

**From:** Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2025 2:06 PM  
**Subject:** President/CEO Message - June 26, 2025

Campus Community,

Welcome to the first week of the summer term! It's been energizing to see so many students on campus bright and early—some as early as 7:30 a.m.—eager to begin their classes. The shift to 10-hour workdays will take a little getting used to, but the longer weekends are a welcome trade-off. To those of you with vacation plans this summer, have fun and enjoy every moment. And for those staying on campus, don't forget to take breaks and step away from your screens when you can. A little time offline goes a long way.

I am happy to announce that our request for designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) under Title III and/or Title V of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965 has been approved for 2025-2026. The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Post-Secondary Education approved our waiver. Click [here](#) to read the letter from [James E. Laws, Jr., Acting Senior Director for the Institutional Service Office of Postsecondary Education](#). The letter grants Compton College eligibility for a waiver of the non-Federal share matching requirements under the Federal Work-Study Program (FWS), the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (FSEOG), and the TRIO Student Support Services Program under Title IV of the HEA. This is an annual designation that Compton College must apply for each year. Thank you, Amari Williams, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Administrative Services, for your work on the HSI designation application.

Today's President/CEO Message includes construction updates, summer hours, a new healthcare grant, and more.

#### **Enrollment Update as of June 26, 2025**

- 553 FTES for the **Summer 2025** term. 4,608 (81%) of the available summer seats are currently filled.
- 847 FTES for the **Fall 2025** semester. Our fill rate for Fall is 33% with 5,486 seats filled.

Please continue to encourage students to register for summer and fall 2025. Every enrollment counts, and if students need registration assistance, they can visit the Welcome Center located in the Student Services Building. Click [here](#) for a list of available summer classes.

#### **Updated Hours for Farmers' Market and Everytable Cafeteria**

- Please note that the Compton College Farmers' Market will close early at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 2, 2025**.
- Beginning **Monday, July 7, 2025**, the Everytable Cafeteria will extend its hours and remain open until 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

#### **Construction Has Begun on the Physical Education and Visual and Performing Arts Complexes**

As of **June 21, 2025**, construction is underway on the new Physical Education Complex and the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) facility. The Physical Education Complex, replacing the old gym, locker rooms, and pool, is a \$68.8 million project expected to be completed in **spring 2028**. The \$23.3 million VAPA facility is scheduled for completion in **fall 2026**.

Temporary fencing now surrounds the Y-Area, Row Buildings U, V, W, Trailer M3, and part of the Quad. Access to the St. John Student Health Center remains open from the Quad. The west side of the Library-Student Success Center is closed, but the north and south entrances are open. The Gymnasium (Building X) is accessible only from the south and east sides via ADA pathways from Parking Lots A and B.

Please use caution near construction zones. Click [here](#) to view the current campus map.

## **Compton College Expands Health Career Pathways with New Catalyst Grant**

Compton College has received a \$399,952 Catalyst Grant from the California Community Foundation to support Phase 2 of the Compton Community Health Professions Partnership (CCHPP). Funded through the California Jobs First initiative, the grant will help expand healthcare training programs, strengthen partnerships with local healthcare providers, and enhance student support services. The initiative focuses on preparing students from historically underserved communities for high-demand health careers such as nursing, medical assisting, and diagnostic imaging. As mentioned in the [President/CEO Message – December 19, 2024](#), the partnership was also awarded \$1 million from the W.M. Keck Foundation, further supporting efforts to build a more diverse and community-rooted health care workforce in South Los Angeles.

## **Compton College Real #114 Leadership Academy**

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the following Compton College employees who were selected for the 2025-2026 Real #114 Leadership Academy cohort:

- Mariana Cervantes – CalWORKs Program Specialist
- Ariadne Keys – Records Specialist, Admissions & Records
- Alexis Linares-Sierra – Program Manager, First Year Experience
- Felicia Marshall – Student Services Advisor, STEM
- Daniel Miranda – Administrative Assistant, M&O
- Nicole Smith – Job Placement Specialist
- Leaniva Tuala – Student Services Advisor, Business & Industrial Studies

This prestigious selection highlights their dedication and potential in advancing leadership within our college. This year's theme is focused on communication, strategy, adaptability, and presence. The #Real114 Leadership Academy, held from **July 29, 2025, to August 1, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to noon**, will offer an intensive hybrid experience designed to build capacity and enhance the leadership skills of our classified professionals. Throughout the 2025-2026 academic year, the participants will engage in designing and executing a leadership project, contributing to the growth of our community, and supporting the goals of the [Compton College 2035, Comprehensive Master Plan](#).

## **President/CEO Closing the Loop**

1. As a reminder, the college will notify the campus community only if immigration enforcement activity occurs on campus, in accordance with [Administrative Regulation 3415 - Immigration Enforcement Activities](#). If you witness such activity on campus, please report it immediately to Campus Police.

We've received guidance from our insurance provider that underscores the importance of this policy. Sharing information about immigration enforcement activity not occurring on campus could expose the college to significant legal and financial liability. To help clarify the steps to take in these situations, we've created a [short Protocol guide](#) that outlines the necessary actions and provides contact information for support. Please also avoid sharing unverified reports or engaging in off-campus activity that could place you or others at risk.

2. Campus Hours of Operation for the **Fall 2025, Winter 2025, and Spring 2026** terms: Please note that Student Services will be open on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday** from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on **Wednesday** from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
3. As mentioned in the [President/CEO Message – January 9, 2025](#), we have been working on updating our [Emergency Operations Plan](#) to include air quality issues and a condensed version of our pandemic operations plan. If you have any suggestions, please direct them to Marcus Thompson, chief of police, at [mthompson@compton.edu](mailto:mthompson@compton.edu). Our goal is to have a finalized plan presented to the [Health, Safety, and Parking Committee](#), the [Consultative Council](#), and to the Board of Trustees for approval sometime this summer.

## Final Thoughts

This week, I had the opportunity to attend a Community College CEO meeting at San Diego State University, where we discussed the shared challenges facing our institutions, including budget constraints, transfer-level English and math completion, and overall student outcomes. As we look ahead to the 2025–2026 academic year, my focus remains on implementing the [Compton College 2035 comprehensive master plan](#) and closely monitoring progress through our [Institutional-Set Goals](#). For more information on the Compton College Institutional Set-Goals, please see the [President/CEO Message – June 20, 2025](#). Our ultimate objective is to ensure that students complete their degrees or certificates and are prepared to either transfer to a four-year institution or enter the workforce with a livable wage.

I'm increasingly concerned that many colleges and universities across the country are juggling numerous initiatives, which can dilute their ability to prioritize student completion. At Compton College, we believe student completion must be at the forefront of every conversation. We are committed to identifying and removing the barriers that hinder student success. That's why we've set one clear, unwavering goal: *to accelerate student completion while advancing equity and success*.

**Monday, June 30, 2025**, will be Dr. Abdul Nasser's last day at Compton College. If you have done so, please say your goodbyes. Dr. Nasser will truly be missed. We are currently in the process of recruiting for the Vice President of Administrative Services position. We are exploring options for a potential interim candidate for this role until the permanent position is filled. Beginning **Tuesday, July 1, 2025**, the administrators within the Administrative Services Division will report directly to me.

Don't forget, the campus will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, July 3–4, 2025**, in observance of the Fourth of July. Due to the short workweek, I won't be sending out a [President/CEO Message](#) next week. I wish everyone a safe and happy four-day weekend. Whether you're celebrating with family, traveling, or simply relaxing, I hope you take time to recharge and reflect on the values of independence and community that this holiday represents.

Sincerely,

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