

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 6:07 PM
Subject: President/CEO Message - May 8, 2026

Campus Community,

Happy Friday, and I hope everyone had a good week. This week, I attended the 19th Annual EOPS/CARE/NEXTUP Spring Banquet and the CalWORKs End-of-Year Banquet. It was wonderful to join in celebrating our students, and I look forward to many more year-end events with you and our students in the weeks ahead.

At this afternoon's CalWORKs End of Year Banquet, faculty, staff, and students honored the memory of Jeniqua Janis, program technician in the CalWORKs Department, who passed away in December. As I listened to Jeniqua's parents speak about their daughter, the CalWORKs program, Dr. Michelle Garcia, program director, and, most importantly, the students, I was reminded how deeply our work at Compton College matters and how much it is appreciated by the students we serve.

Please take a look at the [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming workshops, celebrations, deadlines, and events such as the Rising Scholars End of Year event scheduled for next week.

Today's President/CEO Message includes Compton College Basic Needs Services: Student Expectations for Completion; a Commencement keynote announcement and reminders about Grad Info Sessions and Grad Fest; support for students through EOPS/CARE, CalWORKs, and CalFresh; a reminder about the President/CEO Student Forum; a spring athletics update; and a student housing naming and branding survey with next steps.

May 7, 2026, Compton College Enrollment Update

- Summer 2026: 333 FTES generated; 2,730 seats filled (45%)
- Fall 2026: 216 FTES generated, 1,298 seats filled (7%)

Thirty of 179 summer sections are already full and have started waitlists, showing strong early demand. Fall registration is currently behind where it was at this time last year, but we expect enrollment to stabilize by the end of the month. Students are encouraged to register as soon as possible to secure seats in their preferred classes.

Summer & Fall 2026 Class Schedule Postcard

Our Summer/Fall 2026 postcard ([view here](#)) will be mailed to all Compton CCD residences by the end of this month. Please help us spread the word: new and continuing students should register as soon as possible, and the Welcome Center is a great place to start for enrollment support and next steps.

Commencement Keynote Speaker Confirmed

[Dr. Loren Blanchard, President of CSU Long Beach](#), has confirmed he will serve as the keynote speaker for Compton College's Commencement Ceremony on **Friday, June 12, 2026**. We are also excited to welcome him as CSULB's new president, who began his tenure on **May 1, 2026**.

While Admissions & Records continues verifying the Spring 2026 graduate list, students should review the [Commencement webpage](#) for the latest details, including dates for upcoming Grad Info Sessions and Grad Fest (dates/times).

Support for Students: EOPS/CARE, CalWORKs & CalFresh Information Sessions

EOPS/CARE, CalWORKs, and CalFresh are here to help eligible students stay on track by connecting them to counseling and support services, basic-needs resources, and assistance with navigating benefits. Students who think they may qualify are encouraged to attend an upcoming info session to learn what is available and how to

get started. Students can view upcoming dates and times on the online calendar:

<https://www.compton.edu/events/index.aspx>.

Reminder: President/CEO Student Forum

This is a friendly reminder to invite students to the in-person President/CEO Student Forum next week, on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026**, at 2:30 p.m., in the Student Services Building, Room 112. I will be there to listen and learn what is working, what is getting in the way, and how Compton College can better support students. Please make a quick announcement in class and share this with the students you work with this week.

Compton College Spring Athletics Update

- Visit the [Compton College Athletics website](#) for the latest stories, 2025-2026 schedules, results, and team rosters.
- Men's Baseball – Head Coach Shannon Williams and the squad of forty-five athletes have completed the 2026 season. Their overall record was 7-33 (South Coast Conference 4-20). Sophomore outfielder [Amaree Burnett](#) made the 2026 All-South Coast Conference (SCC) baseball team. Other Compton standouts this season included sophomore first baseman [Julian Arellano](#) and sophomore utility player [Corey Guy](#). Among first-year students, second baseman [Jaidon Carter](#), third baseman [Devin Gomez](#), and right-hander [Gabriel Cancino](#) were 2026 standouts. [VIDEO LINK](#) – Sophomore Day story by former CC student Hector Hernandez.
- Women's Softball – Head Coach Victoria Castillo and sixteen of our student-athletes have finished the 2026 season. Their overall record was 8-31 (SCC Conference 3-18). Outfielder [Destiny Munguia](#) was the team's leading overall hitter, while Venezia Uribe was the squad's top hitter in SCC play. Uribe, Munguia, Angela Banderas, and Johanna Vidales all finished two-year playing careers under Head Coach Castillo.
- Men's and Women's Track and Field – The Athletics Department is in the process of hiring a new head coach, with plans to field a team in 2026-2027.

Share Your Feedback: Student Housing Naming and Branding Survey

In compliance with [Board Policy 3320](#) and [Administrative Regulation 3320](#) – Criteria for Naming Buildings and Other Facilities, Compton College is gathering feedback from employees and students to help inform the name and branding direction for the new student housing community opening in Fall 2027. The project team seeks input on themes, name ideas, and visual branding concepts that reflect Compton College's values, student experience, culture, and sense of community. This survey will remain open until **Friday, June 5, 2026**. Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Next steps: The Coyote Support Network will review the submissions and narrow the recommendations to five. Final voting will take place from **August 24, 2026**, through **September 18, 2026**. After voting closes, the Coyote Support Network will review the results and make a formal recommendation, including the ranking of its top choices 1 through 3, to the Facilities Committee, and then follow the process outlined in [Administrative Regulation 3320](#) – Criteria for Naming Buildings and Other Facilities. The goal is to place the recommended name on the agenda for the **October 12, 2026**, Compton CCD Board of Trustees Meeting.

President/CEO Closing the Loop

1. As a follow-up to my [President/CEO Message - March 6, 2026](#), I want to share the approved recommendation and eligibility criteria for second-year access to Compton College basic needs supports. As we expand these services and ensure they remain available for students who need them most, the College will implement clear expectations for continued support beyond a student's first year. This change will take effect in Fall 2027, pending legal counsel review and input from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Once their review and input are received, we will establish communication timelines and reminders for students throughout the 2026-2027 academic year. For more details, please refer to the ["Basic Needs Services: Student Expectations for Completion"](#) document.

Please note that this decision aligns with Compton College 2035. Once implemented in the 2029-2030 year, the College will review the implementation and impact of the student expectations and make any needed adjustments to the eligibility criteria for 2031-2032.

Thank you to Lydell Willis, director of basic needs and success, for leading this effort and for gathering input from the various stakeholders, including the Coyote Support Network, on the “[Basic Needs Services: Student Expectations for Completion](#)” document. More information on the Basic Needs Services: Student Expectations for Completion will be included in future [President/CEO Messages](#).

2. This week, I sent a request to Ronnie Simp, Director of Student Housing at the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, to increase the number of beds in the Compton College Student Housing Complex from 250 to 280 and to seek approval of our proposed rental rates. Increasing the number of beds will allow us to serve more students and help lower the cost of on-campus housing. The request also includes proposed rental rates for three years so that students who apply for housing will know the cost in advance and have those rates locked in. As we continue to review the total cost of ownership, rental rates may be adjusted. Any changes will be communicated to the Chancellor’s Office and the California Department of Finance. [Click here to read the full request](#). Additional updates on Compton College Student Housing will be shared in future [President/CEO Messages](#).

Final Thoughts

As a reminder from the [President/CEO Message – April 10, 2026](#), employees will have an opportunity for a brief “quick look” at one of the units in our student housing complex. In partnership with Gafcon, our student housing project manager, we will offer employee-only visits on **June 4, 2026**, and **June 5, 2026**, during two one-hour blocks: **9:00 a.m.** and **1:00 p.m.** Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please note: this is not a full tour and is limited to employees only. For safety reasons, participants must wear closed-toe, flat shoes. Hard hats and other required safety equipment will be provided on-site.

I also wanted to share that yesterday, I accepted the retirement notice from Reuben James III, director of purchasing and auxiliary services, effective **December 31, 2026**. There is a great deal I could say about Reuben. For more than 20 years, he has been by my side through both the good times and the challenging ones. Many people may not know the full scope of his responsibilities, but when something needs to get done or someone needs an answer, ***Reuben is often the person we call.***

I am saddened by his decision to retire, not because of the work itself, but because it will be hard to imagine not calling someone at 5:00 a.m. when something is on my mind and knowing he will answer. He has always been dependable and committed. I do not know anyone more loyal to Compton College and the community we serve than Reuben James III. I am forever grateful for the time we have worked together, and I know that many of our accomplishments, both institutional and personal, would not have been possible without him. Reuben, job well done. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you, and I am deeply grateful for all you have done for Compton College.

Thank you, everyone, for all you do for Compton College and Compton CCD. I hope you enjoy your weekend with family and friends. Happy Mother’s Day to all who are celebrating.

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