

**From:** Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>

**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2026 3:36 PM

## President/CEO Message - June 12, 2026

Campus Community,

This evening, we will come together to celebrate our graduates and the important milestone they have reached in earning an associate degree or certificate. Commencement is one of the most meaningful moments of the academic year, as we recognize the hard work, persistence, and accomplishments of our students alongside their families, friends, and the entire Compton College community.

As we continue advancing [Compton College 2035](#) and our commitment to accelerating student completion while promoting equity and success, this ceremony reminds us why our collective work matters. I am especially proud to participate in my 20th Commencement Ceremony with this institution and look forward to celebrating with you at the LBS Financial Credit Union Pyramid at California State University, Long Beach.

I also want to thank our faculty, Classified Professionals, managers/supervisors, and all employees who have supported our students throughout the year. Your dedication helps make moments like Commencement possible, and your presence at the ceremony reflects our shared commitment to student success.

On a personal note, I have been reflecting on the first Commencement Ceremony I attended at Compton Community College, held on **June 8, 2006**. I remember looking out at the audience and our students, wondering what would happen next for this institution. Fast forward 20 years, and we are here as Compton College, still serving students and this community. We have lost many people along the way, but I know they would be proud of our accomplishments, most importantly, that the institution's name remains. The gates have stayed open for our students and community.

This week's President/CEO Message includes the latest summer enrollment update, recognition of the 2026–2027 #Real114 Leadership Academy cohort, an update on the 2026–2027 Tentative Budget, a reminder to lead with respect and care, information about EASE Employee Assistance Services, and updates on the Collaborative Governance Handbook.

### **June 10, 2026 Compton College Summer Enrollment Update**

- **Summer 2026:** 569 FTES, and 4,701 (71%) of the available seats are currently filled.
- **Fall 2026:** 663 FTES, and 4,445 (25%) of the available seats are currently filled.

### **#Real114 Leadership Academy 2026–2027 Cohort**

Please join me in congratulating the members of Compton College's 2026–2027 #Real114 Leadership Academy cohort. This talented group of classified professionals has been selected to participate in a year-long leadership development experience focused on personal growth, professional development, and strengthening leadership capacity across the College.

#### **Cohort Members:**

- Kenyatta Joseph, Apprenticeship & Workforce Program Specialist
- Rahni Baughman, Program Manager
- Alicia Zambrano, Career Pathways Coordinator
- Mario Hernandez, Outreach College Promise Coordinator
- Chantal Gurrola, Student Services Advisor
- Monica Dixon, Human Resources Representative
- Annette Simmons, Mailroom Clerk

We look forward to supporting this cohort throughout the year and celebrating their growth and accomplishments.

### **2026-2027 Compton Community College District Tentative Budget Update**

The Compton Community College District continues to move through the 2026–2027 budget development process. In accordance with [Administrative Regulation 6200 – Budget Preparation](#), the tentative budget shall be presented to the Board of Trustees no later than *July 1*.

The state budget process began with Governor Gavin Newsom’s proposed 2026–2027 fiscal year budget, released on *January 10, 2026*. The Board of Trustees reviewed the 2026–2027 Compton CCD Tentative Budget Assumptions at its *April 20, 2026*, meeting. On *May 14, 2026*, Governor Newsom released the [May Revision](#), which updated the state’s revenue and expenditure assumptions and included additional information for California Community Colleges.

The [2026–2027 Compton CCD Tentative Budget](#) has been updated to reflect the Governor’s May Revision. The tentative budget was presented to the Consultative Council on *June 8, 2026*, and to the Planning and Budget Committee on *June 9, 2026*. On *Monday, June 15, 2026*, the Board of Trustees will consider adoption of the Compton CCD Tentative Budget. For more information, please refer to the [June 15, 2026, Board of Trustees agenda](#).

### **A Reminder to Lead with Respect and Care**

As we close out the spring semester, I recognize that many deadlines, projects, and responsibilities are competing for our attention. At the same time, we do not always know what others may be experiencing outside of work, including personal, family, or unforeseen circumstances. While stress can affect all of us, frustration or anger should never be directed at coworkers, students, or others in our campus community. It is okay to acknowledge when we need help, support, or space. What matters is that we continue to treat one another with dignity and respect, even during difficult moments. Employees are encouraged to review the Civility and Mutual Respect policy at [www.compton.edu/about/civility-mutual-respect](http://www.compton.edu/about/civility-mutual-respect).

### **EASE Employee Assistance Services**

As a reminder, Compton College employees have access to the Employee Assistance Service for Education (EASE), a free and confidential resource that provides counseling and support services. Employees may call the EASE 24/7 access line at 1-800-882-1341 for assistance. More information is available at [www.lacoe.edu/services/staff-support/ease](http://www.lacoe.edu/services/staff-support/ease). We encourage employees to take advantage of this service whenever they may need additional support for personal, family, or work-related concerns. EASE is one more way we can care for ourselves and each other as part of the Compton College community.

### **President/CEO Closing the Loop**

The [draft Collaborative Governance Handbook](#) and [Collaborative Governance workgroup Recommendations](#) have been shared with campus groups and are moving through the governance review process. Current discussions focus on ensuring that all constituent groups have the opportunity to review and provide feedback, and on aligning the sequencing of reviews across the [Academic Senate](#) and [Consultative Council](#). Updates will continue as the document progresses toward finalization.

### **Final Thoughts**

Next week, I will participate in *Together We Can Meet the Moment: A Cross-Sector Leadership Conversation on the Future of College Attainment in Southern California*, a [Southern California College Attainment Network \(SoCal CAN\)](#) discussion focused on increasing college attainment across Los Angeles County. At Compton College, we know affordability is central to that conversation. Return on investment is not just about what students earn after college — it is also about what it costs them to get there, how quickly they complete, and whether they leave with clear pathways to transfer, degrees, and living-wage careers. That is why FAFSA and California Dream Act Application completion must remain a priority for all college-bound students. Financial

aid is one of the most effective tools we have to reduce costs, support persistence, and help more students achieve their educational and career goals.

In closing, this has been a wonderful year, and I am looking forward to the 2026-2027 academic year. I hope everyone enjoys the commencement ceremony, especially since it is inside with central air. I look forward to celebrating with you our students and their accomplishments.

It is truly an honor to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Compton College and the Compton Community College District.

Sincerely,

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