

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 4:51 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - September 19, 2025

Campus Community,

The Fall 2025 semester is moving quickly, and I'm pleased to report that enrollment continues to improve. As we support our students in achieving their academic and career goals, it's important to emphasize the value of declaring a major early and using financial aid wisely.

In previous messages ([March 28](#), [May 2](#), [July 10](#), [July 31](#), [August 7](#), and [August 29](#)), I've shared our ongoing focus on [Compton College 2035](#), particularly around Return on Investment (ROI) and Economic Mobility. These priorities are also reflected in federal legislation, including the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1)*.

To improve ROI and Economic Mobility, students must commit to a clear program of study and follow a guided pathway. This approach helps them complete credentials on time, reduce unnecessary costs, and maximize the impact of financial aid. It also positions them for higher earnings after graduation.

In **August 2025**, I received unit count data for Compton College students who received federal financial aid over the past three academic years:

Units Range	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
0-20	1,098	919	674
21-40	732	870	456
41-60	591	997	528
61-80	486	1,052	682
81+ Above	192	710	544

We have too many students accumulating more than 90 units, which can severely impact their federal financial aid eligibility if they transfer to another institution. According to our [Compton College 2035 Institutional Set-Goal](#), the target average for degree completion is 67 units. In 2023–2024, the average was 79 units. Please note, under [34 CFR § 668.34\(a\)\(5\)](#), students [must complete their program](#) within 150% of the published length of the program. For example, for associate degree or transfer programs, federal financial aid is available for up to 90 units. For certificate programs requiring 30 units, federal financial aid may cover up to 45 units.

Additionally, from **2019 through 2025** (excluding the current academic year), we have disbursed \$3,645,579 in student loans. Many of our students rely on federal financial aid and loan programs, so it's critical that we guide them toward timely completion and informed decision-making.

We must stay focused on aligning academic programs with labor market needs, promoting financial literacy, and helping students make choices that lead to meaningful careers.

Today's President/CEO Message features several key updates worth celebrating: the Fall 2025 Community Newsletter has been published as part of our career education campaign; fall enrollment is up, thanks to the collective efforts in recruitment and retention; and the date for our annual Tenure Dinner has been set for **October 9, 2025**. Additional updates and announcements are also included.

Enrollment Update – Fall 2025

As of **September 18, 2025**, Compton College has generated 1,751 FTES for the Fall 2025 term. 12,440 (72%) of the available seats are currently filled.

Fall 2025 enrollment is strong due to our collective efforts, with unique headcount more than 13% ahead of last year at this time. FTES is up nearly 5%, and seat enrollment has increased by almost 9%. There's still time for students to add a "Midterm/ Late Start" class. Please encourage those interested to explore the wide variety of 8-week, full-credit courses beginning in October.

Community Newsletter Now Available

We're excited to share that the Fall 2025 Community News is now live! This edition of the annual newsletter is part of an ongoing career education campaign, which began last spring and continues through October. You can view the newsletter online as a PDF [here](#), or printed copies will be available next week in the Office of Community Relations (A-112). We encourage you to take a few moments to explore the newsletter. It's packed with updates, highlights, and resources that support our shared mission of being an equity-driven and inclusive community resource.

Fall 2025 Professional Development Highlights

Compton College's Fall 2025 Professional Development offerings are aligned with our institutional goals and the [2035 Comprehensive Master Plan](#), with a focus on equity, innovation, and student success. This semester's sessions support Completion by Design and our partnership with Achieving the Dream, Inc.

Key focus areas include:

- Equity-minded teaching and learning
- AI integration across campus
- Frontline employee support and de-escalation strategies
- Success and retention of Black and male students of color
- Community-building across employee groups

Upcoming Sessions:

- **September 19:** De-escalation Tools for Difficult Conversations & Dual Enrollment Series (Session One)
- **October 3:** AI for Every Educator
- **October 10:** Green Zone Training (LGBTQ+)
- **October 17:** Dual Enrollment Summit
- **October 24:** Microsoft Teams Training

View the full calendar: [2025–2026 Compton College Professional Development Calendar](#) (PDF)

Ninth Annual Tenure Dinner

The following Compton College Faculty members will be honored for achieving tenure at the 9th Annual Tenure Dinner:

Nathan Lopez
Dr. Schetema Nealy
Jared Gordon
Angela Burrell
Steven Gonzales

The Annual Tenure Dinner is scheduled for **Thursday, October 9, 2025**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. An invitation was sent to faculty earlier this week, and **Monday, October 6, 2025**, is the last day to [RSVP](#). We will also be honoring faculty members for their years of service to Compton Community College District.

Help Shape Our 2026 Legislative Priorities

All Compton CCD employees are invited to share their insights through our updated 2025–2026 Legislative Priorities Survey. Your feedback will help guide our advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels, including

talking points for meetings with elected officials in early 2026. Please submit your responses by ***Tuesday, November 5, 2025***. Click [here](#) to access the survey.

Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill - Thursday, October 16, 2025

Earthquakes are a normal occurrence in Southern California, but that doesn't mean we should take them lightly or assume we're prepared. That's why Compton College will join millions of people across California and beyond in the annual Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill. This is our chance to practice how we will [protect ourselves](#) and for all of us to become better prepared. The goal is to save lives and prevent natural disasters from becoming catastrophes.

The annual statewide earthquake drill is planned for ***Thursday, October 16, 2025***. When the alert sounds at 10:16 a.m., everyone on campus will be directed to:

- DROP to the ground
- Take COVER by getting under a sturdy desk or table
- HOLD ON until the shaking stops

Those who are inside should remain indoors, while those who are outside should remain outdoors.

For those not on campus, this ShakeOut drill is a great opportunity to practice safety procedures in case of an earthquake at your home and other locations. For more information about the Great California ShakeOut, click [here](#).

The Compton College Police Department will coordinate this annual campuswide event. Questions? Please call extension 2790.

Latinx Heritage Month September 15, 2025, through October 15, 2025

This month, the Associated Student Government honors Latinx Heritage not only through food and history but also through community, creativity, and shared experiences. This month promises to provide an experience of flavors, stories, and traditions that bring people together.

- ***Wednesday, September 24, 2025, A Taste of Latin Culture***
Students will savor elote — grilled corn on the cob with creamy mayo, cotija cheese, chili powder, and lime — and enjoy warm, cinnamon-sugar churros, celebrating the richness of Latinx food traditions.
- ***Monday, September 29, 2025, Images of Latin Culture***
Students will take a visual journey honoring influential Latinx leaders, artists, and changemakers whose legacies continue to inspire future generations.
- ***Monday, October 6, 2025, Picture Frame Decorating Workshop***
Finally, students will have the opportunity to put their creativity into action with a hands-on workshop where they will design a custom photo frame that reflects the personality, journey, and spirit of someone special in their life.

President/CEO Closing the Loop

As a follow-up to the [President/CEO Message - August 29, 2025](#), I want to share that through CDWL on ***September 5, 2025***, Compton CCD has officially submitted our appeal to the IRS regarding our Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) application that was reversed. We will continue to provide updates on the status of the ERTC funds and the ERTC reversal funds in future [President/CEO Messages](#).

Final Thoughts

As we continue to monitor decisions from the U.S. Department of Education, I want to highlight the Compton College Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) program. Funded through a five-year grant from the Department of Education, UBMS will conclude in August 2027. The program offers academic support and enrichment to 9th–12th grade students who are first-generation, low-income, and/or have a disability, with a

focus on preparing them for careers in STEM fields. UBMS is funded at \$309,505 for both the current and upcoming year.

As we approach the end of this grant cycle, it is essential to begin planning and developing a strong proposal to ensure continued funding and support for our students beyond 2027.

UBMS proudly serves students from Compton High School, Dominguez High School, and Centennial High School. Over the past three years, we have supported 163 students, empowering them to strengthen their academic skills, explore STEM pathways, and prepare for college success. We look forward to building on this impact and continuing the program's growth in the next funding cycle.

This week, we also received exciting news: Compton College has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant totaling \$930,833 for the project titled *Breaking Down Barriers to Biotech Careers*. Congratulations to Dr. Katherine Marsh, who initiated the proposal on behalf of Compton CCD, and thank you to everyone who contributed to this successful effort.

Additionally, on ***Monday, September 15, 2025***, we were invited to submit a proposal to the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation to support the Compton Community Health Professions Partnership. This initiative includes Compton College, Compton Unified School District, California State University, Dominguez Hills, and Charles Drew University. The proposal is due ***today, September 19, 2025***. Special thanks to Dr. Adrian Trinidad, Interim Director of Adult Education and Workforce Development, for leading the submission on behalf of the partners. Compton CCD will serve as the fiscal agent for this grant. We are hopeful that we will receive these funds to support our students and community further.

As my schedule permits, I am pleased to speak at and attend campus events that celebrate student and employee success. Please fill out the online [Event Participation Request Form](#) at least four weeks before the event to coordinate speaking requests.

Sincerely,

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