

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 5:57 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - May 1, 2026

Campus Community,

I will begin this President/CEO Message, talking about, *yes*, you guessed it, Return on Investment and Economic Mobility. In previous President/CEO Messages I have shared a lot of information and reports as it relates to the conversations on Return of Investment and Economic Mobility ([March 28](#), [May 2](#), [July 10](#), [July 31](#), [August 7](#), [August 29](#), [September 19](#), [September 26](#), [October 24](#), [November 7](#), [November 14](#), [November 21](#), [January 16](#), [January 23](#), and [February 27](#)).

Today, I wanted to share [The Golden Ticket: How Raising Postsecondary Attainment Rates to 70 Percent for All Demographic Groups Would Unlock Decades of Prosperity in California](#), which was produced by the [Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce](#) with funding from the [College Futures Foundation](#). Over the last couple of weeks, I have been involved in various conversations on Return on Investment and Economic Mobility, and, more importantly, how institutions are moving to address these in the coming weeks and within their college operations.

I also wanted to share a new report that closely aligns with conversations around Return on Investment and Economic Mobility: [The New Learning Contract: California's Path to Direct Assessment Competency-Based Education](#). The report challenges colleges to rethink learning around demonstrated skills and competencies rather than seat time, a shift that has real implications for institutions like Compton College that serve a high number of working adults, parents, and career-focused students. As employers increasingly prioritize skills over degrees, competency-based education offers a promising framework to recognize better what our students already know, shorten time to completion, and strengthen the connection between education and good-paying jobs. I'm paying close attention to this competency-based education and, more importantly, how you operationalize it within the [Compton College Completion By Design](#) and our [Guided Pathway Divisions](#).

Today's President/CEO Message includes a Spring 2026 enrollment update; key event reminders (Commencement, the President/CEO Student Forum, the Campuswide Forum, and Preview Day); a President/CEO Closing the Loop update; and final reminders for the weeks ahead.

April 30, 2026, Compton College Enrollment Update

- Spring 2026: 1,648 FTES generated; 11,983 seats filled (66%)
- Summer 2026: 278 FTES generated; 2,285 seats filled (38%)

As of the Second 8-Week census, this is the final snapshot for Spring 2026, with FTES running 4.7% higher and headcount 12% higher than this time last year, and nearly all sections now locked in final census figures. Looking ahead, Fall 2026 priority registration is currently underway, with the first enrollment report scheduled for release next week. Meanwhile, Summer 2026 enrollment continues to show steady growth, surpassing last year's comparable week totals, with 278 FTES generated to date. Of the 6,040 seats offered, 2,285 are already filled, and 19 of the 177 sections have reached capacity and begun waitlists. With classes filling quickly, students are encouraged to connect with a counselor, complete their Student Educational Plan, and register as soon as possible to secure seats in their preferred courses.

2026–2027 Compton College Scheduling and Enrollment Strategy

For 2026-2027, Compton College is projecting an increase in Course Reference Number offerings to ensure we meet our enrollment and FTES targets. The Compton College Course Reference Number count is 1,491, and the increase in course sections will be allocated to three main priorities aligned with the Student-Centered Funding Formulation projections. The priorities are: 1) increase CTE dual enrollment pathways, 2) establish adult dual enrollment under [Senate Bill 554, Public Schools: Adult School Students - Advanced Scholastic and Vocational](#)

[Training Program](#), and 3) offer more short-term (7-week or 8-week) classes in fall and spring instead of full-term classes. I am requesting data from Institutional Effectiveness on the success and retention of students who enroll in short-term classes. With the national movement related to student completion and faster educational goal attainment, many community colleges are exploring the offering of more short-term courses.

Compton College Preview Day – Wednesday, May 6, 2026

This year's Preview Day will be held on *Wednesday, May 6, 2026*, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Educational Partnerships has already set the agenda for the day—no action is needed other than being aware that we anticipate an increase in student and visitor traffic, particularly in the Quad and Student Services area. Preview Day is one of several outreach and enrollment initiatives designed to connect prospective students to Compton College.

The day will include campus tours, educational plan support, a UC Early Transfer prep workshop, financial aid assistance, and free lunch for the first 200 students who RSVP. This event is an opportunity to introduce prospective students to Compton College programs, services, and opportunities.

2026 Compton College Commencement

The first of four Grad Info Sessions is scheduled for *Thursday, May 21, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom* ([Meeting ID: 844 9783 4021](#)). All 2026 Graduates are invited to join the virtual information sessions to ask questions about the *June 12, 2026*, Commencement Ceremony, which will be held in the LBS Financial Credit Union Pyramid at 6:00 p.m. at CSU Long Beach. Grads were reminded to stop by the [Bookstore](#) and purchase their caps and gowns, and to check the [Commencement Information webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information.

President/CEO Student Forum

Please invite students to the upcoming in-person President/CEO Student Forum on *Wednesday, May 13, 2026*, at 2:30 p.m. in SSB-112. This is not a speech, it's a student Q&A. I'm coming to listen and learn what is working, what is getting in the way, and how Compton College can better support students. Students are welcome to ask about anything: classes, financial aid, basic needs, campus services, construction projects, and what they need to stay on track and graduate.

Compton College Campuswide Forum

I am hosting a virtual Campuswide Forum on *Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom*. These forums work best when we have strong participation across the campus community—this is our opportunity to ask questions, stay informed, and engage in the work that shapes student success. We will cover key updates and discussion topics, including the Student-Centered Funding Formula, the Five-Year Fiscal Management Plan, Accreditation, Commencement, the 2026–2027 Compton Community, Return on Investment and Economic Mobility, AI, and the Compton College 2035 Comprehensive Master Plan. I often share “out-of-the-box” items and emerging ideas at these forums, and I hope you'll join the conversation. To participate, please use this link to register in advance: [Compton College Campuswide Forum Online Registration](#).

Federal Accreditation Updates

On *April 13 -17, 2026*, the Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization (AIM) negotiating rulemaking committee held its first of two weeklong sessions, and after that meeting, released the [second version of the accreditation regulations](#) for negotiated rulemaking. The next meeting for the committee will be during the week of *May 18–22, 2026*. If there is consensus on the rules after the May meeting, the U.S. Department of Education will have to release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that tracks the consensus document. If not, the Department of Education may write a proposed rule of its choosing. In the proposed regulations, the Department of Education is pushing accrediting agencies to focus on student completion, earnings, affordability, and workforce value. In addition, the regulations make it easier to switch accreditors and include various changes related to civil rights and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion compliance. The next couple of weeks will be very interesting as many institutions, including Compton College, and accrediting agencies navigate these proposed regulatory changes.

President/CEO Closing the Loop

This afternoon, I informed Dr. Sean Moore, President, Academic Senate, that Human Resources will be announcing a full-time tenure-track Commercial Music faculty position following the recent retirement of Harvey Estrada, effective **June 30, 2026**. This decision complies with the Requesting a Probationary Position in the [Compton Community College District Employees Policy and Procedures Handbook](#) on page 53.

Final Thoughts

As we move into the final stretch of the semester, I want to acknowledge that many of us are balancing a great deal—celebrations and recognitions, closing out budgets, year-end reports, and deadlines, and eventually finals. Thank you for staying focused on what matters most: serving students. Let's continue to be effective and responsive, communicate early and often, and lean on one another when challenges arise. Slow and steady, we will get through these next few weeks together.

Also, a reminder that Classified Professional Development Week is coming up **May 18–21, 2026**, with the mandatory in-person Classified Professional Development Day scheduled for **Friday, May 22, 2026**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We must encourage and support our classified professionals' participation in the Classified Professional Development Week and Professional Development Day activities.

In closing, please enjoy your weekend with family and friends.

Sincerely,

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

P.S. If you made it to the end of this President/CEO Message (May 1, 2026), Dr. Cesar Jimenez asked me to share that I met with him, the President of Bakersfield College, and the Kern Community College District Chancellor when I visited Bakersfield College this week. I toured their campus, saw their new facilities, and discussed various topics, including Student Housing, data and reporting, Return on Investment, and Economic Mobility.