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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Compton Center Hosts Youth Empowerment Program for Foster Care Students**

On September 14, 2010, El Camino College Compton Center will host an information session, from 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m., about its Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) Program. YESS is a comprehensive and integrated program that unites community partners and academic leaders to empower foster youth (ages 16-21) to successfully transition into independent living.

While in the program, students earn college credits and are able to make up high school credits. Using a proven approach, the YESS program provides services that focus on life skills training and academic performance with the objective of participants achieving self-sufficiency, college degree or certificate completion, and employment.

Each year, nearly 2,000 foster youth in Los Angeles turn 18 and are emancipated, many without the necessary skills to support themselves. Studies show that up to 50 percent of emancipated foster youth become homeless, have serious money problems, or end up incarcerated. To better prepare youth for independence, YESS was developed in 2007 through a collaboration between the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the California Department of Social Services.

The ongoing 14-week program offers students tutoring and mentoring, as well as life-skills training that includes interactive, hands-on and reality-based experiential activities on housing, money management, employment counseling and exploration, job skills, daily living skills and parenting. Students will also learn how to navigate opportunities at El Camino College Compton Center, receive assistance with earning a high school diploma, and learn about the financial aid process. Upon completion, YESS students enrolled in 12 or more units will receive a campus job.

The YESS Program at El Camino College Compton Center is open to foster care youth between the ages of 16 and 21 residing in the cities of Compton, Lynwood, Paramount, North Long Beach and Carson. Registration is required to participate in the YESS program.

The September 14 information session will take place 5:30 p.m.– 6:30 p.m. in the Foster Care Education Building at El Camino College Compton Center, located at 1111 E. Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90221. For more information about YESS, call 310-900-1600, Ext. 2767.

### **About El Camino College Compton Center**

El Camino College Compton Center is the community's education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year college or university, or train for a career. Many classes are available and offered at an affordable price—fees are only \$26 per unit. The catalog and class schedule for day, evening, weekend and online courses is available on the website at [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu) or may be picked up at ECC Compton Center located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA. For more information, call 310-900-1600.

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