



NEWS

El Camino College Compton Center | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | Email: agarten@elcamino.edu

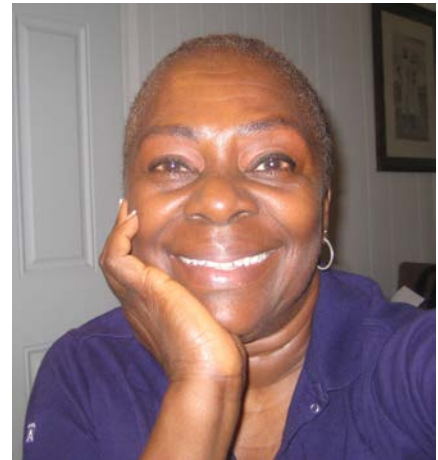
For Immediate Release

June 16, 2016

‘Voices of Compton’ Literary and Arts Journal Highlights Creative Talents of El Camino College Compton Center Students

Art and English students at El Camino College Compton Center were asked to explore themes of leadership for their participation in the 8th annual edition of *Voices of Compton*, a fine arts journal and competition that occurs each spring. More than 35 students were selected to have their literary compositions and artistic works published in the journal. The ECC Compton Center Humanities Division, Academic Affairs and Office of Student Life recognized the students’ exceptional academic and creative work with prizes in six categories.

Student-artist, Laura Blackwell, had two of her prize-winning paintings published in the journal, and both subjects are recognizable leaders with roots in the City of Compton. Blackwell’s second prize painting features a portrait of California State Senator Isadore Hall, III and her painting of Abel B. Sykes, Jr. received honorable mention. The oil painting of Sykes was featured in the “Educational Leaders” section of the journal; Sykes became the first African-American president of the former Compton Community College in 1970.



For Blackwell, who began painting in 2012, art is her true passion. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business and is now reinventing herself after retiring from Northrup Grumman in 2009. She plans to continue taking art classes at ECC Compton Center and transfer to California State University, Long Beach to pursue a master’s degree in fine arts.

“Having come from a family of artists, I have always been artistically inclined but was never formally trained,” said Blackwell. “While living in Italy for a year, I was inspired by my surroundings and decided to take an art class at a private school in Florence. That experience made me who I am today.”

Blackwell credits her first art instructor at ECC Compton Center, Cleveland Palmer, for helping her improve on her basic art skills. “The techniques I learned in the Fundamentals of Drawing and Painting classes really set a very strong foundation and prepared me for other art classes I would take,” she said. “The art instructors here generously share technique and motivate students to run with their creativity.”

- more -

Below is a complete list of the winners of the 2015-16 *Voices of Compton* competition by **Awards Category:**

Essays:

Keith Smith—1st Prize for “Benjamin Banneker: A Man of Science”
Audrey Casas—2nd Prize for “Selling a Dream”
Kwame Wutoh—3rd Prize for “Skyler: A Narrative about Fatherhood”
Joel De Leon—3rd Prize for “Alberto Calderon: Mathematician”
Zoie Thomas—3rd Prize for “Arkansas: Transformation of a Land”
Kevin Ikou—Honorable Mention for “Human Life”

Education Essays:

Jose Castillo—1st Prize for “African American Mathematicians: An Uneven Equation”
Precious Lockhart—2nd Prize for “Positive Effects of Computers in the Classroom”
Adam Gordon—3rd Prize for “A Good Education Shouldn’t Be Hard to Find”

Paintings:

Miriam Adams—Cover Artwork Prize for “Kendrick Lamar”
Tia Ellis—1st Prize for “Self-Reliance” and “Wealth vs. Poverty,” and Honorable Mention for “Music”
Laura Blackwell—2nd Prize for “Isadore Hall, III” and Honorable Mention for “Dr. Abel Sykes”
Sergio Cisneros—2nd Prize for “Xutapose”
Stephanie Lomeli—3rd Prize for “Stilletophone”
Anabel Arias—Honorable Mention for “Juan Reynoso”
Samuel Isidoro—Honorable Mention for “Jundge Kelvin P. Filer”

Spoken Word Art:

Anthony Chuy—1st Prize for “Demented Ted”

Poetry:

Patrick Erlandson—1st Prize for “Before There Was Blood”
Bertha Navarro—2nd Prize for “Our Stormy Feud” and 3rd Prize for “My Truth”

Photography:

Camille Lovely—1st Prize for “L.A. Love” and 2nd Prize for “Good Morning Sunshine”

The 2015-16 edition of *Voices of Compton* may be read in its entirety at:
http://www.compton.edu/academics/div3/humanities/docs/VOC_2016.pdf

About El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center is the community’s education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. El Camino College Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.

###