

**From:** Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 6:53 PM  
**Subject:** President/CEO Message - February 27, 2026

Campus Community,

This week, I had the opportunity to attend and present at the [American Council on Education \(ACE\) X2026 Experience](#) in Washington, D.C. While there, I heard from a wide range of educational leaders, including current and former officials from the U.S. Department of Education, college presidents, higher education system chancellors, and educational funders. Many of the conversations were informative, particularly regarding the national landscape facing higher education.

I can sum up the information shared by current and former leaders from the U.S. Department as “*very interesting.*” Those conversations made it clear that the pressure on higher education from the current administration will continue, particularly around the timing of implementing the Workforce Pell Grant, the movement of programs from the U.S. Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Labor, recommended accreditation policy changes, and the implementation of the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act \(H.R.1\)](#), which I referenced in the [President/CEO Message - July 10, 2025](#).

To be clear about the stakes of this work, the U.S. Department of Education has established an earnings benchmark to assess whether college programs provide sufficient economic value to students. Under the Department’s most up-to-date data, California adults ages 25–34 with no college experience earn a median annual salary of **\$36,082**. This figure is now being used as a comparison point in determining whether students in certain programs may be at risk of losing access to federal student aid, including loans. This benchmark reinforces why Return on Investment and Economic Mobility must remain central to our decision-making. Our responsibility is not simply to offer access, but to ensure that our programs position students to earn wages that exceed this baseline and support long-term economic stability. At Compton College, this means strengthening program alignment with labor market demand, removing barriers that delay completion, and continuing to invest in supports that help students move efficiently from enrollment to completion to meaningful employment.

What became very clear to me at ACE X2026 is that Compton College is farther along than many community colleges and four-year colleges and universities in addressing Return on Investment and Economic Mobility. As we continue implementing our [Return on Investment and Economic Mobility Framework Initiative](#), it will help us strengthen our programs and address additional barriers to student success.

Even in these uncertain times, I was proud to share at ACE X2026 how we are continuing to advance [Compton College 2035](#), what I often refer to as the “*Burgundy Print,*” and our singular goal of accelerating completion with a focus on equity and success. As this work continues, I will continue to pursue additional funding from educational funders and realign our budget to ensure [Compton College 2035](#) is fully supported.

Today’s President/CEO Message includes reminders about Canvas and online class support for students, information on upcoming President/CEO forums, and approved Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

### **Spring 2026 Enrollment Update**

As of **February 26, 2026**, Compton College generated 1,632 FTES for the Spring 2026 term. Our fill rate is currently 67%, with 11,887 seats filled.

### **Canvas & Online Class Support for Students**

Employees are encouraged to help spread the word about the support available to students through the Distance Education (DE) Department. The DE team provides assistance with Canvas navigation, online course questions, and offers a quiet place for students to study. In-person support and distance-learning guidance are available

Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in the Vocational Technology Building, Room VT 212A. Students may also check out a laptop for use while working in the office and must return it before leaving. The Distance Education Department can be reached at [distance\\_ed@compton.edu](mailto:distance_ed@compton.edu) or by phone at 310-900-1600, extension 2265. Thank you for sharing this resource with students and helping ensure they have the support they need to succeed.

### **President/CEO Student Forum**

The next President/CEO Student Forum is scheduled for *Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.* in Room 212 of the Student Services Building.

### **Compton College Campuswide Forum**

I will host a virtual Campuswide Forum on *Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.* via Zoom. The focus will be on accreditation, the 2026-2027 Compton Community College District Budget, [Compton College 2035](#), Return on Investment and Economic Mobility, and a Federal Policy Update. To participate, please register in advance using this link: [Compton College Campuswide Forum Online Registration](#).

### **2026-2027 Compton Community College District Budget**

In the [President/CEO Message – January 30, 2026](#), I shared that we expected to complete the updated Five-Year Fiscal Management Plan by the end of February. We need additional time to finalize the plan as we complete the 2024-2025 Compton CCD Financial Audit. Once the financial audit is completed, we will finalize the 2026-2027 Five-Year Fiscal Management Plan.

This week, we shared the 2026-2027 Compton CCD Tentative Budget Assumptions with the [Planning and Budget Committee](#). These assumptions are available [here](#), and we will update them after the financial audit is completed.

Following the transition from the El Camino Community College District and the enrollment disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Compton College has demonstrated sustained recovery and growth. As a result of [Assembly Bill 1809](#) (approved June 27, 2018) and the implementation of the [Student-Centered Funding Formula](#) (SCFF), the Compton Community College District has been funded under a hold harmless provision based on 5,980 FTES.

Beginning in 2025–2026, the SCFF establishes a fixed funding floor, also referred to as Total Computational Revenue, of **\$46,759,730** for the District. Unlike prior years, this funding floor will no longer increase through cumulative cost-of-living adjustments, making actual enrollment levels and student outcomes increasingly important to the District’s long-term fiscal stability.

The [SCFF](#) is composed of three primary allocations:

1. The **Base Allocation** combines a fixed “Basic” allocation by district type with funding tied to full-time equivalent students (FTES).

Beginning in 2025–2026, FTES used in the Base Allocation are calculated across five categories: Credit, Incarcerated Credit, Special Admit Credit, Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP), and Noncredit. Credit FTES are calculated using a three-year average of the current and prior two years, while the remaining categories use current-year FTES.

2. The **Supplemental Allocation** is based on prior-year headcount data for students receiving the California College Promise Grant (CCPG), Pell Grants, and those qualifying under AB 540.
3. The **Student Success Allocation** is based on a three-year average of student outcomes, including Associate Degrees for Transfer, Associate Degrees, Baccalaureate Degrees, Credit Certificates (16 units

or more), completion of transfer-level English and math, transfer to a four-year university, completion of nine or more CTE units, and attainment of a regional living wage.

It is important to note that the District’s projected Total Computational Revenue for 2026-2027 is **\$50,146,236**. For historical context, I previously shared Total Computational Revenue data in a presentation to the [Compton College Academic Senate on October 7, 2021](#). That information included Total Computational Revenue from 2017-2018 through 2020-2021. Presented below is an updated view of Total Computational Revenue for Compton CCD from 2017-2018 through 2025-2026, along with the 2026-2027 projection:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total Computational Revenue</b>
2017-2018	\$35,475,170
2018-2019	\$36,436,547
2019-2020	\$40,250,085
2020-2021	\$40,250,085
2021-2022	\$39,531,934
2022-2023	\$42,286,155
2023-2024	\$45,762,077
2024-2025	\$46,759,731
2025-2026	\$48,966,148
2026-2027*	\$50,146,236

*\*The Compton Community College District anticipates receiving Total Computational Revenue Stability Funding in 2026-2027.*

As shared during my [Spring 2026 Professional Development Day Presentation](#), we have shifted from discussing a single FTES target to focusing on SCFF-based projections. In the 2026-2027 projections, the District is seeing notable improvements across the Base Allocation, Supplemental Allocation, and Student Success Allocation compared to the 2024-2025 projections. However, for 2027-2028, we are seeing a decline in Total Computational Revenue relative to the projected 2026-2027 level.

Additional information on the SCFF, including projections for 2026-2027 through 2029–2030, will be provided in future [President/CEO Messages](#).

### **Board Policies and Administrative Regulations**

At the **February 23, 2026**, Compton Community College District Board of Trustees meeting, the following Board Policy was approved, and the Administrative Regulation listed below was issued.

- [Board Policy 2315](#) – Closed Sessions
- [Administrative Regulation 3600](#) – Auxiliary Organization Protocols

### **Final Thoughts**

Today marks the end of the second week of the semester, and I know that many of you have already gone above and beyond to support our students. Thank you for your commitment. While we may sometimes compare ourselves to other colleges, I want you to know that the statewide and national attention Compton College receives is significant. College and university leaders regularly ask how we are meeting basic needs, implementing Institutional Set Goals, and building student housing. The answer is simple: this work is possible because of the people of Compton College, institutional planning, and the sustained efforts we have made since becoming accredited on **June 7, 2017**.

Please have a wonderful weekend with family and friends.

Sincerely,

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