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For Immediate Release

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Juana Sandoval Selected as El Camino College Compton Center's 2011 Student Commencement Speaker

On Thursday, June 9, Juana Sandoval will deliver the student address to graduates at El Camino College Compton Center's 2011 Commencement. The ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Tartar Quad. Sandoval's speech will highlight her incredible journey from immigrant to El Camino College Compton Center graduate.

Sandoval is a native of Zacatecas, Mexico. In 1999, she came to the United States with her parents and siblings, settled in Compton (Calif.) and quickly found work as a machine operator in a factory. At the factory, Sandoval endured undesirable working conditions and it did not take her long to realize that an education was her ticket to a better life. However, as an immigrant unsure of her English language and writing skills, a college degree seemed unobtainable.

Determined to take on the challenge, Sandoval first enrolled at an adult education center. She gained the writing and speaking skills necessary to obtain her GED and ultimately enrolled at El Camino College Compton Center in 2006.

Sandoval's story as a student at ECC Compton Center is not only one of success, but also of perseverance. Despite several setbacks and family circumstances that could have derailed her education, Sandoval has achieved a great deal. She is graduating with an associate degree and a 3.87 GPA and plans to transfer to California State University, Dominguez Hills, where she will major in business administration.

Her father's words, "Education is one of the most important values that a person can possess," are what she credits for motivating her to study harder during challenging times. As a mother of two, she hopes to pass these words down to her children in hopes that they too will pursue a higher education.

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 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 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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