

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2026 6:54 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - January 16, 2026

Campus Community,

I hope everyone enjoyed the second week of 2026. I don't know about you, but the holiday break already feels like it was so long ago. We are settling back into the normal routines, and with the new year comes important updates for our campus community.

In the [President/CEO Message – January 9, 2026](#), I shared that Governor Gavin Newsom released his [proposed 2026-2027 California State Budget](#), which has significant implications for California Community Colleges, including Compton College. The proposed budget includes a 2.41% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), totaling \$30.6 million in ongoing funding, for certain categorical programs such as EOPS, DSPS, and CalWORKs Student Services.

However, as mentioned in the [President/ CEO Message – October 4, 2024](#), and the [President/CEO Message – April 11, 2025](#), the [Compton CCD State General Apportionment Memo](#) clarified the protection of our Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) and summarized the benefits we received. Based on that information, we anticipate that Compton CCD will *not* receive a COLA from the State of California for the 2026-2027 year. We have reached out to the Chancellor's Office for clarification on whether the COLA for categorical programs will apply to restricted programs at Compton College.

Overall, the proposed budget for California Community Colleges is better than anticipated.

For more information, including key changes in the proposal compared to the enacted budget for 2025-2026, please review the [California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office \(CCCCO\) 2026-2027 Joint Analysis of the Governor's Budget Proposal](#). This detailed and comprehensive tool is crafted to serve as a common factual resource to aid further analysis or advocacy. The CCCCCO once again partnered with the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), the Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO), and the Community College League of California to release this analysis. For additional budget updates and resources, visit the [CCCCO's Budget News page](#).

Today's President/CEO Message includes a reminder about the Martin Luther King Jr Holiday (campus closed), an introduction to our interim Vice President of Administrative Services, spring 2026 mobile food pantry dates, and more.

Spring 2026 Enrollment Update

As of **January 15, 2026**, Compton College has generated 1,254 FTES for the Spring 2026 term, and 9,006 seats (53% of those available) are currently filled.

Reminder: Campus Closed on Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Thank you to everyone who joined us for today's Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration. The turnout was incredible, and the energy in the room was inspiring. The visual and spoken art truly honored this year's theme - "Power of the Voice: Speaking the Truth, Building Tomorrow" - and reminded us why Dr. King's legacy continues to guide our work.

At Compton College, we strive to empower our students and community to speak their truth and pursue their dreams. Through education and engagement, we are building tomorrow—together. Special thanks to

the MLK Celebration planning team and all contributors for delivering another successful community event.

As a reminder, Compton College will be closed on ***Monday, January 19, 2026***, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No classes will be in session, and all campus offices will be closed. I hope you enjoy the long weekend and take a moment to reflect on Dr. King's message of service, justice, and community.

“Funding Your Future” College Access Event – January 31, 2026

Compton College is hosting a Funding Your Future event on ***Saturday, January 31, 2026***, from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (check-in 8:00–9:00 a.m.) in the Allied Health Building and Instructional Building 1. This free event is open to the public, including high school seniors, current students, families, and community members.

Please encourage your students and campus contacts to attend and RSVP at <https://bit.ly/4pv7Dxf>.

Event Highlights:

- Financial Aid Support: Presentations in English and Spanish on FAFSA and the California Dream Act, plus hands-on application assistance.
- Scholarship Drawing: Class of 2026 high school seniors who register in advance and attend will be entered to win one of two \$1,000 scholarships.
- Resource Fair: Information on student resources and support programs at Compton College.
- Free Breakfast & Lunch: Provided for guests who RSVP (while supplies last).

2026 Compton Community College District Legislative Priorities

At the ***January 12, 2026***, Board of Trustees meeting, we shared our draft legislative priorities, incorporating valuable recommendations from a few dedicated employees. These priorities will guide our discussions with state and federal elected representatives during our upcoming visits to the California State Capitol and Washington, D.C.

Our legislative priorities focus on advocating for the benefits and needs of Compton College and our district. These meetings are crucial for informing our elected officials about the positive impact of our programs and the essential support required to enhance access to higher education. By fostering strong relationships with our representatives, we aim to secure the necessary resources and policy support to continue providing quality education and opportunities for our students. Understanding and supporting these priorities is vital for our campus community, as they directly influence our ability to serve our students effectively and uphold our mission. Click [here](#) to read the draft Compton CCD Board of Trustees 2026 Legislative Priorities.

Compton College Student Orientations Completion

Return on Investment and Economic Mobility have been highlighted in several previous President/CEO Messages ([March 28](#), [May 2](#), [July 10](#), [July 31](#), [August 7](#), [August 29](#), [September 19](#), [September 26](#), [October 24](#), [November 7](#), and [November 14](#)). Furthermore, we have developed a [Return on Investment \(ROI\) and Economic Mobility Framework](#) for Compton College. In the [President/CEO Message - November 21, 2025](#), I discussed the importance of Student Education Plans, followed by the [President/CEO Message – December 12, 2025](#), outlining how we will move forward with implementing the Business Process Analysis recommendations for Improving Degree Works, work that will continue this spring. At the ***January 12, 2026***, Board of Trustees Meeting, the Board approved the contract with

[Strata Information Group, Inc](#) to assist us with this work. All of these efforts focus on removing barriers to student success and accelerating completion, with equity at the center.

This week, my attention has been on the number of students completing the Student Orientation. While the Division of Student Services is currently revamping the orientation, many students are still not completing it. Below is the student orientation data for the past seven years:

Age

Age Group	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total
<18	17	81	48	174	184	86	52	642
18–24	181	401	325	457	373	390	289	2,416
25–29	73	234	155	195	179	130	117	1,083
30–39	73	265	174	248	223	253	151	1,387
40–49	25	93	61	92	56	89	72	488
50+	24	42	35	47	61	45	47	301
Total	393	1,116	798	1,213	1,076	993	728	6,317

Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	4	0	1	4	0	1	11
Asian	18	45	21	45	23	21	1	174
Black/African American	116	300	244	385	302	297	96	1,740
Hispanic/Latino	213	626	453	653	629	527	147	3,248
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	6	8	9	4	2	0	31
Unknown	39	100	57	82	76	132	480	966
White	4	35	15	38	38	14	3	147
Total	393	1,116	798	1,213	1,076	993	728	6,317

Gender

Gender	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total
Female	269	817	562	842	699	633	511	4,333
Male	118	288	225	352	362	344	199	1,888
Non-binary	6	10	10	19	12	13	11	81
Unknown	0	1	1	0	3	3	7	15
Total	393	1,116	798	1,213	1,076	993	728	6,317

This is a serious concern for Compton College. In all of our interactions with students, we need to ask whether they have completed both the Student Orientation and their Educational Plans. Many of our surrounding community colleges have already implemented enrollment blocks for students who have not completed their orientation, and in some cases, for students without a completed education plan.

I will ask the [Student Success](#) and [Guided Pathways](#) committees to discuss this issue and provide a recommendation on whether Compton College should adopt a similar enrollment block. If a recommendation is approved, the earliest possible implementation would be fall 2027. Again, when we talk about accelerating student completion with a focus on equity and success, we cannot ignore that too many students are missing critical steps, including Student Educational Plans and the Student Orientation. ***Together, we can change that, and this will be a priority for our institution.***

Interim Vice President of Administrative Services Appointment

I am pleased to announce that Dorrett Lambey has been appointed to serve as Interim Vice President of Administrative Services, ***effective January 13, 2026, through January 13, 2027.*** This internal appointment was approved by the Board of Trustees at their ***January 12, 2026,*** Board meeting. As many of you know, we have been searching for a permanent Vice President following Dr. Abdul Nasser's retirement in ***June 2025,*** and Dorrett Lambey's leadership will ensure continuity and stability for Administrative Services during this period.

Mobile Food Pantry – Spring 2026 Dates

In partnership with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Compton College will continue to host a monthly Mobile Food Pantry on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Lot F, off Greenleaf Boulevard. Drive-through and walk-up welcome; open to the public. The Spring 2026 dates are ***February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9.*** Mark your calendars and share this opportunity with friends and family who could benefit from 25-40 pounds of free, healthy food. Click [here](#) to view the Spring 2026 flyer.

Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

At the ***January 12, 2026,*** Compton Community College District Board of Trustees meeting, the following Board Policies (BP) were approved, and the Administrative Regulations (AR) listed below were issued.

- [Board Policy 3600](#) – Auxiliary Organizations
- [Board Policy 3725](#) – Information and Communications Technology, Accessibility, and Acceptable Use
- [Board Policy 6540](#) – Insurance
- [Board Policy 6550](#) – Disposal of Property
- [Administrative Regulation 3725](#) – Information and Communication Technology, Accessibility, and Acceptable Use
- [Administrative Regulation 6341](#) – Guest Speakers
- [Administrative Regulation 6540](#) – Insurance
- [Administrative Regulation 6550](#) – Disposal of Property

Final Thoughts

On ***Monday, January 12, 2026,*** Trustee Barbara Jean Calhoun announced and submitted her letter of resignation via email to the President/CEO's Office. Trustee Calhoun's resignation is effective ***February 1, 2026.*** The Compton CCD Board of Trustees' next steps will be guided by [California Education Code §5091](#) and [Compton CCD Board Policy 2100 – Board Elections](#). More information regarding the vacancy in Trustee Area 2 and the next steps will be included in a future [President/CEO Messages](#).

This week reminded me that people make a difference, often in small ways we don't even notice at the time. Many of us are grieving the recent loss of members of our college community. Their kindness and service touched students and colleagues across campus.

With that in mind, I'm sharing two poems written by a Compton College student in memory of a beloved team member. I hope they offer a moment of comfort and reflection. Let's continue to treat one another with respect and care every day. You can read the poems [here](#).

In closing, please have a wonderful weekend with family and friends.

Sincerely,

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