



NEWS

Compton College | Community Relations
1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221
310-900-1600, Ext. 2968 | communityrelations@compton.edu

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Compton College Responds to California Community Colleges Chancellor's 'Call to Action'

At its regular meeting on November 17, 2020, the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees approved its documented plan for Compton College in response to California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley's June 2020 ["Call to Action"](#) to actively strategize against structural racism, poverty, and social injustice within the state's community college system.

Compton College's [Response to California Community Colleges Chancellor's Call to Action](#) is available on the college's website (www.compton.edu).

"I want to thank the district and college leaders who have acted with urgency," wrote Chancellor Oakley in a letter sent this month to California Community Colleges leadership. "Leaders like those at the Compton Community College District [and others] serve as examples of the type of local leadership our colleges need with urgency."

On June 5, 2020, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office released a Call to Action letter outlining Chancellor Oakley's request for all California Community Colleges to respond to systemic racism by urgently working to: 1) conduct a system-wide review of law enforcement officers and first responder training, 2) host open dialogue and review campus climate, 3) audit classroom climate and create inclusive classrooms and anti-racism curriculum, 4) review and update Equity Plans, 5) shorten the time frame for full implementation of the [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) Integration Plan](#), and 6) system-wide engagement in the Vision Resource Center "Community Colleges for Change."

The events of this year have left the California Community College system and its students affected and outraged because of the systemic racial injustices that still exist in this country. California Community Colleges serve the most diverse student populations in all of higher education. "We cannot say that we are equity champions and be afraid to have open dialogue about structural racism," said Chancellor Oakley. With equity at the forefront of decision-making, community college faculty, staff, student leaders, administrators, and trustees across the state were called to action and are responding with influence and power to enact change and make a difference.

Under Compton College President and CEO Keith Curry's leadership, the Compton Community College District immediately acted in response to the Chancellor's call. In August 2020, Compton College's director of diversity, compliance, and Title IX, Tina Kuperman; and the division chair of

social sciences, Dr. Kendahl Radcliffe, were appointed to develop the college's action plan. "Compton College is uniquely situated to address and expand on the inequities and challenges outlined in the Call to Action," said Curry. "As an institution, we have operated in the eye of the storm around equity, inclusion, and diversity for many years; however, the current situation requires all stakeholders to act with due diligence and expediency."

Compton College's Response to the Chancellor's Call to Action is a living and working document. Drafts were reviewed for feedback from a committee of managers/supervisors, the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Advisory Committee, Compton College's Consultative Council, Academic Senate, as well as the entire campus community. Compton College's Academic Senate approved the documented plan on November 12, 2020. "I am pleased with the work of our faculty, Classified staff, and managers/supervisors for their work and contributions to Compton College's Response to the Call to Action," said Curry. "We are committed to its implementation even in uncertain fiscal times."

During the next few weeks, the college will develop an action plan to monitor the implementation of the activities and recommendations included in its Response to the Call to Action document.

"As an institution, Compton College exists within a community hit hard by recent events centered on police brutality, COVID-19, and growing economic and political instability," said Sonia Lopez, Compton Community College District Board of Trustees president. "Compton College and the Compton Community College District are committed, now more than ever, to addressing these systemic issues around race and racism through communitywide dialogue, proper planning, and direct action. We view it as critical to our connection with the communities we serve and for overall recovery."

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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.