



## El Camino College COMPTON CENTER



# PROVOST NEWS

## DR. LAWRENCE M. COX

### NOVEMBER 2009

#### Message from the Provost

Student success is a top priority at El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center. In an effort to achieve our goals of improving capacity, increasing enrollment and rebuilding credibility in our institution, we must do everything in our collective power to ensure our students achieve success and attain their academic goals.

It all begins with providing excellent customer service to every student. For many students, their attendance at El Camino College Compton Center may be their very first experience with college. We should treat each student like a guest in our home; make them feel special. When a student comes to you with a question or need, address the issue as the most important thing you will do that day.

All community colleges in California have performance indicators that measure the success of efforts in a number of areas such as student success, persistence and goal achievement. These data are provided to colleges annually in an Accountability Report for Community Colleges (ARCC). It is important that we know how our students are doing when measured against peer groups of similar institutions in size and demographics. This information will help us all deliver the best customer service possible to our students, especially in the areas that need improvement.

- In the areas of college-level math, reading and writing, 90 percent of El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center students need remedial work, compared to a statewide average of 80 percent.
- 46.2 percent of El Camino College Compton Center students pass their remedial courses compared to 49.9 percent of our peer group average.
- Among the Basic Skills population, 39.2 percent of El Camino College Compton Center students reach college-level work, compared to our peer group average of 48.3 percent.
- Among the ESL population, 17.3 percent of El Camino College Compton Center students reach college-level work, compared to 53.6 percent for our peer group average.

We have made progress in some areas through the implementation of new programs and instructional support, but there is still much work to be done. Some of our recent retention and student success efforts include: the First Year Experience/Learning Communities program which is 70 students strong this semester; the PASS program

to aid and monitor student athletes' academic standing each semester; new reading lab software; faculty and staff development workshops on customer service and classroom instruction and management techniques; and analysis and planning for improved ESL programs that provide pathways for students to earn a degree or transfer.

Our dedication to student success continues as we strengthen our focus on planning, guided by our Educational Master Plan. The Facilities Master Plan is also a priority as we work to address updates in technology infrastructures and building improvements supporting more student-centered instruction (see Facilities Improvement story in this issue of Provost News). The Student Success Committee will be developing a comprehensive action plan for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Please read through this issue of Provost News as it highlights many of the programs at El Camino College Compton Center that enhance student success, and features a few accomplishment stories illustrating the caliber of both students and faculty.

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at El Camino College Compton Center. Closed session begins at 4:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to address the Board on closed session agenda items. The Board Agendas are posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting at [www.district.compton.edu](http://www.district.compton.edu) and [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu).

### **Three New CCCD Board of Trustee Members Elected**

On November 3, 2009, three new trustees were elected from a total of nine candidates to serve on the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees. With the election of Charles Davis, Trustee Area 1; John P. Hamilton, Trustee Area 2; and Deborah Sims LeBlanc, Trustee Area 4, the District has all five board seats filled.

Compton Community College District Board of Trustees members are responsible for attending all Board meetings and key El Camino College Compton Center events, in addition to advising on policy issues, and participating in trustee education programs. The board serves the Compton Community College District as an advisory panel.

Since fall 2006, El Camino College has provided educational and necessary support services to residents of the Compton Community College District per an agreement between the two districts. Through this agreement, administration at El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center is led by Superintendent/President of El Camino College Thomas M. Fallo. Provost/CEO Lawrence M. Cox oversees daily operations at El Camino College Compton Center, along with state-appointed Special Trustee Peter Landsberger.

The primary intent of the El Camino Community College District/Compton Community College District agreement is to assist with recovery and full accreditation.

Current CCCD Board members include: Andres Ramos, Trustee Area 3; Lorraine Cervantes, Trustee Area 1 (which has two seats); and Bruce Boyden, Trustee Area 1, who was appointed in August to fill a vacated seat and will serve until December.

The Compton Community College District welcomes the following new trustees:

#### Charles Davis, Trustee Area 1

Charles Davis is a longtime Compton resident and served as Compton city clerk for more than 30 years. He is currently retired and works as an independent consultant. He was born and raised in Seattle and moved to Compton in 1971. Two years later, he was elected city clerk.

Prior to serving as Compton city clerk from 1973-2003, Davis worked as a contract administrator and accountant in the aerospace industry. In addition, he has owned and operated several businesses in Compton over the years including income tax preparation, a travel agency and a restaurant. Davis has served as a board member for the Compton branch of the Salvation Army and the Compton YMCA, as well as held officer positions with the California City Clerk's Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business from California State University, Los Angeles.

#### John P. Hamilton, Trustee Area 2

John P. Hamilton is director of the New Student and Academic Advancement programs at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He works directly with students, assisting them with adjusting to campus life. He earned a bachelor's in Sociology at California State University (CSU), San Diego and a master's in Education at Loyola Marymount. He received a doctorate in Education from the University of La Verne.

Prior to his current position, Hamilton served as special assistant to the vice president of Academic Affairs at California State University, Long Beach, where he also served on the accreditation team. He continues his service at CSU, Long Beach as a part-time faculty member in the Sociology Department.

Hamilton began his educational career at the University of Southern California (USC), where he assisted with community outreach to middle and high school students to pique their interest in the medical field through math and science programming and mentoring. Additionally, Hamilton has worked with CalWORKS and was an elementary and adult educational classroom teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

#### Deborah Sims LeBlanc, Trustee Area 4

Deborah Sims LeBlanc resides in the city of Paramount, and is an associate professor for the School of Business and Management at National University in Los Angeles where she has taught for 22 years. She previously served as department chair of the Public Administration, Law and Criminal Justice programs at National University.

Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, LeBlanc moved with her family to Compton in 1966. She attended Lincoln elementary and Kennedy and Walton middle schools, and earned her high school diploma from Pomona High School in 1976.

LeBlanc earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Cal Poly Pomona before going on to earn five different master's degrees over the course of approximately 24 years. She attended USC for her master's in Public Administration before attending the University of La Verne, where she obtained a master's in Management and Organizational Behavior and a doctorate in Public Administration. National University was her next stop, where she earned her final three master's degrees in Human Services, Educational Administration and Cross-cultural Teaching.

## **Facilities Improvements**

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve El Camino College Compton Center's facilities, the Board of Trustees approved two projects at last month's Board meeting. First, the Compton Community College District has contracted with S & K Engineers to prepare preliminary design documents and provide construction assessment services for the El Camino College Compton Center MIS Building's new heating and air conditioning and emergency power systems, which are vital to the proper operation of our computer information systems. Second, the TBP Architecture firm was hired to perform an overall assessment of the condition of the District's facilities, take inventory of available space for classrooms and offices, and provide planning assistance for future facility upgrades, as well as new facilities. This project plays a significant role in further updates toward the completion of the District's Facilities Master Plan.

## **Winter Session Registration Dates**

Registration for winter/spring begins November 24 through December 11 for continuing students, and December 16 through December 23 for new/returning students. The winter session begins January 6, 2010, and the spring semester begins February 13, 2010. Students can register online by visiting [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu) and clicking on *MyECC*.

## **New Fee Payment Deadline – Begins Spring 2010**

Beginning with the spring 2010 semester, all student fees must be paid in full by the following deadlines or students will be dropped from ALL of their classes. **Fee Payment Deadlines:**

- Friday, December 11, 2009: For students who register November 24 – December 11, 2009
- Monday, February 8, 2010: For students who register December 12, 2009 – February 8, 2010

All fees, including any optional fees, such as a Parking Permit or ASB Student Discount Sticker that may have been requested at the time of registration must be paid by the deadline!

Students on a waitlist for a class must check El Camino College Compton Center e-mail daily to find out if they have been admitted to the class. Waitlisted students must pay fees by the same deadlines listed above, or they will be dropped from all classes.

For questions about El Camino College Compton Center's new fee payment deadlines, call 310-900-1600, ext. 2121. For details about El Camino College Compton Center enrollment fees, [click here](#).

## **El Camino College Compton Center Promotional Video Now Available**

El Camino College Compton Center's new promotional "Welcome Video" is available on the [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu) Web page under the "Perspective Students" link, as well as on You Tube. To access the video on You Tube, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type "El Camino College Compton Center" into the "Search" box at the top of the page. Our DVD will be the first video listed.

Please contact Ann Garten at ext. 3406 or by e-mail at [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu) if you would like a copy of the DVD to use for events on campus or for community outreach.

[Click Here to View the DVD online](#)

## Accreditation Update

On October 15, El Camino College submitted the Follow-Up Report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). A visiting team comprised of Dr. Don Averill, Dr. Jane de Leon and Ms. Rhea Riegel met with selected individuals at El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center on October 27.

The visiting team members had prepared an agenda for the day prior to their visit and had a set list of individuals who they planned to meet with, including the President, Vice Presidents and Provost, as well as members of the El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees, Steering Committee, Business Office, Institutional Research, and Curriculum and Program Review.

The ACCJC will make its findings public during their January 2010 meeting.

## Male Conference Scheduled

El Camino College Compton Center will present a male conference entitled: "Take Charge of Your Future" on Thursday, December 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The purpose is to empower young men by providing information about educational and career opportunities, and learn how to use the services and programs available at El Camino College Compton Center.

Approximately 500 male students in grades 6-12 are scheduled to attend. For many of the students, the day will mark their first time on a college campus. The event highlight is a keynote speech by world-renowned, motivational speaker Calvin Mackie (see related story below). The conference will also provide presentations from financial aid, Career and Technical Education, the transfer center and others.

Participants will have an opportunity to get hands-on experience in majors and vocational careers such as music, technology, welding, law enforcement, auto technology, robotics and nursing. For information, contact Johnny Conley at 310-900-1600, ext. 2767 or via e-mail at [jconley@elcamino.edu](mailto:jconley@elcamino.edu).



## World-Renowned Speaker Calvin Mackie Coming to El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center is pleased to announce Calvin Mackie, motivational speaker, author, inventor and entrepreneur, will speak in the Tartar Gym on Thursday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m., which is the keynote for the Male Conference. Mackie's presentation is complimentary to the public and students and members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Humor, interaction and authenticity trademark Mackie's high-energy keynotes on motivation, education, leadership skills, mentoring, diversity, life balance and teambuilding.

Mackie has been described as "dynamic, compelling, and inspiring," delivering "messages that are always powerful, heart-to-heart and mind-to-mind to help guide and direct students of all ages in their lives and careers."

After starting college in remedial reading because of weak SAT scores, Calvin Mackie earned a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech and a B.S. in Mathematics from Morehouse College in 1990, a M.S. in 1992 and the Ph.D. in 1996 in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.

Following graduation he joined the faculty at Tulane University where he pursued research related to heat transfer, fluid dynamics, energy efficiency and renewable energy. In 2002, he was promoted to Associate Professor

with tenure. Mackie's eleven year academic career ended in June 2007, when Tulane University disbanded the engineering school in response to financial hardship induced by Hurricane Katrina.

In 1992, he co-founded Channel ZerO, an educational and motivational consulting company and has presented to numerous civic, educational institutions and Fortune 500 corporations. In 2004-2005, he was a visiting professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Michigan. For more information on Calvin Mackie, go to <http://www.channelzro.com>.

El Camino College Compton Center is proud to welcome Calvin Mackie to our institution, and we hope you encourage your students and friends to attend this special event. It is an opportunity that should not be missed!

### **New ASB President Appointed**

Opal Williams, previously ASB vice president, has assumed the position of ASB president following the resignation of Tanya Breashers.

"I want to be a voice for students and help contribute to recruitment and student services," said Williams. "I speak with many students on a regular basis and I believe as an ASB officer I can bring that feedback to the school administration to aid in making improvements to our institution."

Williams is very involved in student life and is an advocate for El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center. "Because of the great education and the personal attention I receive here, I have encouraged my mother, sister, mother-in-law and her sister to attend El Camino College Compton Center," she said. Williams originally chose to attend El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center because of the business programs, the friendly environment, the student activities, and because of the great Child Development Center for her two children.

Williams is currently working towards her associate degree and plans to transfer to a four-year university upon graduation in June 2010 from El Camino College Compton Center. "Attending El Camino College Compton Center is like being part of a close-knit community. The faculty and counselors are extremely dedicated and really take the time to focus on the students," said Williams.

Since Tanya Breashers also resigned from her position as the student trustee, the ASB is now accepting applications for the open student trustee position. Applications may be submitted to the Student Life Office, in Building R. Please make students aware of this opportunity.

### **Guest Author to Speak at El Camino College Compton Center**

The Humanities Department hosted another published author lecture on November 11, featuring Chicana poet Lorna Dee Cervantes. The complimentary presentation was open to the general public and students were encouraged to attend.

Poetry Foundation Biography excerpt: "Through her writings, Chicana poet Lorna Dee Cervantes evokes the cultural clash that Americans of Mexican descent frequently face. Born in San Francisco, Cervantes' 'maternal Mexican ancestors intermarried with the Chumash Indians of Santa Barbara, California, and her paternal ancestry is Tarascan Indian from Michoacan, Mexico," reported Roberta Fernandez in the Dictionary of Literary Biography. Cervantes and her mother and brother moved into her grandmother's San Jose, California, home around

1959, when her parents divorced. "As a child she discovered the world of books in the houses which her mother cleaned," noted Fernandez. "She became familiar with Shakespeare, Byron, Keats, and Shelley. By the age of fifteen she had compiled her first collection of poetry."

## **New Robotics Program**

El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center is now offering a Robotics Academy for high school students (grades 9-12) on Saturdays (12 week course), from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Students completing the Robotics Academy with a passing grade will receive two semester units of college credit for Manufacturing Technology 70 "Basic Robotics."

The purpose of the Robotics Academy is to introduce high school students to electronics and manufacturing technology through the construction, testing and operation of functional robots. It is hoped that participation in this academy will encourage students to investigate further the career opportunities available to them in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering.

"With the new Robotics Program, we hope to pique high school students' interest in electronics and engineering and get them excited about vocational career opportunities or the possibility of pursuing an advanced degree in these fields," explains Rodney Murray, Dean of Career and Technical Education.

The Robotics Academy is being offered in partnership with the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) organization, which is nationally recognized for its innovative and effective academic development programs. MESA helps engage thousands of educationally disadvantaged students and partners with all segments of California higher education as well as K-12 institutions.

The first Robotics course began on September 26 and the next session will be offered in the spring semester. Contact Career and Technical Education (CTE) at 310-900-1600, ext. 2779, or via e-mail at [azambrano@elcamino.edu](mailto:azambrano@elcamino.edu) for more information and application information for high school students.

## **El Camino College Compton Center Professor Speaks at Conference**

El Camino College Compton Center Biological Sciences Professor Fazal Aasi was a guest speaker at the 9th Annual Conference of the Association of Surgical Technologists' California chapter on October 10. The theme of the conference was "Fixing the Human Frame" and covered topics related to orthopedic surgery. Professor Aasi was one of six presenters and his presentation was titled "Musculoskeletal System: Development and Congenital Abnormalities." This was his eighth consecutive presentation at the annual event and his third since joining El Camino College Compton Center.

## **"You Know It, Now Teach It!" Credential Workshop**

On October 14, El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center offered a Designated Subjects Credential Workshop for anyone interested in learning how to obtain a credential to teach a trade. The workshop was taught by veteran teacher Richard Nicholson who has more than 40 years of experience in vocational education. Nicholson answered questions about teaching Career and Technical Education subjects in a variety of educational settings.

People with at least five years experience in a particular trade may earn a Designated Subjects Credential from the State of California, which qualifies credentialed individuals to teach in a Regional Occupational Center or Program, as well as act as substitute teachers for some school districts.

## **Another Adult Learning Program Success Story**

Compton resident Candace Cato wanted to go to college but needed to stay local because of her full-time job as a personnel commission clerk for the Compton Unified School District. El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center fit her needs, and she enrolled in general education classes in the fall 2008 semester.

“I would personally recommend El Camino College Compton Center to anyone wanting to go to college,” said Cato. “They have a good curriculum and I like the way the professors teach. They also offer assistance to those who may not be able to go to college otherwise.”

Because she works days, Cato said she was able to fit college into her schedule by attending evening and weekend classes, and by taking advantage of the many student services offered at El Camino College Compton Center. To help with college costs, Cato received financial aid, a Board of Governor’s (BOG) fee waiver and money to buy books. Through the Extended Opportunity Program & Services (EOP&S) office at El Camino College Compton Center, she is eligible to receive additional services such as academic advisement, textbook vouchers, a gas card, individual tutoring, counseling, and transfer assistance.

Cato wants to become a nurse and is working with a counselor to ensure she meets the necessary requirements to transfer. She is on track to graduate from El Camino College Compton Center in June 2010 and plans transfer to a four-year university to pursue her degree in nursing.

It is never too late to start college or return to school after an extended absence, especially for people who work full time but want to strengthen their skills, are working towards career advancement or want to start a new career. El Camino College El Camino College Compton Center offers the perfect educational solution for working adults by offering a wide selection of affordable evening, weekend and online courses. Plus, financial aid is available and many people are unaware that they may qualify for cash for college.

The Adult Learning Program is a great way to increase enrollment at El Camino College Compton Center. Help get the word out about our evening, weekend and online classes!

## **“Gridiron Gauntlet” Features Alum Joe Perry**

A famous alum of Compton Junior College in the 1940s, Joe Perry (full name Fletcher Joseph Perry), is highlighted in a recently published book titled “Gridiron Gauntlet: The Story of the Men Who Integrated Pro Football, In their Own Words” by Andy Piascik. Perry is credited by the Pro Football Hall of Fame with putting Compton Junior College on the football map when he scored 22 touchdowns in one season.

Before Perry completed his college football career, he was called into military service. He was playing football for the Alameda, California Naval Training Station team when he was spotted by a player from the San Francisco 49ers. The player reported his find to the 49ers’ hierarchy who offered Perry a contract. Upon his discharge from the military in 1948, Perry started playing for the 49ers. Nicknamed “The Jet” for his superior speed, Perry was the first player to gain over 1,000 yards two straight years and is a veteran of three Pro Bowls. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1968.

Publisher’s synopsis: “One year before Jackie Robinson broke the color line in major league baseball, four men (including Joe Perry) became the first black pro football players of the modern era. While blacks had played in the

NFL in its early days, none had played since 1933. In this new book twelve players who began their careers after World War II reminisce about the opposition they faced, the segregated hotels and restaurants, and the hostility that comes with being a trailblazer.”

The “Gridiron Gauntlet” is available at Amazon.com and other book retailers.

## **University Tour Schedule**

All students may take advantage of upcoming free university tours sponsored by the Transfer Center. A Field trip is planned for December 11, to California State University, Long Beach.

Representatives from several universities will also visit El Camino College Compton Center this semester, including the California State University campuses of Dominguez Hills, Long Beach, and Northridge, as well as visits from UCLA and Mount St. Mary’s. In addition, the annual Fall Transfer Day Fair took place on November 3.

Group workshops and individualized assistance are also available year-round at the Transfer Center. Students interested in any of these Transfer Center activities should contact the Transfer Center at 310-900-1600, ext. 2764 or e-mail Elizabeth Martinez at [elmartinez@elcamino.edu](mailto:elmartinez@elcamino.edu).

## **New Assessment Lab Installed in Welcome Center**

On November 16, El Camino College Compton Center opened its new Assessment Lab in the Welcome Center. The lab features new workstation furniture and 22 state-of-the-art computer testing stations to address student needs. The system can also accommodate additional computers run from a virtual system. The dedicated lab was designed with testing and assessment in mind and features a separate work area for the facilitator to take phone calls and answer student questions without interruption to the students at the testing stations.

Please let students know that the Assessment Lab is now located in the Welcome Center Room D-28.

## **Human Resources Office Has Moved**

The Human Resources office is now located in Room C-38. Phone: 310-900-1600, ext. 2142 or 2144.

## **Social Networking at El Camino College Compton Center**

El Camino College Compton Center is now on Facebook and Twitter. Check out El Camino College Compton Center’s home page on our Web site to become a “fan” or follow the latest “tweets.” To be in the know, add these sites to your “favorites” list on your computer. You may send your ideas for postings to Ann Garten, director of community relations, El Camino College, at [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu). El Camino College Compton Center is now on YouTube!

## **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 El Camino College 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 Garten, community relations director, at [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu).