

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 7:47 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - August 7, 2025

Campus Community,

As we prepare for the start of the fall semester, I want to highlight a few important updates and upcoming events.

On **Monday, August 11, 2025**, the Compton CCD Board of Trustees will hold its annual Board Retreat in the Board Room. This retreat is an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to review and discuss the Board of Trustees' Evaluation for 2024–2025, establish their Board Goals for 2025–2026, and review the [Compton College 2035 Institutional Set-Goals](#).

In response to recent community concerns, Marcus Thompson, Compton College Chief of Police, continues to monitor immigration enforcement activity in the region. Chief Thompson has been attending local meetings to stay informed and will visit our offsite locations this fall to ensure students and partners understand our immigration-related guidelines, including [Administrative Regulation 3415 – Immigration Enforcement](#). Chief Thompson's efforts, along with all our campus constituents, are part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for all students.

In today's President/CEO Message, you will find agendas and information for Fall 2025 Professional Development Week. New employee folders will include "Know Your Rights" red cards and other key resources to help ensure a safe and informed start to the semester.

In addition, this President/CEO Message also includes a reminder about the News Student Welcome Day, an invitation to participate in the Fall 2025 Welcome Week activities, and my 2025-2026 President/CEO Priorities.

Enrollment Update as of August 7, 2025

- 1,299 FTES for the Fall 2025 semester. Our fill rate for fall is 51% with 8,908 seats filled.

On the other hand, fall 2025 is running a bit behind. **Fall 2025** is only 3.5% behind on headcount compared to last year's equivalent day, an improvement from last week's 8% gap and the continuation of a positive trend. We currently trail Fall 2024 by 6% on FTES and 5% on Enrollment (i.e., "seats filled"). ***With 32 days to go before the semester starts, now is the time to help get the word out.*** Please remind students to register as soon as possible. And, as always, encourage them to take a full course load if possible—it is one of the best ways to stay on track for graduation or transfer.

Please continue to encourage students to [check the class schedules on the Compton College website](#), meet with an advisor, and register early to ensure a smooth start to the semester. ***Every Full-Time Equivalent Student Counts!***

New Student Welcome Day

It's not too late to RSVP for New Student Welcome Day at Compton College! All current and prospective students are invited to attend this exciting on-campus event on **Wednesday, August 20, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Attendees will learn about Compton College and the excellent student resources available to support their success, take a campus tour, participate in workshops, and have the chance to win prizes. [Students may RSVP online](#). For more information, visit the Educational Partnerships Office located in the Student Services Building, Room 145.

Join the Fall 2025 Welcome Week Resources Fair!

Compton College departments and programs are invited to sign up for a table at the Resources Fair, happening ***August 25-28 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Quad***. This is a great opportunity to connect with students as they explore campus resources, discover clubs and activities, enter daily opportunity drawings, and enjoy a treat each day (student ID with Fall 2025 activity sticker required). [Sign up here](#) to reserve your spot and help welcome our students to a new semester!

Golden Returns: A Regional Look at the ROI of California Community and Career Colleges

In previous President/CEO Messages ([March 28, 2025](#), [May 2, 2025](#), [July 31, 2025](#)), I shared that the [College Futures Foundation](#) is focused on advancing economic mobility for underserved learners in California through postsecondary education. As part of this work, College Futures partnered with Michael Itzkowitz of the [HEA Group](#) to release two important reports: [Golden Opportunities](#) and [California College Programs That Pay](#). These reports examine how long it takes low- to moderate-income students to recoup their educational costs, based on institution type and program of study. Furthermore, I shared that the College Futures Foundation and the HEA Group launched the [California Mobility Index \(CMI\)](#), a new ranking system for the state's four-year colleges and universities.

Yesterday, August 6, 2025, the College Future Foundation and HEA released the [Golden Returns: A Regional Look at the ROI of California Community and Career Colleges](#). This new study evaluates ROI across 327 community and certificate-granting colleges in California's 12 economic regions—highlighting where students are seeing strong returns and where there's room for improvement. Of the 87 public and private community and career colleges in the Los Angeles region, Compton College offers a faster ROI for the median learner than 31 of your peers, and slower than 55. Of the 25 public colleges in our region, Compton College's ROI ranks at number 23. Below is our data from the report:

Years to Recoup Net Costs: 13.0

Predominant Award: Associate's degree

Undergraduate Degree-Seeking Students: 2,881

Location: Compton

Median Earnings 10 Years After Enrollment: \$34,181

Earnings Above High School Graduate: \$1,705

Annual Net Price: \$11,103

Total Net Price (Two Years): \$22,206

As you review the report and data for Compton College, I encourage you to pay close attention to the methodology on the number of years it takes students to recoup their educational costs, available [here](#). The current estimate, thirteen years, is far too long for our students, and it's up to us to address this with urgency. The conversation in higher education has shifted. It is no longer just about providing access; it's about ensuring student success, both during their time at Compton College and beyond. The shift is reflected in federal legislation, including the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act \(H.R.1\)](#), which I referenced in the [President/CEO Message - July 10, 2025](#).

The bill introduces new accountability measures, including a provision that would prohibit institutions from issuing loans for undergraduate programs where most graduates earn less than the median income of high school graduates in their state. The Secretary of Education will be responsible for determining these median earnings, and we await further guidance to understand how this provision will impact our programs.

In addition to insights from [Golden Returns: A Regional Look at the ROI of California Community and Career Colleges](#), the new accountability measures included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1), the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) announced this morning the launch of its [Student Achievement Dashboards](#) and [Return on Investment \(ROI\) Metric](#). These new tools reflect the ACCJC's ongoing commitment to transparency and institutional improvement. They allow students, policymakers, and

institutional leaders to explore historical trends in student outcomes across all ACCJC member institutions, providing a clearer picture of educational value and impact.

Looking ahead, this fall we begin work to establish a new [Compton College Institutional-Set Goal for 2035](#), focused on student ROI by the end of the fall 2025 semester. Conversations will focus on improving ROI for our students by working together to enhance student outcomes, ensure students can recoup their educational costs, and engage employers across all academic programs.

More information on ROI will be shared in future [President/CEO Messages](#). If you have questions or creative input related to RPI and Compton College, please send me an email at kcurry@compton.edu.

Fall 2025 Professional Development Day

The fall 2025 semester begins with our [mandatory Professional Development Day](#) on **Thursday, August 21, 2025**. The general session will commence at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. The general session will be held in the gymnasium, where breakfast will also be available at 8:00 a.m. All full-time Compton College faculty and classified professionals are required to participate in the mandatory Professional Development activities on **Thursday, August 21, 2025**.

We are honored to welcome Auryan Ratliff, director of Creative and Emerging Technologies at EdPlus at Arizona State University, as our keynote speaker. Auryan began his journey at ASU in 2015 as a student worker in graphic design and has since become a leading force in integrating emerging technologies into education and workplace culture. His work spans UX design, immersive product development, and now focuses on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Extended Reality (XR). At EdPlus, he leads efforts to build an AI-first culture, enhance productivity through upskilling, and create immersive XR experiences that transform student engagement.

An in-person [New Faculty Orientation](#) will be held on **Tuesday, August 19, 2025**, in the Student Services Building, Room 212, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The virtual [Adjunct Faculty Orientation](#) will also be held on **Tuesday, August 19, 2025**, from 5:00 to 7:10 p.m. via Zoom.

We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, August 21, 2025**, for an inspiring and informative day! Please mark these events in your calendars. The agendas for these events are available [here](#).

Final Thoughts

As we begin the 2025–2026 academic year, our work continues to be guided by the vision and goals outlined in [Compton College 2035, Comprehensive Master Plan](#). My 2025-2026 President/CEO Priorities reflect our shared commitment to student success, institutional sustainability, and community impact.

These priorities are not just aspirational—they are grounded in the ongoing conversations taking place with managers and supervisors across campus. Together, we are focused and making measurable progress toward the goals that will shape the future of Compton College.

Click [here](#) to read my 2025-2026 Priorities.

Sincerely,

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