Message from the Provost

Spring has been a very busy time at the Compton Center! Enrollment is up significantly. For the first census day our enrollment was reported as the highest FTES (full-time equivalent students) for Compton Center so far. Enrollment is up 35% higher than last year, or 3,404 seats and 451 FTES. FTES increased by 5% during the last week; and we are now at 115% of our goal. Additionally, the head count for Spring 2009 was 4,247 as compared to the Spring 2008 headcount of 2,850—a 49% increase!

I want to commend all of our faculty, staff and administrators for your efforts to keep Compton Center alive and well with our strong enrollment increases – and I especially acknowledge the Compton Center Enrollment Management Committee for their contributions to this impressive increase in enrollment.

More kudos to our Maintenance and Operations Department staff for all the work they have done to improve and enhance our facilities and grounds. All of these efforts contribute toward making Compton Center the Place to Be!

Finally, thank you to all who met with the FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis Management Assessment Team) representatives recently. Based on exit interviews with the FCMAT team we are anticipating a marked improvement in our scores.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Compton Center. Closed session begins at 4:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to address the Board on closed session agenda items.

The Board Agenda is posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting on www.district.compton.edu and www.compton.edu.

Scholarships for High School Students

El Camino College Compton Center is providing $26,000 in scholarships to students in 13 local high schools. The scholarships will range from $500 to $1,000. The application deadline is April 6.
To apply, students must complete a Compton Center scholarship application, have two letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or community member; submit a typed personal statement of 500 words or more, and provide an unofficial transcript. Students may pick up and turn in applications in their counselor’s office.

To be eligible, students must have a 2.0 G.P.A., be a high school graduate by the summer of 2009, plan to attend El Camino College Compton Center in the fall of 2009, and participate in the First Year Experience Program. The scholarship is open to undocumented students.

For information, contact Ricky Shabazz at 310-900-1600, ext. 2763 or via e-mail at rshabazz@elcamino.edu.

Annual Employment and Career Expo

The Annual Giant Spring Employment and Career Expo took place on Wednesday, March 11 in the Tartar gym. In addition to participating employers and job opportunities, a transfer and a community resource fair were part of the event.

Attendees appreciated the opportunity to find out about vocational technology and academic course offerings. Faculty members were encouraged to reserve tables and take advantage of the chance to showcase their programs and classes. Hands-on projects, demonstrations and “out of the box” presentations were offered.

Young Men invited to Campus Event

Following the success of last year’s Male Conference, a conference entitled, “Yes I Can,” was held on March 18 in the Tartar gym. According to Johnny Conley, outreach specialist and coordinator for the event, “The purpose was to empower young males with practical knowledge of how to utilize the services and programs available at El Camino College Compton Center.”

The career exploration portion of the conference was divided into three periods with 6-10 stations per period. The stations highlighted various majors and vocational careers including music technology, welding, auto technology, fire technology, robotics and nursing, among others. Physical education programs were a part of the mix. A resource fair that included Student Life activities and community-based organizations was an important component of the event.

The keynote address was given by Compton’s Mayor and Los Angeles County Assistant District Attorney, Eric J. Perrodin.

Nursing “Sim” Lab Preparing to Launch

The nursing program is very much alive and well and about to add a new dimension.

Wanda Morris, dean of health and human services and assistant director of nursing at Compton Center announces the much anticipated ribbon cutting and launch of our new wireless, high fidelity human patient simulation lab on Thursday, April 23 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The wireless lab has three adult and one pediatric human patient
simulators, a birthing simulator and a newborn simulator. It will be possible to create simulated care experiences from basic assessment to complex multi-organ failure. The simulators can be programmed to perform complex scenarios and respond physiologically to the interventions (or lack thereof) applied in real time.

Ms. Morris says: “We strive for excellence and concentrate on producing high quality nurses. We provide an individualized approach to meet the needs of each student. The simulation lab will prepare our nursing students for actual situations they may encounter in a hospital setting.”

Eliza Rivera-Mitu, a nursing instructor, agrees that the new comprehensive simulation lab “will give our students the opportunity for broad clinical experience so they gain proficiency and confidence as they transition to real world situations.”

A nursing student, John Hatfield, says: “The simulation lab is an excellent way for us to gain hands-on experience that just isn’t possible from simply reading our text.”

CAHSEE Program Offered at Compton Center
The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Program is underway at El Camino College Compton Center. Classes began February 17 and continue through April 24.

Enrollment in the current session is still open. Daytime classes are offered from 9 to 11 a.m. and in the evening from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday. This 10-week comprehensive program prepares students to pass the CAHSEE, which will be administered on May 12 and 13, 2009.

The second session at Compton Center runs March 9 through May 12, from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

While participating in the CAHSEE instruction, students have the opportunity to enroll in academic and vocational education courses and to work towards earning a degree or certificate at Compton Center.

The CAHSEE Program is intended only for students in the class of 2006, 2007 or 2008. However, additional opportunities are available at Compton Center to prepare current high school students for the exam.

For information about the program, contact Johnny Conley, Outreach Specialist, at 310-900-1600, ext. 2767 or 310-569-6144.

Foreclosure Prevention Fair
Compton Center was the host campus for a free Foreclosure Prevention Fair on Saturday, March 7. The event was presented by the Los Angeles County NeighborWorks Center for Foreclosure Solutions. HUD certified counselors, lenders and legal professionals provided free assistance. Attendees were asked to bring a mortgage statement and their monthly budget with them.
Mini-Grants Competition
Compton Center Title V Mini-Grants program will be awarding grants of $500 to $2,000 to faculty and staff who create projects to improve the instructional process and could merit funding from outside sources such as foundations, corporations or government entities. The focus is on achieving student success, increasing retention and/or graduation rates or bringing added value to our students.
Mini-Grant workshops were held on March 2 and March 12 in the Resource Development/Title V office.
Proposals are due in the Resource Development/Title V office by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

The Theatre Arts Program Presents…
Compton Center’s Theatre Production classes presented “In the Hands of Poets,” a staged poetry/spoken word/dance/performance, which was produced and directed by Dr. P.J. Van Niel with Tim Stewart providing the technical direction.
Performances took place on March 18 and 19.

Compton Center Well Represented
Estina Pratt and Eleanor Sonido attended the California Community Colleges Teaching Institute Conference on February 20-22 in San Jose. The conference, entitled: “2009 Counseling and Library Faculty Institute,” was sponsored by the State Academic Senate. The theme of the conference was “Ticket to Ride.”
Ms. Pratt said: “I was inspired by this institute as this was the first time I have participated in a conference dedicated solely to counselors and librarians. The focus was on student success and the many ways that counselors and librarians can help our varied students to reach their diverse goals and get ‘a ticket to ride’.”
She described the topics for the break-out sessions as pertinent to situations encountered every day. Sessions included SLOs for Library Science Faculty, Counseling Faculty; Update on Assessment, Articulation Up and Down; Information Competency; Learning Centers; and Wraparound Student Support.
The conference provided networking opportunities with colleagues from other colleges and an exchange of “horror stories” that were thought to be unique. “Most importantly,” says Ms. Pratt, “we learned from each other little things that work, and I am looking forward to next year’s session.”

Service Learning at Compton Center
Toni Wasserberger, professor of English, describes Service Learning as an opportunity for students to provide service to a non-profit organization as a term project. Students are required to produce a portfolio of journals and essays connecting their service to ideas of community. The students select a site that suits their interests, potential career choices, etc.
In Ms. Wasserberger’s class, for example, students may select working at the Rancho Dominguez Adobe Museum where help is needed in preparation for the 2010 Airmeet Centennial, or at a local elder care center, a food bank, a physical therapy swimming pool or the clean-up of the Compton Creek. Her SL class is linked to a U.S. history class where the students will examine the Puritan definition of charity (Winthrop’s “Model of Christian Charity”) and apply it to modern communities through their journals and essay assignment.
Five faculty members participated in training provided by Geralin Clark, from the Torrance campus, during the winter intersession. Faculty members included: Ruth Roach, Tom Norton and David Maruyama from the English department; Ella Stewart, speech department; and Leonard Clark, geology department. Each of them is offering a service learning component for one or more classes during the spring semester.

David Maruyama plans to incorporate Service Learning into his English 1B (Introduction to Literature) class. As a published poet and dramatist, some very creative assignments might be ahead for his students.

Ella Stewart’s group communication class will participate in the speech department’s first Service Learning project.

During a recent Flex Day, these faculty members met with colleagues from the Torrance campus who use a Service Learning component in their courses. It was opportunity to share their experiences about what worked or didn’t work for them.

**Speech!**

Ella Stewart attended the Western States Communication Convention held in Mesa, Arizona, February 13-16 along with Chris Wells, speech professor on the El Camino College campus.

Ms. Stewart reports that the Compton Center and the Torrance campus speech departments work together to provide consistency, and that the speech discipline is currently undergoing changes. The Speech Communication Department will be known as the Communication Studies Department on both campuses. Some course revisions are being considered as well.

Ms. Stewart says: “I will resuscitate our Tartar Speech Club and start the Tartar Book Club whose first project will be to begin a book drive in an effort to support children in Africa.”

**Tax Preparation Assistance Was Most Appreciated**

El Camino College Compton Center hosted Intuit, the makers of Turbo Tax, and the Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA) in offering free tax preparation and filing assistance on February 21.

This popular program assisted more than 100 people by mid-day. Attendees included residents of Long Beach, Los Angeles, Compton, Lynwood, Bellflower, Paramount and Southgate, among others. One Lynwood resident was very pleased with the tax preparation service and the refund he would receive. He remarked that it was his first time on the Compton Center campus, and he plans to register for an ESL class and encourage family members to attend.

Compton Center staff and students were able to complete their own taxes. Leonard Clay, who works in the maintenance and custodial area, prepared his taxes and highly recommended the event. Arlene Alvarez, program assistant for Women in Industry and Technology, helped attendees with registration for the free help throughout the day. Adrana Calderon, a WIT student worker, also prepared her own taxes with use of the free computer software and assistance provided.

Forescee Hogan-Rowles, President and CEO of the Community Financial Resource Center, said her organization
is a partner in this event because “it is a great way for families to learn about Earned Income Tax credit, complete their taxes and, hopefully, walk away with a good sized refund.”

The CCIA representative indicated that the event at Compton Center had the biggest turnout they had ever experienced.

**Financial Aid and Assistance**

El Camino College Compton Center’s financial aid office has been hard at work assisting students in preparing applications for scholarships and financial assistance. On Saturday, January 17 and on February 14, Compton Center hosted “Cash for College” Fairs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There was online computer assistance and expert guidance with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Presentations were made in English and Spanish.

Compton Center’s financial aid office made $42,000 available in scholarships for eligible students who applied. The office was open on Saturday, February 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the final day to apply for the scholarship program.

Students who met academic, financial and eligibility requirements and submitted two forms by March 2 were guaranteed a Cal Grant. The FAFSA and a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form were required. To assist students in this process, Compton Center automatically uploaded their G.P.A. for consideration of the Cal Grant program if the student completed 16 units by the summer of 2008 and had a 2.0 G.P.A.

A bookmark was created as a handy reference for students to meet the application deadlines for scholarships and financial aid programs throughout the year. Compton Center’s financial aid office is located in room E-17 and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Compton Center Celebrated Black History Month**

The student life office and the ASB planned and organized events in honor of Black History Month.

On Tuesday, February 24, the Spike Lee film “School Daze” was shown in the faculty and staff lounge. Also that day, a bus had been arranged for taking students to tour the California African American Museum in Los Angeles. On Wednesday, February 25, the student lounge was the place to hear a lecture entitled “Leveraging Talent for Wealth, Growth and Community” presented by Everett L. Glenn of ESP, an athlete and entertainer management firm. On Thursday, February 26, the “Food for the Soul” Variety Show and Cook-Off took place in the student lounge.

**Women’s Conference Scheduled**

Compton Center will present a women’s conference entitled: “Yes I Can” on Thursday, May 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The purpose is for empowering young women with educational opportunities and information about programs available to them. The day will include presentations from Financial Aid, CalWorks, the Transfer Center and others. The format will include stations in the areas of auto technology, welding, nursing, fashion and child care/development.

For information, contact Joyce Duren at 310-900-1600, ext. 2202 or via e-mail at jduren@elcamino.edu.
Poetic License
Lorraine Levin served as an adjunct English instructor at Compton Center from 1972-1989, then joined the English Department as a full-time instructor. She retired in 2002, but is still contributing to our campus. She has recently donated her book of poetry to the Compton Center LRC. It is a collection of her works that have previously been published in poetry magazines and journals.

Toni Wasserberger, who presented the book to the LRC on behalf of Ms. Levin, provided an update on the poet. She says: “Lorraine moved in 2004 from Culver City, CA to a small town on the border of Indiana and Ohio where she continues to write short stories and poetry and participate in creative writing groups.”

New Guardian Scholars Program Advisory Board Off and Running
The comprehensive discussion at the Guardian Scholars Program luncheon held in December was the impetus for the formation of an advisory board. The board includes foster youth, community based organizations, social workers, counselors, teachers, Compton Center faculty and administrators. The first meeting took place on February 3 with the goal of developing and strengthening partnerships with organizations that work with youth who are or have been in the foster care system to assist them to pursue higher education.

The advisory board meeting focused on increasing high school graduation rates, providing support for passing the CAHSEE, identifying financial resources and transitioning foster youth into college. Johnny Conley, outreach specialist, looks to the advisory board “to create a roadmap for students to attend Compton Center.”

For information regarding the Guardian Scholars program and if you are interested in participating on the advisory board, contact Johnny Conley, at 310-900-1600, ext. 2767 or e-mail him at jconley@elcamino.edu.

OMW 2 Compton
300 students have signed up so far to take advantage of a special Metro pass, known as “OMW (On My Way) 2 Compton,” which provides cost savings to students who ride the Metro to Compton Center. Valid from February 14 through June 12, a bus pass can be purchased for $15 for the entire spring semester. The regular price is $5/day, $17/week and $62/month!

This special Metro pass will be offered again during the fall semester.

Cafeteria Hours for Spring
The cafeteria will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Friday hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Women and Girls’ HIV/AIDS Day Event
Coordinated with the Student Life office, Local to Global’s HIV and Women of Color program was offered in the student lounge on Friday, March 13. Free HIV and STD testing were offered along with prevention information.

Calling all Alumni
Did you attend Compton Center or the former Compton College or know someone who has? We want to hear from you! The Resource Development Office invites all alumni of our Compton campus to register in our Alumni Database. Help us get the word out.
Registered alumni will have the opportunity to be informed of events and activities at Compton Center, receive invitations to alumni functions, participate in leadership opportunities, and much more.

The Resource Development Office looks forward to hearing from you. To register, please contact Nelly Rodriguez at nrodriguez@elcamino.edu.

**Share Your News**

We want to keep you informed of the news in our campus community. We also want to hear from you. We know there is no shortage of good news at Compton Center—so keep us in the loop.

Know a student who won a scholarship? a professor who just published an article or a book or received an award? a staff member honored by a professional organization? someone on our campus who has been recognized for work in the community? Help us spread the good news!

Please e-mail your news items to Ann M. Garten, community relations director, at agarten@elcamino.edu.