



## El Camino College COMPTON CENTER



# PROVOST NEWS

DR. LAWRENCE M. COX

DECEMBER 2008

### Message from the Provost

As we work through some of the tough budget decisions that must be made in light of the state and national economic situation, I ask that we each reflect upon the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and management team at the Compton Center.

We have much for which to be thankful: Special Trustee and elected Board members working together, a thriving partnership, excellence in teaching, a cleaner and safer campus, increased enrollment, dedicated and committed faculty and staff, and an excellent administrative team. We continue to move forward to recovery.

To quote Dickens, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." There is no better phrase to describe the Compton Center than the one aforementioned. During what is being depicted by some as the worst economic times in this decade, the Compton Center is making great strides toward increasing enrollment to 7000 FTES; building institutional capacity; and restoring institutional credibility. We are showing continued improvements in all areas.

As we approach this holiday season, remember our blessings and our mission. We believe in the spirit of Compton Center. That spirit resides in the students and people here. Compton has a spirit of "yes we can." It is the "yes we can" grassroots effort in places like the Compton Center that makes this Country as great as it is. Students at the Compton Center have an opportunity to be whatever they desire with the assistance of excellent faculty, staff and managers. Students believe in us and we help them choose to succeed.

So, as holiday season draws near, let us approach it safely, thoughtfully and prayerfully. During this season, I hope you will find a full and rejuvenated resurgence of your Compton Center spirit. Take heart in the accomplishments you have already made; continuously work with fidelity to improve in everything, as we look forward to a more prosperous new year. I wish the best for you and your family. Happy holidays!

### Board of Trustees Meeting

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 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](http://www.district.compton.edu) and [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu).

## **Guardian Scholars Luncheon**

Dr. Cox hosted a Guardian Scholars Luncheon on December 10 for individuals and agencies working with foster/kinship care youth and youth who are or have been in the foster care system. Keynote speaker was, Judge Kelvin D. Filer. Panel presentations from academic affairs, financial aid, student support services, student life, EOPS/Care, CalWORKS, the child development center and a Compton Center student rounded out the event.

## **OMW 2 Compton**

Students who text a friend saying: **OMW (On My Way) 2 Compton**, will be saving money when they ride the Metro to Compton Center this spring! From February 14 through June 12, students may take advantage of a sweetheart deal by purchasing a bus pass for \$15. The regular price is \$5/day, \$17/week and \$62/month. Quite a savings!

Beginning January 26, eligible students may purchase an **OMW 2 Compton** Metro sticker for their student ID at the Bursar's office. Students must be enrolled in 6 or more units and present a printout of their schedule and a receipt from the Cashier's office indicating that their fees have been paid.

*Please help us spread the word to students about this exciting opportunity to save money and have a convenient, reliable ride to school.*

## **Welcome New Director of Admissions and Records**

Gerald Sequeira, J.D. is being welcomed this week to El Camino College Compton Center as the new director of Admissions and Records. He received his law degree from the University of Southern California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2002 and his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from UCLA in 1999.

Prior to joining Compton Center, Sequeira served as director of admissions and financial aid at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). He has experience as a field attorney at the National Labor Relations Board in Las Vegas and at the UCLA School of Law as a law undergraduate mentor and a research assistant.

Sequeira is enthusiastic about working with the student population at Compton Center. "I am excited to be at a place with open enrollment and that is inclusive. Everyone has the opportunity to attend; we can prepare all students for careers and the workplace."

Sequeira was extremely pleased by the friendly atmosphere at Compton Center and how warmly he was greeted by everyone as he walked across the campus. "I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know the staff in the department of Admissions and Records, working as a team and accomplishing our campus goals together."

Sequeira is a native Californian and happy to be back in our community. As an engineering student, he had an internship with the County of Los Angeles, in an office located in the City of Compton.

## **Supporting Learners at Compton Center**

Academic and student support services, such as counseling, educational planning, English/math skills labs and tutoring; are central to any college retention strategy, especially for students new to college.

The *Community College Survey of Student Engagement*, or *CCSSE*, administered in spring 2008, asked students how much they value, use and are satisfied with these services at El Camino College Compton Center.

Over half of respondents thought that many services were *Very Important*. Those most important to students were Career Counseling (76% rated the service very important), Financial Aid Advising (75%), Academic Advising/Counseling (74%), and Computer Labs (71%).

In terms of frequency of use, 59% of students indicated using computer labs *Often* or *Sometimes*, followed by skills labs at 57% and academic counseling at 52%. Although three-quarters of students thought academic and career counseling were very important, only about half have taken advantage of these valuable services often or sometimes. Least used services were child care (8%) and job placement services (16%).

CCSSE also asked users of these services about their satisfaction levels. Responses of *Very* or *Somewhat Satisfied* were grouped together.

Students reported higher satisfaction levels with skills labs (91% *Very* or *Somewhat Satisfied*), computer labs (89%), academic counseling (85%), career counseling (82%), and peer or other tutoring (79%). Lowest ratings include child care (58%) and job placement (65%) services.

Questions about these services were also grouped into one category, or “benchmark”, called *Support for Learners*. When compared to other community colleges participating in the survey, Compton students rated the campus well above the national average on this benchmark.

## **Compton Center Staff Have “Connections”**

Sixty Compton Center staff members participated in sessions of the Noel Levitz “Connections” program, a quality service training program. Forty-four of the participants attended all three sessions and received Certificates of Accomplishment at the closing ceremony on November 18. Dr. Cox co-presented the certificates with department managers.

The program is designed to teach participants new ways to provide quality service, deal with difficult students, build a comfortable environment for students and co-workers, make work more personally rewarding, establish positive communication in all interactions; and feel more confident.

Yolanda Zuniga, assistant in Student Life, appreciated the sessions as an opportunity “to share thoughts about various situations that are unique to Compton.” She found the role-playing helpful and looks forward to more in-depth sessions.

In January a final follow-up session will be held to review the training and focus on customer service topics identified by staff at the last session.

## **New Online Classes for Spring**

Distance Education has added eight new online courses for the 2009 spring semester. Included is AS 60, Strategies for Success in Distance Education, to assist students in how to be successful in a distance education course. Students new to distance education are strongly advised to take this course along with their other online course/s or prior to enrolling in their first one.

The Student Handbook for Online Courses is available on our Web page, <http://www.compton.edu/Academics/distancededucation/Pages/default.aspx>, It provides important information to students regarding class orientations and other required meetings, instructor contact information, *Tips for Success*, computer requirements, computer skill requirements, and login information to the ETUDES course management system. Students can also find on the Distance Ed Web site a quick self assessment tool to see how prepared they are to be successful in online learning.

Two types of distance education courses are now offered at Compton Center - fully online courses and hybrid courses which combine weekly class meetings with online course work.

Registration for Distance Education courses is the same process as regular registration. Students are encouraged to see a counselor for advisement on all courses.

Compton Center has two locations available for students to use campus computers: the Learning Resource Center located in G-36 (310-900-1600, ext. 2535) and the Vocational Technology Building Open Lab, room 226A (310-900-1600, ext. 2266).

*For additional information, contact Celia Valdez, 310-900-1600, ext. 2784.*

## **Financial Aid Office Announces Student Scholarship Opportunities**

El Camino College Compton Center's financial aid office announces the availability of scholarships in the amount of \$42,000 for eligible students who apply. The application period is from November 17, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

Scholarships are available to students in all academic areas: behavioral and social science, business, fine arts, health sciences and athletics, humanities, industry and technology, mathematical sciences and natural sciences. Students already participating in EOPS, CARE and CalWORKS programs may also apply for a scholarship.

For information about the scholarship program and additional financial aid opportunities, call the financial aid office at 310-900-1600, ext. 2935.

Compton Center's financial aid office is located in room E-17 and is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The office will be open on Saturday, February 28 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the final day to apply for the scholarship program.

## **NOAA Hollings Scholarship Program**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) office of education announces the 2009 Ernest F. Hollings undergraduate scholarship program. Applications are now available online at [www.orau.org/noaa\\_uspa/](http://www.orau.org/noaa_uspa/) and the deadline is January 30, 2009. Approximately 100 undergraduates will be selected as Hollings scholars for fall 2009.

A student must be a sophomore at the time of the application, be a U.S. citizen and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Another eligibility requirement is for a student to be majoring in NOAA mission disciplines: oceanic, environmental, and atmospheric sciences, mathematics, engineering, remote sensing technology; physical and social sciences including geography, physics, hydrology, policy, geomatics; or teacher education.

For information, contact Pai Moua, Program Specialist, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, P.O. Box 117, MS-36; Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0117 or by phone at 865-241-8240.

## **Compton Center is Fashion Forward With Attitude**

El Camino College Compton Center was the place to be for fashion, music, dance, poetry and remarkable talent and style on December 4 when students presented "DWA: Designers With Attitude." Mark your calendars for next year at this time as the fashion show is not to be missed. The more than 200 attendees would wholeheartedly agree.

The fashion show, hosted by Compton Center's Fashionistaz Fashion Club, showcased the exceptional talents of students taking classes in design, clothing construction, advanced sewing, fashion merchandising entrepreneurship and cosmetology. The student designed clothing ranged from sleepwear to beachwear to eveningwear as well as casual attire. Lisa King, a student who is

a t-shirt designer, started her business and then decided to enroll in the business program at Compton Center. Natalie Caplinger was pleased to be in her first fashion show and have the opportunity “to get her work out there and be more noticed.”

Priscilla Ratcliff, an adjunct professor, fashion designer and biochemist, masterfully coordinated every aspect of the event and served as commentator. She encouraged her students to have a plan A--get an education, and a plan B and C--develop your talent to pursue a career and have a back-up plan. She clearly demonstrated her experience in the fashion industry as she exuded enthusiasm and support for her students. She said: “I am so proud of my students. My love and hope is to bring the community together and have all of our classes filled.”

In addition to seeing the creativity of the multi-talented students in the fashion program, music technology students demonstrated their abilities by providing the musical accompaniment for the event. Students taking classes in commercial music, audio recording, the music business and songwriting were well represented. The audience enjoyed the vocal talents of Jacob Lusk, who led off the day’s festivities with a holiday selection along with Kijafa Iles, a sociology major with an interest in singing and songwriting. Professor Harvey Estrada, an accomplished musician and the director of the Commercial Music Technology Department at Compton Center, described his students’ participation in the fashion show “...as a great opportunity to apply things they have learned in their classes and use their creative talents in front of a live audience.”

Rodney Murray, dean of career technology education, summed up the event as “fantastic.” He gave kudos to professor Ratcliff for her great energy and coordination with departments throughout the campus. He looks forward to developing a full-time fashion department at Compton Center.

Laura Atchison, vocational specialist in CTE, echoed Dean Murray’s comment of the show being “fantastic.” She believes the event allowed students to display skills that they use in their home as well as expanding them towards having an outstanding career.

For information about the fashion program, call 310-900-1600, ext. 2802 or contact Professor Priscilla Ratcliff at 310-967-2001 or via email at [pratcliff@elcamino.edu](mailto:pratcliff@elcamino.edu). For information regarding the commercial music technology program, contact Professor Harvey Estrada at 310-900-1600, ext. 2975.



## Compton Center Students Are Among the Stars

Six El Camino College Compton Center students have been participating in the *UCI Saturdays with Scientists scholars* program. All of the students are math, science, engineering or computer science majors with a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average.

The program includes hands-on activities and lectures with top University of California (UCI) faculty from the Schools of Biological Sciences, Engineering, Information and Computer Science, and Physical Sciences. The program, which began on October 18, takes place over five Saturdays. The sessions include transfer admissions in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields, as well as special programs for STEM majors on the UCI campus.

On Saturday, November 22, the students visited the UCI observatory. Due to the involvement of our Title V office in facilitating the partnership, Dr. Nelly Rodriguez, Director, Resource Development Office (Title V) was able to join the students.

She says: "It was a great learning experience, and I enjoyed meeting and talking with our students and UCI staff. I look forward to many more partnerships with UCI."

## First Annual ESL Luncheon A Great Success

More than 50 people attended the luncheon on November 18. Community participants included high school counselors, community liaisons and community based program managers. The excellent turnout indicated a community-wide interest in the ESL program. Those in attendance were eager to express their concerns about meeting the needs of the ESL population, and Compton Center staff responded by providing various solutions. There was general consensus that this initial collaboration was very valuable in assessing the needs of the ESL population and in establishing professional relationships between Compton Center and the community.

Compton Center will be hosting the Second Annual ESL Conference on Thursday, January 29, 2009. For information about the conference, contact Priscilla Beas, outreach specialist for ESL, at [pbeas@elcamino.edu](mailto:pbeas@elcamino.edu).

## Homecoming Fun!



A good time was had by all at the Annual Homecoming Coronation and Dance on November 15 at the Lakewood Country Club. The attendees numbered close to 150 with great representation by Compton Center students, faculty and staff, as well as parents and many community members.

Congratulations to Claudia Gonzalez, a sophomore, who was crowned homecoming queen for 2008-2009. She was particularly pleased to be selected as her mother was queen of her town in Guadalajara, Mexico, and she was continuing the tradition. Claudia is a business administration major, a member of the Fashionistaz club and aspires to being a business owner.

Although it was not a good day on the gridiron for the Tartars, congratulations are in order for the seven players who made all conference. They are Markish Jones - Wide Receiver, Brandon Warner - Defensive Tackle, Lemorris Agurs - Outside Linebacker, Donyae Coleman - Return Specialist, Erik Khoshkabarjie - Inside Linebacker, Maxwell Lacy - Cornerback, and Sherman Myles - Safety.

## **Earthquake Safety - The Great ShakeOut**

On November 13 at 10 a.m., Compton Center participated in the "Great Southern California ShakeOut." Every student, faculty and staff member was instructed to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," and then evacuate all buildings.

Lt. Ramond Box, commanding campus police officer, indicated that a lot was learned from the simulation of downed power lines, emergency medical situations, triage procedures and transporting those who were ill or injured. He says: "All 88 acres of our campus were evacuated in 12 minutes. I give a big plus to our maintenance and operations department and our faculty and staff for their campuswide efforts. Our nursing staff played a major role in the success of this drill."

The takeaway message from the drill is a reminder that we have the tools to respond to a real emergency situation. Please keep the following procedures as a handy reference:

1. **STAY CALM AND DUCK, COVER, AND HOLD ON** - Take refuge under a sturdy object.
2. **SHELTER IN PLACE** until you receive further notice.
3. Evacuate in an orderly manner to the building's designated assembly area.
4. As you begin to evacuate, take direction to your assembly area from your building emergency responders.
5. Stay in your assembly area until given notice by the Building Captain to return to the building.

### **If you are indoors, duck or drop down to the floor.**

- **DROP** to the ground
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops.

If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building. Do not try to run to another room to get under a table.

If you are outside, get into the open - away from buildings, power lines and trees.

### **What NOT to do:**

- **DO NOT** get in a doorway! In modern houses and buildings, doorways are no safer, and they do not protect you from flying or falling objects. It is much safer to get under a table.
- **DO NOT** run outside! Trying to run in an earthquake is dangerous, as the ground is moving and you can easily fall or be injured by debris or glass. Running outside is especially dangerous, as glass, bricks, or other building components may be falling. You are much safer to stay inside and get under a table.

## **Got Lunch?**

The renovated and much anticipated cafeteria opened for the first time on October 13. Breakfast, hot entrees and sandwiches are on the menu. Burritos and enchiladas are a popular choice. Food service is provided by S & B Foods.

The new hours for the cafeteria are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 am to 6:30 p.m., and Friday hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come for the food and stay for the socializing in the student lounge!

*The cafeteria will be closed from December 12 through January 2 and reopens on January 5.*

## **Campus December Schedule**

The Compton Center campus is closed for winter recess from December 24 through January 1. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

## **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.

Staff members at the Resource Development Office look forward to hearing from you. To register, please contact Rudy Lopez at [rlopez@elcamino.edu](mailto:rlopez@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, [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu).