

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 4:45 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - May 2, 2025

Campus Community,

Time continues to fly this semester, and now we are in **May 2025**, a month filled with various events and programs aimed at supporting student success. As a reminder, the year-end events have been scheduled, and I included the event schedule in a previous [President/CEO Messages](#). The schedule is available [here](#) once again. Please attend as many events as possible to celebrate our students' accomplishments.

In the [President/CEO Message - March 28, 2025](#), I mentioned that the [College Futures Foundation](#) prioritizes economic mobility through postsecondary education for underserved learners in California. Last year, College Futures partnered with Michael Itzkowitz of the HEA Group to release two reports: [Golden Opportunities: Measuring Return on Investment in California Higher Education for Low- and Moderate-Income Learners](#) and [California College Programs That Pay: Measuring ROI Across Majors and Credentials](#). These reports examined the time it takes low- to moderate-income learners to recoup their educational costs across various types of institutions and specific college majors and programs.

Additionally, I mentioned that College Futures and the HEA Group launched the [California Mobility Index \(CMI\)](#), a new ranking system for California's four-year colleges and universities. The CMI evaluates institutions based on inclusivity and economic outcomes, focusing on the proportion of low- and moderate-income learners they enroll and the return on investment (ROI) they provide. The index includes 82 four-year institutions that enroll nearly 800,000 undergraduate students.

On **April 28, 2025**, I attended the College Futures Foundation Golden Opportunity Summit. At the summit, it was mentioned that College Futures and the HEA Group are working on a report similar to the CMI for California Community Colleges, but it will be a regional CMI ranking. As we work on the implementation of [Compton College 2035](#), we must ensure students complete their education in a timely manner and are able to transfer or secure employment with livable wages. The conversation in higher education has shifted from access, which is providing educational opportunities, to success, both at our institution and beyond. Once I have more information, including the regional California Community Colleges CMI ranking, I will include it in a future [President/CEO Message](#).

Today's President/CEO Message includes commencement information, reminders about the upcoming student and campuswide forums, and more.

Enrollment Update as of May 1, 2025

- Spring 2025 Semester: Compton College has generated 1,574 FTES, with a fill rate of 69% and 11,103 seats filled.
- Summer 2025 Term: We have generated 267 FTES, with 2,127 (35%) of the available seats already filled.

Spring 2025 Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) grew by nearly 10% compared to last year, with headcount increasing by 15%. Compared to two years ago, FTES has risen by 29% and headcount by 31%. With the passing of the final "Late Start" census today, this marks the last enrollment update for Spring.

Summer 2025 registration is currently 29% ahead in FTES and 39% ahead in headcount compared to the same day last year. Please encourage interested students to review the [online searchable schedule of classes](#) and register as soon as possible to avoid missing out. Currently, 15 of the 176 available Summer sections are full and have started waitlists.

Priority registration appointments for Fall 2025 began this week for qualifying students. Please encourage students with appointments to take full advantage of their priority by registering at their appointed time rather than waiting until open registration. Interested students should prepare for their registration appointment by reviewing the schedule of available classes and discussing their plans with an academic counselor.

2025 Compton College Commencement

The first of four [Grad Info Sessions](#) is scheduled for *Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom*. All 2025 Graduates are invited to join the virtual information sessions to ask questions about the *June 13, 2025*, Commencement Ceremony, which will be held at Dignity Health Sports Park in the Tennis Stadium at 6:00 p.m. Grads were reminded to stop by the [Bookstore](#) and purchase their caps and gowns, and to check the [Commencement Information webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information.

President/CEO Student Forum

Please remind students about the upcoming in-person forum with me on *May 22, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in AHB, Room 119*. This is a valuable opportunity for them to share their experiences, discuss plans, and get answers to their questions directly from me. Please encourage them to attend and make the most of this unique chance for engagement.

Compton College Campuswide Forum

I am hosting a virtual forum on *Tuesday, May 20, 2025*, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. The focus will be on enrollment, accreditation, Commencement, the 2025-2026 Compton Community College District Budget, AI, and Compton College 2035. To participate, please use this link to register in advance: [Compton College Campuswide Forum Online Registration](#).

Sixth Annual STEAMFest

Compton College is thrilled to partner with Compton Unified School District (CUSD) to host the 6th Annual Compton USD STEAMFest on *Thursday, May 29, 2025*. This major event, which takes over the campus with bustling activities and creates a lively atmosphere, offers a fantastic opportunity for K-12 students to explore the college environment. Attracting over 8,000 attendees, including students, educators, and community members, STEAMFest serves as a dynamic platform to inspire and engage the community in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education.

The event features interactive booths, sponsorship opportunities, and raffle prizes, all aimed at making the day a success. This year's theme, "Surf's Up! Waves of Innovation," focuses on ocean conservation, celebrating innovative STEAM initiatives while promoting environmental awareness. Highlights include hands-on learning stations, a GATE Expo showcasing exceptional student work, an art exhibition, and an esports competition. The primary mission is to connect students with diverse leaders in STEAM fields, emphasizing the importance of diversity and equity in the workforce. Partners like Boeing, Lego, and Raytheon will join in advancing STEAM education and inspiring the next generation of innovators.

Legislative Update: State and Federal

Right now, in California, there are several legislative bills we are monitoring, as I mentioned in the [President/CEO Message -April 25, 2025](#), for updates in real time from the California Community College Chancellor's Office, which are available on the [Tracked Legislation webpage](#). We are also waiting on the 2025-2026 State of California May Budget Revision from Governor Newsom, which we anticipate will be released on or before *May 14, 2025*. Once the May Revision is released, we will share it with the campus community in the next [President/CEO Message](#) after the release date. Please note, we are preparing a letter to state legislative leaders regarding the 2025-2026 State of California Budget and the Compton Community College District legislative priorities. Once completed, we will share it with the campus community in a future [President/CEO Message](#).

In federal news, during **April 2025**, President Donald Trump signed seven [Executive Orders](#) meant to set policy for primary, secondary, and postsecondary education. These orders address topics related to accreditation and apprenticeship programming, among others. Below are the links to the Executive Orders:

- [Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education](#)
- [Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future](#)
- [Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth](#)
- [White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#)
- [Transparency Regarding Foreign Influence at American Universities](#)
- [Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy:](#)
- [Reinstating Common Sense School Discipline Policies](#)

We will continue to monitor the Trump Administration's Executive Orders and share with the campus community through future [President/CEO Messages](#). I am concerned about the numerous Executive Orders, but I am extremely concerned about the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Reconciliation process, which I have been studying since **November 2024**, to understand the difference between **mandatory and discretionary** funding. The Budget Reconciliation Process is a special parliamentary procedure of the United States Congress that allows for expedited consideration of certain tax, spending, and debt limit legislation. It primarily affects:

- **Mandatory** (direct) spending (e.g., Pell Grants, student loans)
- Revenues (e.g., tax changes)
- Debt limits

Now, **discretionary** programs, such as most of the funding for K–12 education (including Title I), career and technical education, and higher education institutional support, are funded through annual appropriations bills. These cannot be altered through the Budget Reconciliation Process. If you want more information on **mandatory vs. discretionary** programs, please email me at kcurry@compton.edu.

Over the past week, I have been reviewing various proposals that will impact our students, particularly those concerning Pell grants and student loan programs. As we monitor the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Reconciliation process, we will keep the campus community informed through the [President/CEO Message](#). We are finalizing letters to our congressional leaders to address the needs of our students and campus. Once these letters are completed, we will share them with the campus community in a future [President/CEO Message](#).

Final Thoughts

In [President/CEO Message - June 6, 2024](#), and [President/CEO Message - April 11, 2025](#), I mentioned that Compton College students and employees may continue to pick up one free meal daily from the Everytable Cafeteria with their Compton College ID through **June 30, 2025**. Additionally, in the [President/CEO Message - April 11, 2025](#), I noted that a decision regarding whether employees can continue to participate in the one-free meal program would be made and communicated to the campus community before **May 1, 2025**.

A decision has not yet been made. We hope to reach a decision by **Monday, June 2, 2025**. As many of you know, we are currently developing the 2025-2026 Compton Community College District Tentative Budget. I want to ensure that we make the right decision with all available information.

Thank you for your understanding. Please note that student participation in the one -free meal program will continue through **June 30, 2026**.

Thank you to Educational Partnerships for hosting an Open House with tours this past Saturday. Despite the short planning time and challenging weather, the event had a decent turnout, with 37 tours given. Current and

prospective students appreciated the chance to explore buildings they hadn't visited before and learn more about the programs and resources available to them.

As we approach the end of the academic year, I am filled with anticipation for the upcoming commencement on ***Friday, June 13, 2025***, and all the year-end celebrations. This is truly my favorite time of the year, as we come together to honor the hard work and achievements of our students. I look forward to celebrating with you all and recognizing the remarkable accomplishments that make our College so special.

Sincerely,

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