



NEWS

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Compton College, Believe in Students, and Edquity to Support Dual Enrollment Students in First Ever Such Emergency Aid Initiative

Emergency aid fund to support dually enrolled students left out of CARES Act

Compton College announced today that it has launched a new \$100,000 emergency aid fund to support high school-aged students dually enrolled in Compton College. The fund is the first ever in California to specifically support dually enrolled students who experience many of the same financial challenges that non-high-school-aged college students face and were left out of the critical emergency support provided by the CARES Act.

The innovative funding initiative was launched in partnership with Believe in Students, the nation's only nonprofit organization focused exclusively on supporting college students' living expenses; and Edquity, a Brooklyn-based student financial success, and emergency aid technology company. Edquity and Compton College have worked in partnership during the past year to distribute more than \$80,000 in emergency funding in 2020 in the wake of COVID-19. Compton College has also worked with Believe in Students to deliver critical emergency aid through the FAST Fund, where Compton College faculty have taken a leadership role to direct timely assistance to students.

A total of 843 dual enrollment students from local high schools served by our District will receive \$114 each, fitting since Compton College is the 114th California Community College.

"Compton College is proud to partner with Believe in Students and Edquity to lead the way in finding support solutions for all of our student population," said Compton Community College District Board of Trustees President Sonia Lopez. "Along with the Compton College spirit that has helped us through this very challenging year, this emergency aid initiative for local high school students dually enrolled at Compton College is another important support we can offer our students so they can concentrate on their education without added worry."

Dual enrollment is an important strategy for students to earn critical college credits while still in high school, positioning them to better achieve college success. In addition, it presents significant implications for narrowing equity gaps in postsecondary achievement and for creating pathways for regional economic development. At Compton College, 7% of dual enrollment students are Black, and 71% are Latinx.

Dual enrollment students experience many of the same financial challenges as Compton College students in general. The California Community College #RealCollege Survey Report released last year found that 63 percent of the Compton College students surveyed said they experience housing insecurity. More than 50 percent of students attending Compton College have trouble affording balanced meals or worry about running out of food, and 23 percent are homeless according to the [survey](#) released March 7, 2019.

“We know that this will assist students in pursuing courses offered at the community college on both a parallel path, and for some as a different option than AP courses offered at their high school,” said Darin Brawley, superintendent of the Compton Unified School District. “This is a step in the right direction to assist students with financial needs related to earning college credit while enrolled in high school.”

As a first of its kind partnership, this model could prove to be an informative and transformative framework for deploying emergency aid in regions across California.

“We must continue to invest in creating higher education opportunities so that the college pursuits of students are not compromised by the hardships that surround them,” said Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, superintendent of the Lynwood Unified School District. “We are grateful to our partners at Compton College for working to remove barriers to success for our scholars.”

Compton College is extending a request to anyone who is able to donate to this extremely important emergency funding initiative. Businesses, organizations, and individuals who desire to pay it forward and make donations may do so at here: www.believeinstudents.org. Click on “How to Help” and donate to the COVID-19 Student Emergency Aid Initiative. Donors should indicate on the “notes” line that they would like to support Compton College. All contributions to Believe in Students are tax-deductible. To connect with Believe in Students Executive Director Traci Kirtley about a major gift for the COVID-19 Student Emergency Aid initiative, please email tkirtley@believeinstudents.org.

Contributions can also be made to Compton College students broadly with donations to the FAST Fund at www.believeinstudents.org.

“Since our founding, Believe in Students has focused on innovative ways to get support to students when they tell us they need it. The pandemic is helping us shine a spotlight on who today’s college students really are,” said Kirtley. “We love working with leaders like Compton College who not only transform how institutions operate, but inform policy changes that reshape systems to better serve today’s students.”

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About Compton College

[Compton College](http://www.comptoncollege.edu) 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. On June 7, 2019, at 11:59 p.m., Compton College became the 114th California Community College and began to operate as an independent college under the authority of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees. Compton College is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.

About Believe in Students:

[Believe in Students](http://www.believeinstudents.org) is the nation's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on supporting college students' living expenses. They develop and support innovative, sustainable, and effective solutions that can scale to meet the widespread demands. Their current portfolio includes a range of evidence-based programs, including its inaugural program, FAST Fund; a Student Emergency Aid Fund in partnership with Edquity; and the Gather Food Hall in partnership with Little Giant Creative. Believe in Students also supports the national #RealCollege movement created by the Hope Center for College, Community and Justice.

About Edquity

[Edquity](http://www.edquity.org) offers the first research-driven basic needs insecurity and emergency aid technology platform for college students, which includes emergency aid underwriting and disbursement functionality as well as a one-stop hub for social services referral. Edquity has partnered with more than 15 organizations across the country to serve over 25 colleges, has processed over 20,000 applications, and has helped partners distribute over \$5MM in emergency aid in 2020. Edquity has received over \$6MM in support from leading philanthropic partners that include the ECMC Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among others.