

**From:** Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2026 6:48 PM  
**Subject:** President/CEO Message - March 13, 2026

Campus Community,

One of the core questions guiding [Compton College 2035](#) is whether we are helping students move forward faster, more affordably, and into careers that improve their long-term economic mobility. That focus on return on investment and economic mobility continues to shape how we think about access, workforce alignment, and opportunities for our students.

Recently, there have been many conversations about Workforce Pell Grants and the types of short-term workforce programs that could become eligible at colleges. Under this framework, Pell Grants would no longer be limited to traditional semester-length programs. Instead, students could use Pell to help pay for high-quality, short-term workforce programs, often completed in 8 to 15 weeks, that lead directly to in-demand jobs with strong labor market outcomes. Importantly, the U.S. Department of Education has emphasized that these programs must demonstrate strong results, including high completion rates, job placement, and clear alignment with workforce demand. The intent is to ensure that federal financial aid supports programs that deliver a positive return on investment and economic mobility for students.

From my perspective, Workforce Pell has the potential to remove major affordability barriers for students by expanding access to shorter, career-focused pathways to employment. This approach can make a meaningful difference for working adults, families, and our broader community. I have asked Dr. Sheri Berger, vice president of academic affairs, to begin conversations with the Compton College Academic Senate to evaluate how Workforce Pell Grant eligibility could align with our existing and future workforce programs. My goal is to receive a recommendation by **May 15, 2026**, that helps inform our institutional direction.

Today's President/CEO Message includes several campus updates, including enrollment information, an upcoming Campuswide Forum, regulatory updates, and Board of Trustees actions.

### **Spring 2026 Enrollment Update**

As of **March 12, 2026**, Compton College generated 1,646 FTES for the Spring 2026 term. Our fill rate is currently 67%, with 12,030 seats filled.

More than 80 Spring 2026 class sections remain open and available for immediate registration. Students who may have missed the full-term add deadline are encouraged to meet with a counselor to explore a wide range of eight-week classes that begin next month and conclude in June. These full-credit courses end at the same time as the full-term 16-week classes, providing a flexible option to stay on track this semester.

### **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](#).

### **COVID-19 Reporting Requirements – Regulatory Update**

In alignment with updated state and public health guidance, Compton College has retired COVID-19-specific reporting protocols and webpages following the expiration of all related regulatory requirements. The College will continue to follow current public health guidance for respiratory illnesses and encourages students and employees to stay home when sick and seek medical care as needed.

### **2024-2025 Compton CCD Financial Audit Report**

[CWDL](#), our independent external auditing firm, completed the [2024-2025 Compton Community College District Financial Audit Report](#). The Compton District Annual Financial Audit was completed and submitted to

the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, accompanied by an unmodified opinion on the financial statements (see page 81). There were no audit findings or questions about costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and Compton CCD complied with the 50 Percent Law for the twelfth consecutive year.

### **Compton Community College District Board of Trustees Update**

At its *March 9 meeting*, the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees approved the provisional appointment of Dr. Nicole J. Jones to the Board of Trustees, representing Trustee Area 2. Dr. Nicole J. Jones previously served as a Trustee and Board President for Compton CCD, including during the period when accreditation was successfully restored to the college. She has extensive experience in higher education governance, accreditation, and community engagement, having also served as a Public Commissioner for the WASC Senior College and University Commission and as an adjunct professor at National University and the University of La Verne. The District welcomes Dr. Nicole J. Jones looks forward to her continued leadership and service to our students and community.

### **Compton Community College District Board of Trustees Meeting**

On *Monday, March 16, 2026*, the Board of Trustees will meet in the Board Room in the Administration Building. All regular session meetings are open to the public. The closed session begins at 5:00 p.m., with the open session commencing at 6:00 p.m. The Board Agenda is posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Agendas are posted on the BoardDocs website under the "Meetings" tab at <http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/compton/Board.nsf/Public>.

### **Final Thoughts**

I forgot to mention in a previous [President/CEO Message](#) that following our *February 2026* meeting with Congresswoman Maxine Waters (California – 43rd District), she followed up on the Compton Community College District's Community Project Funding application for \$15,113,136, submitted in *April 2025*, for the renovation of the Math/MIS Building. I am pleased to share that Congress approved \$1.2 million for this project, and the bill was signed into law as part of the [2026 Federal Budget](#) (page 54). I want to extend my sincere thanks to Congresswoman Waters for including this facility improvement project among her fiscal year 2026 earmarks. Since becoming our representative, she has helped secure over \$2 million in federal funding for Compton CCD, including prior support for the renovation of the Vocational Technology Building, which was mentioned in the [President/CEO Message – March 15, 2024](#).

Around this time each year, I take a moment to reflect on my tenure as President/CEO. On *Monday, March 16, 2026*, I will begin my 15th year in this role. While there are many accomplishments to reflect on, this past week, my thoughts kept returning to the Compton College Student Housing Project. Being on track to become the first community college in Los Angeles County with on-campus student housing is a true game-changer for our students and our community. The project remains on schedule and on budget, with completion anticipated in summer 2027 and doors opening to students in fall 2027. The idea that we will soon host a *student move-in day* is a powerful reminder of how far we have come — and where we are headed as a college.

Please enjoy your weekend with family and friends. It is truly an honor to serve as the President/CEO of Compton College and the Compton Community College District.

Sincerely,

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