



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

June 16, 2008

El Camino Compton Center Graduates Continue Their Education

El Camino College Compton Center recently celebrated commencement exercises for the 134 graduates of the Class of 2008. This event marked a significant milestone for El Camino College Compton Center students. Many have been well prepared to embark on their chosen careers or to continue their education by transferring to a four-year college or university.

All of the graduates received the support and well-wishes of the family, friends, faculty, staff, administrators, members of the Board of Trustees and several dignitaries who attended the commencement.

Tommy Lasorda, legendary former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, served as the keynote speaker. He provided words of encouragement and inspiration to the graduates to achieve their goals for the future.

Magdalena Arreola, the student keynote speaker, earned an A.A. degree and will transfer to California State University Dominguez Hills in the fall to pursue graduate studies and become a Spanish professor. She hopes to work toward earning a Ph.D.

Currently a Compton resident, Magdalena was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and moved to the United States in 1999. She says she is setting an example for her five children, ranging in age from 13 months to 20 years. Magdalena describes Compton Center as being "like a second home." She speaks of the wonderful education she received, the teamwork of her classmates, and the tremendous support of her professors. She says, "They offer a lot of themselves to their students."

Alberto Martinez will finish his coursework this summer and plans to attend the University of California at Irvine (UCI) in the fall. He has attended El Camino College Compton Center as part of the Regional Transfer Collaborative (RTC). This program is designed to assist students to transfer to the four-year university of their dreams. The requirements for admission to the program include enrollment in a prescribed "linked courses curriculum" and attendance

in summer, fall, winter and spring sessions. In addition, students must enroll in a university summer residential program.

Alberto has appreciated the small class size at Compton Center because it allowed more interaction with instructors. He says his experience with the RTC program “helped a lot to make the transition to a four-year university easier.” Alberto plans to major in English.

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