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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Compton Center Encourages Foster Youth to Explore the Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) Program**

El Camino College Compton Center is one of nine educational institutions in Los Angeles County to offer The Foundation for California Community Colleges' Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) program. The YESS program is designed to provide foster youth ages 16-21 with academic and life-skills training so that they may successfully transition into adult life.

An upcoming orientation for the YESS program will take place on September 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Foster Care Building at El Camino College Compton Center, located at 1111 E. Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90221. All attendees will enjoy complimentary dinner and school supplies.

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.

Foster youth who enroll in the 14-week program are introduced to college and community resources, which will support their success. Students are able to earn high school and college credits, as well as gain scholarship and financial aid information. If students enroll in 12 or more units they may be offered a job at ECC Compton Center, which is a huge incentive for them to continue their education. YESS also offers interactive and hands-on training in basic life skills. Students build confidence by participating in experiential activities related to housing, money management, employment counseling and exploration, job skills, daily living skills and parenting.

The short-term goal is to give foster youth the tools they need to overcome hurdles they may face at different points along their path. While the long-term goal is for participants to graduate from high school, begin earning a college degree or technical certificate, as well as become self-sufficient and gainfully employed. The YESS program moves toward these goals with a three-pronged approach called the three R's, which stand for rigor, relevancy and relationships. As the program's website conveys, the three R's communicate a positive and proactive message: "YESS, together we can empower youth to better understand the impact of their choices, access post secondary education, build permanent relationships with caring adults, and obtain the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to succeed."

In Los Angeles alone, nearly 2,000 foster youth are emancipated each year. Without academic or life skills support, as many as 50 percent of them become homeless, have serious money problems, or end up incarcerated. The YESS program aims to prevent those problems by better preparing foster youth for independence. For more information visit:

<http://www.foundationccc.org/WhatWeDo/YESS/tabid/602/Default.aspx>.

For more information about the YESS program at El Camino College Compton Center, 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 university or train for a career. El Camino College Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA.

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