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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino and Compton Community College Districts Finalize Agreement**

El Camino Community College District's Board of Trustees approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Jan. 22 to provide educational and necessary support services to residents of the Compton Community College District.

The agreement runs through June 30, 2011, unless one district decides to terminate the agreement, which is allowed through an escape clause detailed in the MOU. El Camino College will also receive an additional \$2 million in annual funding for operating the El Camino College Compton Center.

This immediate goal of the plan was completed: to open Compton Center for Fall 2006 to provide students and residents of Compton with access to accredited community college programs and services without interruption and in a way that minimized disruption to students. The Compton campus now offers fully accredited El Camino College courses in a variety of disciplines.

The next part of the plan will focus on assisting Compton Center with recovery and full accreditation as a two-year public college.

"This is an important step toward assisting the Compton Community College District and the students at Compton Center in reach their goals in higher education," said Thomas M. Fallo, Superintendent/President of the El Camino Community College District.

Compton Center also offers financial aid, and related student support services. The campus maintains its own Associated Student Body organization, independent and separate from the El Camino College campus. In addition, Compton Center fields its own intercollegiate athletic teams as it has in the past.

Dr. Doris Givens serves at the interim provost of the El Camino College Compton Center, overseeing daily operations of the Compton campus and reporting to Dr. Fallo.

This plan is the culmination of much work by both campuses, which began in late June 2006, when the Legislature approved and the Governor signed legislation that outlines the parameters for a community college district to enter into an agreement with the Compton Community College District to provide accredited instructional programs to students residing in the Compton district.

El Camino College is in good standing with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), and has successfully completed the accreditation cycle to secure accreditation until 2008.

Established in 1947, El Camino College serves about 26,000 students each semester. The district is one of the largest single-campus two-year institutions in the state, serving the communities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Torrance.

Compton Center serves the communities of Compton, Carson, Lynwood, Paramount and parts of North Long Beach.

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