

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 5:31 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - October 24, 2025

Campus Community,

I hope everyone had a great week! Over the past few days, I've been attending the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress in New Orleans alongside the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees and our Student Trustee. I'm excited to be heading back home tomorrow afternoon.

Participating in national conferences like this provides valuable opportunities to learn what's happening across community colleges nationwide and to engage in meaningful conversations with other CEOs and board members about their institutions. Many of my discussions have centered on—yes, you guessed it—Return on Investment (ROI) and Economic Mobility. I know I talk about these topics often, but that's because they are key components of what I call the **“Big Pivot”** in higher education. This shift also includes a stronger focus on student outcomes and the overall value of higher education.

We cannot ignore the growing conversation around the value of higher education and the reasons why students choose Compton College to pursue their educational goals.

Throughout my conversations this week about the **“Big Pivot,”** I've come to realize that Compton College is ahead of many other community colleges in California and across the country. We've already developed [Compton College 2035](#) and the [Compton College 2035 Institutional Set-Goals](#), and we've begun exploring ROI and Economic Mobility in depth. In the coming months, we'll take this work further by developing a framework to address ROI and Economic Mobility, including a new Institutional Set-Goals focused on students' ROI. Please note: this development won't happen overnight. We must first deepen our understanding of the ROI for our academic and support programs. This insight will inform our college goals, annual plans, and program review processes to enhance the ROI and economic mobility of our students.

To support this effort, we are leveraging Regional Strong Workforce funds to engage the [Education Strategy Group](#), which will advise us on the following:

- Reviewing and advising on how we report the average annual tuition cost for Compton College
- Reviewing and advising on our Cost of Attendance reporting to the public
- Providing insights into ROI and Economic Mobility efforts in other states and identifying key areas for further research
- Monitoring the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act \(H.R.1\)](#) as it relates to ROI and Economic Mobility
- Assisting the District in securing funding to develop an ROI and Economic Mobility framework — my goal is to secure external funds by early 2026

It's important that we, as an institution, define what ROI and Economic Mobility mean for our students and community—not let legislation like the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1) dictate that for us. We are embarking on a learning journey together. As national and state-level conversations evolve, Compton College will be well-positioned to turn our framework into immediate, meaningful action that benefits our students and the community we serve. We will continue to keep you updated on ROI and Economic Mobility in future [President-CEO Messages](#).

Today's President/CEO Message includes spring 2026 registration information, the Five-Year Fiscal Management Plan, a reminder to employees to complete the Legislative Priorities survey, and more.

Enrollment Update – October 23, 2025

- 1,749 Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) for the Fall 2025 term. 12,403 (73%) of the available apportionment eligible Fall seats are currently filled.

- 123 FTES for the Winter 2026 term. 1,105 (39%) of the available seats are currently filled.

Our student headcount for Fall 2025 is currently 9% higher than this time last year, and FTES is up 4%, and the number of seats filled has increased by 6%. For Winter 2026, headcount is currently 1% lower than last year, but FTES is up by 18%. Keep in mind, registration just started three days ago. As we saw in the fall, we expect both numbers to level out to single-digit increases over last year in the coming weeks.

Spring 2026 Registration

Priority registration for the Spring 2026 semester begins on **Tuesday, November 4**. The online searchable and PDF versions of the schedule of classes are available online at www.compton.edu/admissions-aid/ClassSchedule. Students should meet with a counselor to discuss their educational plan and be prepared to register based on their appointment date and time.

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 the development of 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.

Compton Community College District Five-Year Fiscal Management Plan

As a follow-up to the September 8, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting, and as noted in the President/CEO Messages from [September 26](#) and [October 17](#), we've updated the [Compton CCD Five-Year Fiscal Management Plan](#) and the [General Fund to Capital Outlay Transfer document](#). Both will be shared at the Planning and Budget Committee meeting on **October 28, 2025**.

The updated Fiscal Management Plan includes the district's proposed compensation increases from recent negotiations with our classified and faculty unions. However, please note that in the **2028–2029 and 2029–2030** fiscal years, the plan does not maintain the required minimum 10% reserve, as outlined in [Board Policy 6200 – Budget Preparation](#).

To address this, I will present a proposed reduction plan at the Planning and Budget Committee's November 2025 meeting. At this time, the plan does not include any employee layoffs.

I will continue to provide updates on both the Five-Year Fiscal Management Plan and the proposed reduction plan in future [President/CEO Messages](#).

2025 Halloween Decoration/Costume Contest

Join us for the Professional Development Department's Halloween Decorating and Costume Contest on **Friday, October 31**. Teams must register to participate, and office visits will begin at 9 a.m. Judging will focus on creativity and team spirit, with a special prize for the winning team. Everyone is encouraged to join in the fun!

To participate, [please sign up by 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 30](#). Only one submission is needed for each department.

Get Ready for Trunk or Treat!

Join the [Associated Student Government \(ASG\)](#) for a spooktacular Trunk or Treat celebration on **Friday, October 31, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in The Village!** ASG is kicking things up a notch with a campus-wide "Thriller" flash mob to kick off the event! We're calling on every department to join in—so dust off your dance moves, channel your inner Michael Jackson, and help us thrill the crowd!

This festive event is open to the entire Compton College community, including students, employees, and families from the Child Development Center. We're inviting all departments, divisions, and student clubs to participate by:

- Donating candy
- Decorating a car trunk or pop-up tent
- Volunteering to help with setup, games, and candy distribution

[Click here to be part of the fun.](#)

New Name, Same Support: Introducing the Coyote Cupboard

As part of our ongoing transition from the Tartar mascot to the Coyote, we're excited to announce that the Tartar Pantry is now officially the Coyote Cupboard! Located in the Student Lounge next to the cafeteria, the Coyote Cupboard continues to provide essential food and hygiene items to support our students. Currently enrolled students may visit twice per week with a valid Compton College Student ID.

The Coyote Cupboard is open Monday/Tuesday/Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00-5:00 p.m., Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Hours are subject to change.

Final Thoughts

Thank you all for everything you do to support student success and the community we serve. I know this President/CEO Message includes a lot of information, and it may feel overwhelming at times. But after more than 14 years in this role, I'm confident that Compton College is well-positioned to tackle both the challenges and opportunities ahead, especially around Return on Investment, Economic Mobility, and long-term fiscal planning.

This week, the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University, released a report titled "[College Business Models for Scaling Purposeful Dual Enrollment](#)," which features Compton College. It's both exciting and affirming to see our dual enrollment efforts recognized nationally. We've made significant progress in scaling these programs and understanding the true costs of our delivery model.

As we continue to lead and innovate, I look forward to working together to continue to build on our momentum.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable weekend with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

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