



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Compton College Promise: One Year of Enrollment Fees Will Be Paid for Local High School Graduates

Lynwood Unified School District Signs Partnership Agreement with Compton College

To make college education more accessible and affordable, Compton College signed the “Lynwood Promise” agreement with the Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD) on May 10, 2018, to provide guaranteed admissions and one year of paid enrollment fees to Compton College for all LUSD graduates beginning in fall 2019.

“This partnership is a great opportunity for all of our students who seek to further their education,” Lynwood Board of Education President Alfonso Morales said. “As a District, we believe in providing every pathway to encourage academic success.”

This agreement is the most recent in the Compton Community College District’s quest to invest public resources to meet the needs of the communities it serves. “We would like to thank Lynwood Unified for their commitment to this partnership and investment in their students,” said Nicole J. Jones, Compton Community College District Board of Trustees president. “The Compton College Promise is designed specifically to attract high school students to college, break down barriers to their success and put them on an educational path leading to college degrees, good-paying careers, and being productive members in our communities.”

This is the second Compton College Promise partnership agreement established with local school districts. The first partnership agreement was signed by the Compton Unified School District in October 2017. Compton Unified School District’s class of 2018 graduates who enroll at Compton College for fall 2018 are the first students eligible to participate in the Compton College Promise program. Compton College is also in the process of finalizing its third College Promise partnership with Paramount Unified School District (PUSD).

Lynwood Unified educators are working to increase the number of graduates who pursue higher education. “We are extremely proud to enter into this partnership with Compton College so we can continue our commitment to our students in creating higher education opportunities,” said Lynwood Unified Superintendent Gudiel R. Crosthwaite. “At Lynwood, we believe that having guaranteed admissions and programs to help with college readiness will encourage more students to achieve academic excellence.”

While enrollment fees are covered, there are some college-related expenses that students will be responsible to pay, such as a student health fee, a student representation fee, Associated Student Body discount sticker, parking and transportation, books, food and housing. The cost for an enrolled Compton College Promise student will be approximately \$72 for one year (fall, winter, spring and summer). The approximate cost for a non-Compton Promise student is \$1,918 for the same period, not including the costs listed above. Financial Aid is available as a potential source to offset some of the costs not covered by the College Promise program.

“The cost of higher education has increased dramatically over the last few decades, making it less accessible to students from low- and middle-income families,” said Compton College President Keith Curry. “Compton College is joining the national College Promise movement as a necessary means to make college more affordable, promote equity and access for all students, and help increase college enrollment, persistence and completion.”

In early 2015, then-President Obama unveiled the America’s College Promise proposal to make community college free in an effort to help more students complete a college education. In October 2017, Governor Jerry Brown enacted the California College Promise, allowing colleges to waive the first year of enrollment fees for first-time, full-time California community college students. There is even a nonpartisan initiative, called the [College Promise Campaign](#), dedicated to advocating for free community college led by Martha Kanter, former under secretary of education during the Obama administration and now executive director of the College Promise Campaign. In recent years, Promise programs have emerged in more than 200 communities across 44 states.

Communities are pitching in by establishing local College Promise partnerships, which work to foster a healthy college-going culture through better alignment with K-12 schools and by raising much-needed funds from generous donors to provide additional financial assistance. In fact, Molina Healthcare recently donated nearly \$300,000 to the Foundation for the Compton Community College District in support of the Compton College Promise program.

Through the Compton College Promise, high school graduates who attend Compton College full time (12 units) immediately after graduation will have enrollment fees waived for the first year. This means enrollment fees for the fall semester, winter term, spring semester and summer session at Compton College will be paid during that one-year period. Students can choose from a variety of educational pathways: earn an associate degree and/or certificate, transfer to a four-year college or university, or pursue job training through the Career and Technical Education program.

Compton Unified is building upon its history of working with Compton College to offer an affordable pathway directly from high school to college for student in its district. “The Compton USD partnership with Compton College has been an integral part of building a strong college-going culture across the district,” said Darin Brawley, CUSD superintendent. “The Compton Promise is the next step in ensuring our students have equitable access to post-secondary opportunities. I look forward to building this partnership with the support of the CUSD Board of Trustees, and doing great things for the students of Compton.”

The Compton College Promise includes the following benefits for eligible students:

- Guaranteed admission to Compton College.
- Assistance with the steps necessary for full-time enrollment at Compton College.

- Priority registration at Compton College for high school seniors prior to graduating from local participating schools.
- Opportunities to participate in support programs such as the First Year Experience (FYE) and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) for additional resources to successfully navigate through Compton College and beyond.
- Assistance with the completion of a Financial Fit Plan to help high school graduates access all available financial aid to help pay for college.
- Summer Bridge classes at Compton College for recent high school graduates to assist with college-level English and math placement.

Getting more students to and through college is necessary for economic growth in local communities and the Compton College Promise agreement aims to start early in the education process to build an awareness that higher education is accessible for all local families. Beginning in sixth grade, students and parents will receive Early College and Career Planning sessions and information. All middle school students and parents will be asked to sign the “To & Through Pledge” to make them aware of the Compton College Promise and all of its benefits, including one year of paid enrollment fees at Compton College for local graduates.

“Our students most definitely have the potential and the capability to reach for and achieve their dreams,” said Micah Ali, CUSD Board of Trustees president. “The Compton College Promise is not only absolutely vital in enabling them to do so, it is a game-changer for our district.”

To be eligible for the program, students must:

- Complete the four Steps to Enrollment at Compton College
- Submit a completed Compton College Promise application
- Apply to EOPS and FYE student support programs
- Enroll as a full-time student, 12 units, during the primary terms - fall & spring semesters
- Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA and complete at least 67 percent of the courses attempted each semester (example: 9 out of 12 units for fall 2018)

The Compton College Promise will begin in fall 2018 for Compton Unified School District graduates, followed by Lynwood and Paramount Unified graduates from the class of 2019 who enroll at Compton College for fall 2019. The enrollment process is currently in progress for Compton Unified students who graduate this June. Lynwood Unified students who will graduate in 2019 may begin the Compton College application process beginning Nov. 1, 2018.

For more information or to apply to the Compton College Promise program, please visit <http://www.compton.edu/student/comptonpromise/> or call the Compton College Office of Outreach and School Relations at 310-900-1600, ext. 2765.

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Photos available online:

http://www.compton.edu/campusinformation/currentnews/Photos/2018/LynwoodSign_001.jpg

Caption:

Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD) signed a Compton College Promise partnership agreement on May 10, 2018, to provide LUSD graduates with guaranteed admissions and one year of paid enrollment fees to

Compton College beginning in fall 2019. Back row: (left to right) Keith Curry, Compton Community College District (CCCD) CEO and Compton College President; Gary Hardie, Jr., LUSD Board Member; Maria G. Lopez, LUSD Clerk; Andres Ramos, CCCD Board Member; Joshua Castellanos Ramos, CCCD Student Trustee; Rodney Murray, Compton College Dean of Student Learning; Alma-Delia Renteria, LUSD Board Vice President; Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, LUSD Superintendent; and front row: Sonia Lopez, CCCD Board Vice President; and Alfonso Morales, LUSD Board President.

http://www.compton.edu/campusinformation/currentnews/Photos/2018/LynwoodSign_002.jpg

Caption:

(Left to right) Sonia Lopez, CCCD Board Vice President; and Alfonso Morales, LUSD Board President. Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD) signed a Compton College Promise partnership agreement on May 10, 2018. Through the Compton College Promise, LUSD graduates who attend Compton College full time (12 units) immediately after graduation will have enrollment fees waived for the first year beginning in fall 2019.

About Compton College

Compton College 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. Compton College is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.