



NEWS

Compton College | Community Relations
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Compton College's 2020-21 Associated Student Body President Advocates for Student Equity and Community College

Compton College student Queen Ashonti Juarez Ward has not let the many barriers and setbacks she has faced in her past stop her from achieving her life goals, in fact, it has strengthened the first-generation college student's resolve to do more and help others achieve their dreams.

“My mother passed away when I was in high school, so my grandparents helped raise me and after graduating from high school I had to work two jobs, 16 hours a day just to have the basics,” she said. “I have gone through so much tragedy and challenge that I really try to be practical in my decisions. For nontraditional students like me, community college is the best option, providing more personalized assistance and cost savings. I also want to be at a college with people like me who can relate to my life experiences—Compton College is that place.”

Juarez Ward was elected earlier this year by her peers to serve as president of the Associated Student Body (ASB) for the 2020-21 academic year. She was inspired to run for an office on the ASB Council by her passion for helping others. “I wish to share my experience and knowledge of available resources, both at Compton College and in the community, with other students as they take their guided pathway in education to another level,” said Juarez Ward. “Helping others is like my therapy; I love to see students, our college, and the community thrive.”

She is a behavioral science major with aspirations to pursue a career as a high school or college administrator. She is also pursuing a certificate in health and fitness. Juarez Ward is on track to graduate from Compton College with an associate degree in spring 2021 and transfer to a four-year university. She plans to apply to the California State University system, private colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-serving institutions. She is also counting on her academic performance to help earn financial aid and scholarships to lighten the financial burden. “I am the oldest of five sisters and I want to be their role model,” she said.

Through weekly meetings that are open to all students, the elected ASB officers coordinate student activities, determine how ASB funds will be allocated, and represent student views on important Compton College issues. In conjunction with the Office of Student Development, several special programs are sponsored annually by the ASB including cultural awareness month observances, annual Academic Awards celebration, and the ASB Awards Banquet.

Juarez Ward previously served on the Compton College ASB as commissioner of public relations and athletics. She works at 24 Hour Fitness and volunteers her time to help others at local food pantries, as a CalFresh ambassador, and as a mentor at the Research Design Academy.

Many of the services and programs offered to students at Compton College have helped Juarez Ward on her educational journey. She has taken advantage of the First Year Experience program, peer-to-peer tutoring, work study, Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS), STEM Center tutoring, the Tartar Food Pantry, and more. According to Juarez Ward, “The Office of Student Development and the campus’ online bookstore were very helpful when courses went solely online beginning in spring 2020.”

ASB Student Council meetings are conducted via Zoom every other Tuesday at 1 p.m. and all students are welcome to participate. The next meeting is on November 17, 2020. Visit the Associated Student Body webpage for more information: www.compton.edu/studentservices/studentlife/asb/.

“The current ASB Student Council members make it our mission to help our fellow students, so please reach out to the Office of Student Development or one of the ASB officers and we will do our best to help,” said Juarez Ward. “We want all of our fellow students to be successful.”

Photo Available: <http://www.compton.edu/campusinformation/currentnews/Photos/2020/Queen-Ashonti-Juarez-Ward.jpg>

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About Compton College

Compton College 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. Compton College is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.