

**From:** Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 15, 2025 1:47 PM  
**Subject:** President/CEO Message - August 15, 2025

Campus Community,

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to present at the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) event in Chula Vista, CA, on the topic: “Defining Student Success for All Students with a Focus on Equity.” I shared insights on statewide and federal initiatives impacting California Community Colleges, including legislation that strengthens financial assistance for our students, including adult learners and undocumented students. I also highlighted [Compton College’s 2035 Comprehensive Master Plan](#), which centers on a singular goal: to accelerate student completion while advancing equity and success.

As part of the presentation, I discussed expanding the Completion by Design Framework to include Return on Investment (ROI) for students. I explored both perceived and real barriers—as well as opportunities—for students to maximize their ROI after earning a degree or certificate, not just at Compton College, but across all California Community Colleges. Finally, I encouraged them to support the following policy reform changes:

- **AB 540 (criteria):** “Dual Enrollment for Adults” - Allow students with two years of formal education and/or participation in structured dual enrollment (noncredit/credit or high school/college) to qualify. *Why is this important?* Currently, residency benefits exclude many adult learners due to the 3-year eligibility criteria and enrollment timing.
- **Cal Grant C (eligibility):** Automate eligibility via college-provided cohort files, eliminate scoring rubric.
  - Revise the ranking system to prioritize high-demand Career and Technical Education fields common among adult learners.
  - Link Ability-to-Benefit to Cal Grant C.
- **Why is this important:** Noncredit programs/courses are ineligible for funding.
- **Dream Service Incentive Grant (DSIG):** Expand DSIG access among AB 540 students in high-demand fields. *Why is this important:* Funding is tied to Cal Grant C eligibility and limited to nonprofit partners.

We will be working with legislators and the California Student Aid Commission to initiate policy reform conversations, as they are critical to our goal of expanding programs and services for adult learners, particularly those at adult schools within our district. If you have any thoughts or other recommendations regarding policy reforms to support adult learners, please forward those recommendations to Dr. Adrian Trinidad, director of adult and workforce development at [atrinidad1@compton.edu](mailto:atrinidad1@compton.edu).

Today’s President/CEO Message includes links to updated Compton College Zoom backgrounds, information about the August 18 Board of Trustees Meeting, and a final call for recommendations for my fall reading list.

### Fall 2025 Enrollment Update

As of **August 14, 2025**, Compton College has generated 1,391 Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) for the **Fall 2025** term. 9,618 (55%) of the available Fall seats are currently filled.

Fall enrollment trends are holding steady, but have not continued to close the gap compared to last year’s figures. As of now, our FTES stands at 1,391, which is 6.0% lower than this time last year. Headcount is currently 4,028, trailing last year by 2.9%. Enrollment remains a top concern, as always. We’re hopeful that this week will bring a surge in registrations, especially as we work to finalize the processing of dual enrollment students for Fall 2025.

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.

### **Reminder: [Fall 2025 Professional Development Day](#) and other Events scheduled Next Week**

Don't forget to [RSVP](#) for our ***[mandatory Professional Development Day on Thursday, August 21, 2025](#)***. The general session begins at 9:00 a.m. in the gymnasium, with breakfast available at 8:00 a.m. All full-time faculty and classified professionals are required to attend. Please make sure this important event is on your calendar!

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](#).

### **Zoom Backgrounds for Fall 2025**

We've updated our collection of Zoom backgrounds for Compton College employees and students! Choose from a variety of designs that highlight your Compton College pride, including a new background that highlights Fall 2025 start dates and lists free resources available to students, as well as Compton College Coyotes backdrops.

- Browse and download your favorite: [compton.edu/community/community-relations/zoom-backgrounds](http://compton.edu/community/community-relations/zoom-backgrounds)
- Direct link to the Fall 2025 resource background: [I Support Compton College Zoom Background](#)

### **Compton Community College District Board of Trustees Meeting**

On ***Monday, August 18, 2025***, the Board of Trustees will meet in the Board Room in the Administration Building. All regular session meetings are open to the public. The closed session begins at 5:00 p.m., with the open session commencing at 6:00 p.m. The Board Agenda is posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Agendas are posted on the BoardDocs website under the "Meetings" tab at <http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/compton/Board.nsf/Public>

### **Final Thoughts**

***Today, August 15, 2025***, marks my 20th anniversary with the Compton Community College District.

What a journey it has been—personally and professionally. From the revocation of accreditation and the El Camino College partnership to our name change as El Camino College Compton Center, my appointment as CEO, the transition to Provost/CEO, regaining accreditation, and eventually becoming President/CEO. We've seen the return of authority to the Compton CCD Board of Trustees, our separation from El Camino College, the implementation of guided pathways, the challenges of COVID-19, budget constraints, and the opening of several new facilities. And still, I know I'm leaving out so many moments. Through it all, I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. The work we do in support of our students and our community is deeply meaningful. As I reflect on the past two decades, I'm reminded of how far we've come together. We've faced challenges

that tested our resilience, but through perseverance and an unwavering commitment to equity, we've transformed our institution and expanded opportunities for our students.

The success of our students is the greatest testament to our collective efforts. Compton College is more than a place of learning—it's a gateway to brighter futures and lifelong success. I remain deeply committed to advancing equity and ensuring every student has the support they need to thrive.

On a personal note, Compton College will always hold a special place in my heart and my family's story. I was raised here and have spent most of my professional career here. My son graduated from our Child Development Center, and I still remember that day, as he said he wanted to be a college president.

I want to share a personal story that captures the spirit of our college. I've had the pleasure of watching the educational journey of Diamond Hatten, daughter of Felecia Hatten, our Interim Associate Registrar. I remember Diamond visiting my office often when I was Dean of Student Services—usually during late hours—and she continued to drop by even after I became CEO. Her visits were always unannounced, but always welcome. Diamond graduated from Compton College and often brought prospective students with her to enroll. This year, she graduated from Prairie View A&M University with two degrees: a Bachelor's in Social Work and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Since I wasn't available to attend her graduation day, she sent me a video of her walking across the stage. I'm incredibly proud of her and her accomplishments. More than that, Diamond reminds me of the lasting impact our college has on students, employees, and the community.

As we look ahead to the fall semester, I'm finalizing my Fall 2025 reading list and would love to include your recommendations. If there's a book that has inspired you, challenged your thinking, or deepened your understanding of equity, education, or leadership, please email your suggestions to [kcurry@compton.edu](mailto:kcurry@compton.edu) by 4:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, August 20, 2025**. I'll share the final list in my President/CEO Message on August 27, 2025.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's continue to push forward—together. I am honored to serve as the President/Chief Executive Officer of Compton College and Compton Community College District.

Sincerely,

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