, the Compton Center was granted initial accreditation status. That action established Compton College as an accredited college under the authority of El Camino Community College District.

On August 27, 2018, Compton College received notification from the ACCJC that our Substantive Change Application: Change in Local Control was approved. On August 29, 2018, California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley issued Executive Order 2018-01, declaring Compton College would operate as an independent college under the authority of the Compton CCD Board of Trustees effective June 7, 2019, at 11:59 p.m.

As noted in the letter dated February 10, 2020, from Dr. Jason Cottrell, Research Analyst, Institutional Program Development Division, Compton College was denied due to Compton College not submitting data to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) and Federal Financial Student Aid in the institution's legal name during the base year.

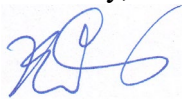
For the purpose of Compton College's Titles III, V, and VIII Eligibility, the 2017-2018 data should still be considered the base year for FY 2020. As stated in the above history, Compton College achieved accreditation in June 7, 2017, and Compton College as the El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center did submit data to the IPEDS in 2017-18. The most recent IPEDS Data Feedback Report 2018, is enclosed for your review.

From our perspective, by preventing Compton College from applying for Titles III, V, and VIII Eligibility, the Department of Education is penalizing the college due to the partnership with El Camino College. During the partnership, Compton College students did receive Federal Financial Student Aid. The data was included in the Compton College Data Feedback Report 2018 submitted under the 00119701 OPEID.

The reports submitted under the 00119701 OPEID during the partnership provided data on students who attended Compton College between 2006-2018. The new 04281700 OPEID will be used to submit data going forward, beginning with FY 2019-2020, to continue reporting on Compton College students.

In conclusion, we respectfully request the Department of Education to reconsider Compton College's ability to apply for Titles III, V, and VIII Eligibility for FY 2020. If you have any questions, please contact me at 310-900-1600, ext. 2000 or via email at kcurry@compton.edu.

Sincerely,



Keith Curry
President/CEO

c.

Diane Feinstein, United States Senator for California

Kamala D. Harris, United States Senator for California

Nannette Diaz Barragán, Congresswoman, 44th District

Brent Palmer, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Diane Feinstein

Haley Meyers, Legislative Correspondent, Office of Senator Diane Feinstein

Kelsey Mellette, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Kamala Harris

Francisco Carrillo, District Director/Acting COS, Office of Congresswoman Nannette Barragán

Diane Jones, Principal Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

Dr. Jason Cottrell, Research Analyst, Institutional Program Development Division

J. Noah Brown, President & CEO, Association of Community College Trustees

Jee Hang Lee, Senior Vice President, Association of Community College Trustees

Dr. David A. Ortiz, Senior Vice President for Operations, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges

Lizette Navarette, Vice Chancellor, Finance, Facilities, and Planning, California Community Colleges

Compton Community College District Board of Trustees