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For Immediate Release

March 16, 2011

Compton Community College District Special Trustee Appoints Interim Chief Executive Officer

The Special Trustee for the Compton Community College District (CCCD) today announced the appointment of an interim chief executive officer for the District. Dr. Keith Curry, who has served as the El Camino College Compton Center dean of student services since 2006, has been appointed to the post.

“Dr. Curry is widely known for his dedication to promoting and supporting programs to help students succeed and reach their academic goals,” said CCCD Special Trustee Genethia Hudley-Hayes. “His demonstrated leadership skills, ability to assess and quickly respond to student needs, and his familiarity with the Compton Center and the community are all assets he brings to this position.”

Many existing student support programs expanded and others were created under Curry’s leadership, most notably the First Year Experience (FYE). Established at ECC Compton Center two years ago, FYE offers a supportive educational environment that encourages student success through shared learning communities and services such as counseling, mentoring, orientation, and campus tours. The first year of the program, 68 students participated; by the second year, the enrollment more than doubled with over 140 students.

Curry previously served at the University of California, Irvine as director of the Early Academic Outreach Program. In this position, he worked with incoming freshman students to help them succeed in college. While at UC Irvine, Curry was instrumental in re-establishing a partnership between local school districts, including Compton Unified School District and the University of California, Irvine.

Born and raised in Compton, Curry has strong family ties to the community. His service to the community included volunteering as chair of the Compton Unified School District Achieving College Partnership and serving on the Compton Unified School District Foundation board; he also co-authored the Compton Unified School District Gear-Up proposal during his tenure at UC Irvine.

“I look forward to this opportunity to continue serving students and my hometown,” Curry said. “I am encouraged by the positive spirit of collaboration I see as we work together with our partner, El Camino College, to achieve this goal.”

Curry earned his doctorate degree from the University of California at Irvine, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz. His professional affiliations include working with the African American Male Educational Network and Development (A²MEND) organization, and the Association for California Community College Administrators. Curry is married to Nina Elizabeth Scott-Curry, and has one son Kamilo Ali Curry (1 year old).

Curry assumes the interim CEO position immediately. The search process for a permanent CEO, following Board Policy 2420, will get underway in the future.

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