

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 7:30 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - January 9, 2026

Campus Community,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a restful winter break with your family and friends. The holiday weather was wonderful, and it was a pleasure walking across campus today and seeing the grounds looking so green. Over the past couple of weeks, I have been providing tours to 4-year college and university presidents from institutions within a 50-mile radius of Compton College. Today, I provided a tour to Dr. Tom Stritikus, the president of Occidental College, who was very impressed with the Compton College facilities and the programs and services we provide to our students.

This afternoon, Governor Gavin Newsom released his [proposed 2026-2027 California State Budget](#), which will have significant implications for California Community Colleges, including Compton College. We are still reviewing the information, but below are some of the items included in the Governor's Budget Proposal:

- \$240.6 million for the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF).
- \$87.2 million across the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 budget years to support a combined 1.5% enrollment growth (the intent is that 1% of the growth starts in 2025-2026 and is added on top of previously budgeted growth for the 2025-2026 fiscal year).
- Fully repaying the \$408.4 million deferral enacted in the 2025-2026 State Budget.
- A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.41% (totaling \$30.6 million ongoing) for certain categorical programs, including EOPS, DSPS, and CalWORKs Student Services.
- \$120.7 million one-time to address deferred maintenance needs.
- \$100 million one-time for an additional Student Support Block Grant.
- \$100 million one-time for K-12 dual enrollment initiatives (CDE).
- \$36 million one-time and \$5 million ongoing to fully scale the Common Cloud Data Platform.
- \$35 million one-time and \$2 million ongoing for the Credit for Prior Learning Initiative.
- \$14.3 million one-time to support the California Healthy School Food Pathway Program
- \$13.4 million one-time to support prior year's Related and Supplemental Instruction Apprenticeship reimbursements.

In next week's [President/CEO Message](#), I will provide more information on the proposed 2026-2027 California State Budget.

Today's President/CEO Message includes a reminder about employee travel requests and reimbursements, a request for faculty and classified professionals to encourage Compton College students to apply for scholarships, and more.

Winter and Spring 2026 Enrollment Update

Here's the latest update on Compton College's enrollment progress for the upcoming terms as of *yesterday, January 8, 2026*:

- 329 FTES for the Winter 2026 term. 2,942 (84%) of the available Winter seats are currently filled.
- 1,120 FTES for the Spring 2026 term. 7,993 (48%) of the available Spring seats are currently filled.

Today is the last day to add a Winter class or drop without a permanent mark—please remind students with authorization codes to act now. Winter 2026 enrollment is strong, with headcount up 5% and FTES

up 8% compared to last year; 84% of seats are filled. Spring 2026 is also trending slightly ahead, and with 37 days until classes begin, encourage prospective students to meet with a counselor or advisor and register soon.

Reminder: Employee Travel – Administrative Regulation 7400 – Employee Travel

Employees must comply with Administrative Regulation 7400 – Employee Travel when planning and reporting travel. Authorization requests must be submitted at least **30** days before the travel date, and international travel requires Board of Trustees approval prior to booking. Only activities and expenses defined as authorized in the regulation are eligible for reimbursement. After returning, Travel and Reimbursement Forms must be submitted within 10 business days. For details on what qualifies as authorized activities and reimbursable expenses, review the Board-approved AR 7400.

Scholarship Applications Now Open for 2026–2027

Please encourage every student to apply for Compton College scholarships. These are gift funds that don't need to be repaid, and one application through the MyCompton portal covers all available awards. Financial Aid hosts weekly open labs in the Financial Aid Lab (SSB, Room 122) to assist students with the application process. The application requires a 300-word personal statement written by the student. Help is available at the Reading & Writing Center (L-SSC, 2nd Floor) for drafting and editing. A brief online questionnaire completed by a Compton College faculty member or classified professional is also required. Please let students know you're available to provide recommendations, share your office hours, and make the connection so this free money doesn't go to waste. A complete list of scholarships is available online, [here](#).

Please sign up today! Receive emergency notifications via cell phone or email.

Sign up to receive emergency notifications at Compton College Campus Police via Nixle, a free service that informs you of campus and community safety alerts. Through this system, you will receive alerts/notifications via cell phone, text message, and/or email. To register, go to www.compton.edu/campus-safety/nixle.

Submit Your Events to the Online Calendar

As we strive to enhance student engagement, we must maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date online calendar. Please remember to submit all upcoming events, including workshops, training sessions, information sessions, and other events, to the online calendar. A well-maintained calendar is key to ensuring our students are informed and able to participate in the opportunities we offer. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to student success.

Compton Community College District Board of Trustees Meeting

On **Monday, January 12, 2026**, 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

Earlier this week, I shared the sad news of the passing of Jeniqua Janis, program technician in the CalWORKs Department. Last week, I was informed that Keith Porter, a former Compton Community College student, was killed by an off-duty Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent in Northridge, California. And today, I learned of the passing of our assistant football coach, Steve Ruedaflores. Experiencing so many losses in such a short time reminds us how quickly life can change and how important it is to value the moments we share.

In times like these, I find myself reflecting not only on the individuals we have lost but also on how we show up for each other. Our work is demanding, and the pressure we face can sometimes lead to conflict. Even so, we have a responsibility to approach those moments with civility and respect. Tomorrow is not promised, and as a campus community, we are united by a shared purpose: supporting our students and this community.

As I think about Jeniqua, I wish I had one more opportunity to thank her for her dedication to our CalWORKs students, especially during the federal shutdown when she went above and beyond to ensure they received services. I remember Keith stopping by my office to talk and share updates, and I regret not reaching out more often in recent years. I also think of Steve, who spent every day recruiting students for our football program. I recall seeing him at a game and thanking him for his commitment to our students, and I am grateful for his unwavering support.

We all carry memories of colleagues and students from Compton College, Compton Community College District, and the El Camino College Compton Center who are no longer with us. I will continue to cherish those memories and the lasting impact these individuals have had on our institution and our community.

Please take care of yourselves and enjoy the weekend with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

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