

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 6:36 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - August 1, 2024

Campus Community,

I was trying to keep today's message brief because I know you're all counting down the minutes on your last 4/10 workday for the summer. *But there's too much to cover.*

As a follow-up to the [President/CEO Message – July 25, 2024](#), the 2024-2025 Compton Community College District Final Budget Assumptions are available [here](#). We are focused on ensuring the 2024-2025 Compton CCD Final Budget is aligned with [Board Policy 1200 - Mission, Vision, and Strategic Initiatives](#) and considering future year budgets. As some of you may be aware, the state funding for Guided Pathways ended in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the district had to contribute to that department to continue our guided pathways implementation. In the 2024-2025 Compton CCD Final Budget Assumptions, we provide another contribution to the Guided Pathways Program and also set aside some of our general fund reserves to support its funding for the next three years.

In 2024-2025, we are also anticipating a funding reduction in the Strong Workforce Program and have set aside some of our reserves to contribute for future years. We are also utilizing \$500,000 of the general fund reserves over the next two years to support scheduled maintenance projects since we were not provided with additional Scheduled Maintenance Facilities Projects Funding in the 2024-2025 California State Budget.

Finally, in the 2024-2025 year, we are planning to apply the revenue from the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Irrevocable Trust to pay our GASB “pay as you go” costs for Retiree Benefits of \$654,320. In my [President/CEO Message – April 21, 2021](#), I discussed our aggressive plan to fund this trust and the future benefits as it relates to yearly “pay as you go” costs for the Retiree Benefits.

In fall 2023, Total Compensation Systems, Inc. completed the [Compton Community College District Actuarial Study of Retiree Health Liabilities](#). The report states that as of **June 30, 2023**, the Compton CCD Total OPEB liability is \$14,584,059, and as of **June 30, 2024**, we have \$15,075,269.29 in our [OPEB Irrevocable Trust Trust](#).

Please note that we are monitoring Compton CCD department and program budgets, as well as the 2024-2025 California State Budget, very closely. If the 2024-2025 Compton CCD Final Budget Assumptions need to be modified, we will share them with the campus community.

Today's President/CEO Message includes New Student Welcome Day details, a call-out for social media content, links to the Fall 2024 Professional Development Day agendas, and more.

Fall 2024 Enrollment Update

As of *today, August 1, 2024*, Compton College has generated 1,310 FTES (26% increase over this time last year – Census -39 days) for the fall 2024 semester. The fill rate is currently 52%, and the seats filled are 8,858.

New Student Welcome Day – Wednesday, August 21, 2024

All students (current and prospective) are invited to attend the New Student Welcome Day at Compton College on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Students will learn all about Compton College and the excellent student resources we have available to help them be successful in college, take a campus tour, participate in workshops, and have an opportunity to win prizes! For more information and to RSVP for the on-campus event, click [here](#).

Welcome Week – Informational Tables

Welcome Week is almost here, beginning **Monday, August 26, through Friday, August 30, 2024**. As part of Welcome Week, we will have information tables throughout campus from 8:00 to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Fridays to assist our students. They will be located in parking lots A and F, as well as the quad area. We need everyone's assistance at the tables - administration, faculty, and classified professionals. Please review the available one-hour time slots via this [link](#); click on the sign-up button to select a date and time. Be an all-star and sign up for *two-time* slots if your schedule permits. Thank you in advance for your participation.

COVID-19 Test Kits Available

We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 numbers in Los Angeles County, which has been experiencing an increase in the number of cases. We have free at-home COVID-19 test kits available while supplies last at the St. John's Student Health Center for students and in the Human Resources Office for employees.

Official Compton College Social Media Accounts

Compton College's social media channels provide an engaging way to reach prospective students and offer a channel for communication with current students, alumni, community members, employees, parents and guardians, and others. Participation in the official Compton College social media accounts is strongly encouraged. With nearly 14,500 combined followers, the College's social media outlets receive a high level of daily interaction, reaching a large percentage of students. To request an item from your program or department to be posted on the College's social media sites, send an email to the Compton College Webmaster/Social Media Coordinator, Obi Onyekwere, at onyekwere@compton.edu. Please allow up to five business days for posting.

Fall 2024 Professional Development Day

The fall 2024 semester begins with our [mandatory Professional Development Day](#) on **Thursday, August 22, 2024**. The general session will commence at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. All full-time Compton College faculty and classified professionals are required to participate in the mandatory Professional Development activities on **Thursday, August 22, 2024**. We are honored to welcome Dr. Lori Patton Davis, Professor from the University of California, Los Angeles, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Patton Davis is a highly esteemed scholar in higher education, renowned for her work on African Americans in higher education, critical race theory, and campus diversity initiatives. She has authored over 50 peer-reviewed articles and has been featured in top journals such as The Journal of Higher Education and Teachers College Record. Her research has been cited nearly 5,000 times. As the immediate past president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education and former Equity and Inclusion Officer for AERA Division J, she has significantly influenced educational policy and practice. Dr. Patton Davis holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University and has received numerous awards for her scholarly contributions, making her a sought-after education expert.

An in-person [New Faculty Orientation](#) will be held on **Tuesday, August 20, 2024**, in the Student Services Building, Room 212, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The virtual [Adjunct Faculty Orientation](#) will be on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024**, from 5:00 - 7:10 p.m. via Zoom.

We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, August 22, 2024**, for an inspiring and informative day! Please mark these events in your calendars. The agendas for these events are available [here](#).

President/CEO Closing the Loop

As you know, we have a couple of administrative vacancies. I am pleased to announce that Darlene Zarazu has been appointed as the interim director of educational partnerships and Dr. Wei Zhou as the interim dean of student learning, overseeing the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Health and Public Services (HEPS) Guided Pathway Divisions. We are still in the process of filling the now-vacant interim dean of counseling and guided pathways position. As of today, the recruitment process has begun for the permanent dean of student learning, dean of counseling and guided pathways, and the director of educational partnerships.

Final Thoughts

I have finalized my 2024-2025 President/CEO Priorities:

1. Continue to focus on recruitment and retention efforts at Compton College.
2. Continue the implementation of dual enrollment, ensuring students earn 12 units of college credit during their four years of high school.
3. Work with the campus constituent groups to revise the Compton College Collaborative Governance Handbook.
4. Continue with Succession Planning - Focus on improving how we document our various processes.
5. Continue to focus on implementing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) activities at Compton College.
6. Monitor the development and completion of the Compton College 2035 Strategic Planning documents.
7. Continue to support the Foundation for the Compton CCD.
8. Continue to support and secure additional funding for basic needs programs and services at Compton College and explore additional options for temporary and permanent housing for Compton College students.
9. Continue to support Professional Development opportunities for faculty, classified professionals, and students.
10. Continue to monitor the implementation of the California Competes Connecting Workforce and Adult Education Efforts to Advance Student Success project recommendations for Compton College.
11. Continue to monitor the state and Compton CCD budgets.
12. Monitor the completion of Compton College facilities projects.

In closing, I have more updates, but this President/CEO Message is already longer than expected. Anyway, please have a wonderful Friday and weekend with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

Keith Curry, Ed.D.
(*pronouns: he/him/his*)
President/CEO
Compton College