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## Statewide Small Business Stimulus Program Comes to Compton

The El Camino College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is proud to announce that on February 3, Compton businesses will have the opportunity to participate in a free statewide program aimed at increasing small business readiness to access stimulus-funded contracts through President Obama's Economic Recovery Plan.

The El Camino College SBDC-affiliated event is a half-day program called "Stimulus Opportunities for Small Business" and is free to participants. The workshop is presented by California Small Business Development Centers and Los Angeles-based nonprofit Business Matchmaking, in cooperation with the Small Business Advocate of the governor's office.

The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2010, at the Crystal Casino & Hotel, 123 East Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90220.

To register to attend, go to <http://californiasbdc.org/stimulus> or call (310) 973-3177 for more information. While admission to the event is complimentary, space is limited and registration is required.

Aside from capitalizing on stimulus opportunities, these events connect small businesses with free consulting aimed at helping entrepreneurs survive or thrive in the current economy.

Participants will get firsthand insight from state and federal government buyers, and corporate representatives from the U.S. General Services Administration, Caltrans, Port of Los Angeles, U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, and Hewlett-Packard. The Stimulus Opportunities for Small Business event will also include updates for small businesses on new Small Business Administration (SBA) bank loan guarantees, and Workforce Development roles under the economic stimulus plan.

Another way to secure your business future is by enrolling in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes at El Camino College Compton Center. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the industries that have seen growth since 2007 include management, business and financial operations, professional and related occupations, service occupations, and installation, maintenance and repair occupations. Compton Center can help you prepare for a career in these fields. Go to [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu) for a list of available classes.

"This stimulus workshop is an excellent way for local small businesses to learn about stimulus contracting opportunities and clear up misconceptions out there regarding stimulus funds," said Star Van Buren, director of the Small Business Development Center hosted by El Camino College. "Aside from learning how to capitalize on stimulus opportunities, these events compliment our free business advising and training for government contracting." For more information on El Camino College's SBDC programs, call 310-973-3177 or go to <http://www.elcamino.edu/commadv/SBDC/>.

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