

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2008

**El Camino College Compton Center
Summer Regional Transfer Program**

El Camino College Compton Center students spent the week of August 10-16 on the University of California, Irvine (UCI) campus. Through a partnership with UCI, students who participate in Compton Center's Regional Transfer Collaborative (RTC) program experienced college life at a four-year university first-hand.

The RTC students were recruited in their senior year from local high schools and put on a "fast track" to transfer within 6-8 semesters to a four-year university. They will meet each semester with a counselor and attend workshops and field trips in an effort to make the transfer process as smooth as possible. There is a special curriculum of linked coursework and learning communities set up by Compton Center faculty.

The intent of the summer residential program is for students to feel comfortable in a university setting, learn to put theory into practice and be exposed to the array of majors available. The focus this summer was on public policy and administration and urban planning. University faculty worked with the students on team-building exercises and "referendums" geared toward the enhancement of their college and community.

Elizabeth Martinez, Compton Center's Transfer Center Coordinator, accompanies the students to UCI and provides a "home base" for them during the school year. "The partnership between Compton Center and UCI benefits students by removing fear and building their confidence. It provides an opportunity for them to thrive as they move to the next step in their education."

Juan Vargas, describes the program at UCI as "life changing." He said: "It was an incredible learning experience and a chance to build relationships with professors and develop friendships." Maribel Barron said: "I learned that if you believe in yourself, you can do anything you set your mind to do, and nothing is impossible."

A good measure of success is that each of the students want to come back next year.

For information about the RTC program, contact Elizabeth Martinez, at 310-900-1600, Ext. 2760.

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