



El Camino College COMPTON CENTER



PROVOST NEWS

DR. LAWRENCE M. COX

SEPTEMBER 2009

Message from the Provost

Welcome to El Camino College Compton Center's fall 2009 semester! I hope everyone had a pleasant summer. The Center is full of excitement! Enrollment is up, vacant positions have been filled and progress is being made across the board to better serve our communities.

Our enrollment continues the three year significant climb. We are currently up 61% in enrollment over fall 2008 and 71% in FTES. We have focused our efforts on reaching the high school graduates, working adults and those needing job skills and basic skills to obtain or keep a job.

We are excited to have several student support programs continuing, expanding and even some new initiatives. Our New Student Welcome Day again helps student become acquainted with and oriented to the Center. We have a First Year Experience program up and running to help this cohort achieve success; and our Welcome Center is providing services to students both young and old, new and experienced.

The most recent FCMAT report shows progress in all areas. We are now scoring 6's and 7's out of 10 instead of 2's and 3's. Thank you to everyone in facilities, fiscal services, human resources, student services, academic affairs and communications and community outreach for these improvements.

Our work to improve our Accrediting Commission report and be removed from the warning sanction is underway. We must develop a clear link between planning and program review and budget; develop a facilities master plan; a comprehensive staffing plan to meet the needs of our students; and address all of the findings in the audit of the District.

Please read through this issue of the Provost News for more information on the numerous programs and activities we have in place for this year.

Have a great semester. I look forward to seeing you around the Center.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at 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 at www.district.compton.edu and www.compton.edu.

New Trustee Appointed

Compton resident Bruce Boyden was recently selected to fill the vacancy on the Board when Dr. Jones retired. At a special meeting, nine applicants presented their qualifications to the Board, each followed by a question and answer period where board members posed questions to the applicants to help determine selection.

“The fact that we had nine qualified candidates apply for the trustee vacancy is confirmation of the progress we have made in the past three years as well as the importance of Compton Center to the community,” said Peter Landsberger, special trustee for the Compton Community College District.

Boyden is deputy director of the Early Education Services Division of the Community Development Institute Head Start in Long Beach. Prior to his current position, he worked as education manager at Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science in Long Beach.

Boyden is currently a doctoral candidate in Education at Pepperdine University. He earned a master’s degree in Education at Almeda College & University in Idaho and a bachelor’s degree in Social Psychology with a minor in Child Development at Pepperdine University. Boyden also earned a Child Development Program Director Permit at Laverne University. Since 2007, he has served as a professional development advisor for the El Camino Compton Center, and also is a member of the Compton Early Childhood Advisory Committee. In addition, Boyden has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Center for Community and Family Services in Pasadena since 2005.

The next regularly scheduled election for Governing Board members will be November 3, 2009, and Boyden will serve as appointed member for the remainder of the term, through December 4, 2009.

New on Campus: First Year Experience

Please welcome Rebeca Nunez-Mason as the Compton Center faculty coordinator of the First Year Experience (FYE) program. She previously served on campus as a counselor and worked with students in vocational technology and the Women in Technology (WIT) program.

Rebeca is very enthusiastic about her position and sees her mission as developing a strong recruiting effort to grow the program to 60 students for the fall semester and more than 100 students by the end of the academic year. She plans to follow the progress of the program participants with the goal of having them attain an associate degree and transfer to a four-year college or university.

Her background and expertise includes innovative academic counseling and more than nine years of experience in outreach, cyber, career, vocational, transfer (Honors-TAG agreements), academic, minority special programs, and special needs counseling. Rebeca has created specialized career and human development classes and conducted study skills and career planning workshops. Since 1999, she has worked at El Camino College with the WIT pro-

gram, EOPS, and the Special Resources Center, and at Santa Monica College as well. Rebeca says: "I feel like I am running at 85 miles an hour." You will recognize her as the whirlwind on campus! For information about FYE, please contact Rebeca at 310-900-1600, ext. 2769, or via e-mail at rmason@elcamino.edu.

Financial Aid Campaign Underway

With the final State Budget, the Legislature and Governor approved a fee increase of \$26 per unit. To help offset the increase and keep enrollment up, Compton Center has launched a financial aid awareness campaign entitled "Need cash for college? You may qualify for \$5,350!" The goal is to inform students that they may qualify for \$5,350 in federal Pell Grants and to encourage more students to apply for financial aid. The campaign includes information on the Web site and portal notices; student e-mails; message points for faculty, outreach staff and counselors; as well as fliers, posters, banners, news releases and postcards. Students who visit the Web site will be directed to a page that provides information about qualification criteria and how to apply for financial aid, links to the ECC financial aid page and the FAFSA application site. FAFSA applications are screened for both federal and state financial aid, making it an easy, one-stop process for students.

On-site Registration for Fall

Fall 2009 on-site registration continues through Friday, September 11, in the student lounge. The days and hours are: Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday registration is also available September 5—from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

While many classes may already be full at other colleges, it's not too late to register for Compton Center's fall semester. We have classes available in the following areas: Automotive Technology, Machine Tool Technology, Accounting and Business, and more. Help us get the word out now that classes are available at Compton Center!

Orientation for New Students

New Student Orientation sessions are taking place now through Friday, September 11, from 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the Vocational Education Building, room 209.

New Student Welcome Day

On August 26 new students and their guests were introduced to Compton Center. They met with academic advisors, registered for classes, spoke with faculty, learned about student services, received financial aid information and got a feel for campus life. Students also took a campus tour. A resource fair at lunch rounded out the day's activities.

Enrollment is Up!

Early estimates of fall 2009 enrollment indicate there will be over 5,000 students attending Compton Center during the upcoming semester. As of Monday of the first week of classes, the number of seats taken is 38% higher than at the same time in fall 2008. FTES are up 40 percent over fall 2008. We will have a better idea of growth once registration is complete. Stay tuned for updated enrollment numbers in the next issue of Provost News.

New Foundation Board Formed

A new Compton Community College District Foundation has been announced and is lead by Tony Williams, who serves as board president. His professional experience includes a variety of managerial positions at Southern California Edison over the past 18 years. He also serves on the advisory board of California State University, Los

Angeles, department of engineering and technology, co-chairs the East Los Angeles Skills Center Powerline Mechanics Program, and is a board member of the Rim2Rim Youth Basketball Program. Board President Williams says: "I am committed to working with all board members in pursuit of the organization's mission and objectives."

Serving as vice president is Martin Vargas. He began his career in the food service industry by gaining experience with large restaurant chains, owned a successful catering business and worked with the Los Angeles Community College District for 27 years. He is the current vice president of customer relations with First Class Vending.

James Castillo, former senior vice president of operations at the Los Angeles Urban League. His broad range of responsibilities with the League included fund development, business mentoring, government contract compliance, training programs, community advocacy, and revenue and cost management. Prior to this position, he had a 35-year career with United Parcel Service (UPS), serving in numerous managerial positions.

Dasol Mashaka is a program manager with the Parsons Corporation. His professional experience includes facility planning, design and construction for universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, as well as medical, hospitality, commercial, industrial and housing projects. He has more than 36 years of experience in project construction, management, architectural design and general contracting both in the U.S. and internationally.

John Phalen is president of Pacific Directions. He developed Pacific Gateway College as an English language and vocational training school, and created the International Institute of Los Angeles, the largest immigrant direct service organization in the country. He served for twelve years on the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations.

Foundation board members from the Compton Center include:

Lawrence Cox, Provost/CEO of El Camino College Compton Center for the past year has more than 25 years of academic experience and leadership. He previously served as provost of Stark State College of Technology, president of Olive-Harvey College and as president of Shelby State Community College. He has been an educational and research consultant and a tenured college and university professor.

Ronald Gerhard, chief business officer at El Camino College Compton Center, serves as treasurer. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant with more than ten years of accounting experience in the public and private sector, has a background in strategic planning and forecasting, and previously served as an auditor and business manager for the San Bernardino Community College District.

Nelly Rodriguez, director of the Title V program at El Camino College Compton Center serves as secretary. She brings more than 15 years of management experience in marketing, business development and public relations, and is the previous director of the Community Action for Student Achievement (CASA) Program at El Camino College where she established corporate partnerships for student internships.

El Camino College Compton Center is also represented on the Foundation board by Rodney Murray, dean of vocational education; Mohammad Khalilzadeh, associate professor of computer information systems; and Elizabeth Martinez, transfer center coordinator.

The foundation board came together the second quarter of this year and has been meeting every two weeks since early May. A planning retreat took place in June to discuss short and long-term plans for sustained growth to benefit the District's students and the community. The board is scheduled to meet the fourth Tuesday of every month.

Do you 'twitter'?

Check out Compton Center's page at https://twitter.com/Compton_Center to follow the latest "tweets." To be in the know, make the site one of your "favorites." You may send your ideas for postings to Ann Garten, director of community relations, El Camino College, at agarten@elcamino.edu.

Watch for Compton Center to soon be up and running on Facebook and YouTube. You will have the opportunity to become a "fan" and to link your own pages or "profiles!"

Compton Center Goes to College



Compton Center was well represented at Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, from June 23-27 at the 2009 National Summer Institute on Learning Communities. The First Year Experience program, hosted by the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education, is designed to help campuses start or strengthen learning community programs.

Attendees included Celia Arroyo, Keith Curry, Chris Halligan, David Maruyama, Estina Pratt, Efren Rangel, Chelvi Subramanian, Jose Villalobos and Toni Wasserberger.

During the event, teams attended workshops designed around practical problems, consulted with resource faculty, and created a campus action plan for learning community development. According to Estina Pratt, "We worked from morning until evening. Our group worked well together to accomplish our project, which received very good reviews. It was a great learning experience." The knowledge gained at the institute will help Compton Center further develop our new First Year Experience program.

Destination College

Compton Center hosted the Destination College program this summer to promote higher education to low income, first generation, underprivileged elementary and middle schools students from Compton, Lynwood, and Watts. It is designed for students to learn about college majors, vocational and technical careers and the value of attending college. Students were on campus for three hours during each event visiting labs and participating in hands-on learning experiences with college professors.

There were also interactive presentations about college requirements and career planning. Topics ranged from the application process, what classes to take in high school and concurrent enrollment. The program was presented through enjoyable activities intended to help the students make the connection between success in middle and high school and college. Some of the schools and community centers that participated include: Watts/Willowbrook Boys and Girls Club, Bunche Middle School, Davis Middle School, Mona Park and East Rancho Dominguez Park.

For information about the program, contact Johnny Conley, outreach specialist, at 310-900-1600, ext. 2767 or via e-mail at jconley@elcamino.edu.

UCI Summer Institute

Once again, El Camino College Compton Center students were well represented at the University of California Irvine Center for Educational Partnerships Summer Transfer Institute in August. Of the 60 community college students participating this year, 20 were from Compton Center.

The intent of the summer residential program is for students to feel comfortable in a university setting, learn to put theory into practice and be exposed to the array of majors available. The focus of this year's institute was social change and leadership development. According to Elizabeth Martinez, transfer center coordinator, the academic component of the program engages the students in various readings in regard to the selected topics. The students are required to work in groups and submit a proposal for a community development project.

Compton Center students who have previously participated in the institute have described the program as "an incredible learning experience and "life changing."

Compton Center Professor in the News

Professor Priscilla (Priscy) Ratcliff, fashion program instructor at El Camino College and Compton Center was front and center in an article in the June issue of *Long Beach Magazine*. She was part of the full-page photo spread of the fashion show showcasing the work of California State University Long Beach textile and clothing design students.

The event was described as a "glitzy, glamorous evening." For anyone who attended the outstanding "DWA—Designers With Attitude" fashion show Priscy coordinated with Compton Center's Fashionistaz fashion club last December, it is no surprise that she had a role in what *Long Beach Magazine* entitled "haute night at CSULB."

Inaugural Golf Tournament Was On Par



El Camino College Compton Center's athletic department hosted the Inaugural Tartar Golf Open in June at The Links at Victoria in Carson, CA. Thirteen early bird foursomes teed off at 6:00 a.m.

As the day progressed, the camaraderie and competitive spirit among the golfers were evident. The Major League Baseball academy team led by former major league baseball players Daryl Jackson and Kenny Landreaux shot an amazing 55, which is 17 under par! A great outcome from these golfers was expected as Jackson has a three handicap, and Landreaux sports a golf stroke comparable to his batting technique.

However, the surprise of the foursome was Kristen and Aaron Grimes, two talented high school students who enabled the Major League Baseball academy team to take first place. As the winners of the first Tartar open, the team will hold the perpetual trophy for one year. The second place team, the Bombers, was behind by only one stroke. The third place team was 19th/20th Street from San Pedro.

Among the other winners were James Sanders on hole #16, who won a vacation package donated by Schools Credit Union, and Tony "Bones" Barbone, El Camino College athletic director, on hole #8, who won four tickets to a Dodger's game donated by Student Insurance.

There were rave reviews for the chef, Frank of Klarke's Korner Kitchen, for an outstanding barbecue lunch that included a cake decorated with Tiger Woods holding his U.S. Open trophy. This topped off a day of great company and robust competition.

Compton Center's athletic director, Lefty Olguin, summed up the event by saying: "I couldn't ask for a better inaugural golf tournament. It provided an opportunity to raise funds for our academic programs, develop relationships with our business community and just enjoy the day."

Proceeds from this event will benefit the "Program for Athletic Student Success" and the first Compton Center Athletic Hall of Fame, which is tentatively scheduled to occur in the first quarter of 2010.

For information about Tartar athletics, contact Lefty Olguin at lolguin@elcamino.edu or by calling 310-900-1600, ext. 2940.

No June Gloom at Compton Center

The commencement ceremony in the Tartar quadrangle has come and gone, but has not been forgotten. The good feelings and expectations of the future were captured that day. Congratulations to the Class of 2009!

The Nursing Pinning ceremony honored the 23 graduates who earned associate degrees and the 13 students who completed the certified nursing assistant/home health aide program.



Compton Center's department of outreach and relations with schools once again held the popular reception for local high school students. Information was provided about registration, concurrent enrollment, counseling, financial aid, the transfer center, career and technical education programs, EOP&S, CalWORKS and athletics.

Distance Education: New Contact Information

The new e-mail address for Distance Education is: distanceEd-cec@elcamino.edu. Distance Education also has a Student Help Desk which can be reached by telephone at 310-900-1600, ext. 2540 (W. Johnson) or ext. 2137 (C. Valdez), or in person at the Learning Center G-39 and Distance Education office G-38.

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 Garten, community relations director, at agarten@elcamino.edu.