

President/CEO Message - August 21, 2026

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 4:36 PM

Campus Community,

Welcome Back, Compton College!

I appreciate everyone who participated in yesterday's Fall 2026 Professional Development Day. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and prepare for the year ahead. Special thanks to our guest speaker, Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, as well as our presenters and Compton College employees who shared their time and expertise.

If you missed the presentations or would like to revisit them, you may view my Fall 2026 Professional Development Day presentation and Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard's, President/CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, presentation online:

- [Fall 2026 Professional Development Day – President/CEO presentation](#)
- [Dr. Pollard's "Stories of Success: Charting the Next Chapter" presentation](#)

The Fall 2026 semester begins **tomorrow, August 22, 2026**, and we are excited to welcome our students back to campus. I know it has been a hot week, and I appreciate the extra effort everyone is making to help students prepare for the start of classes.

To support last-minute enrollment needs, Student Services will be open **tomorrow, August 22, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to noon**. Extended Student Services hours continue through **Friday, September 4, 2026**, with offices open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Information tables will also be available across campus next week to help students find their classes, ask questions, and connect with the many resources available to them. If you have not already signed up to assist, we would love to have you join us for an hour or two. Please contact Dr. Tim Harrison, Dean of Athletics and Student Support Services, at tharrison1@compton.edu or ext. 2800 to get involved.

Please remember to wear your Compton College ID, nametag, or "Ask Me" button so students can easily identify employees who can assist them. If you do not have an "Ask Me" button, you can pick one up from the Student Development Office, located in R-61.

Let's make this semester a great one for our students and the community we serve.

This week's message includes the 2026–2027 Professional Development Calendar, Board-approved policies and administrative regulations, and information about the September 14 Board of Trustees Meeting and Public Budget Hearing.

Compton College Fall 2026 Enrollment Update

As of **August 20, 2026**, Compton College has generated 1,493 full-time equivalent students (FTES) for fall 2026 (2% less than this time last year). Currently, 10,373 seats are filled, representing 59% of available seats. Fall headcount is 4,968 students, up 7% from the same time last year.

Fall classes start tomorrow, and seats are still available. Encourage students to enroll full-time or consider our eight-week “Late Start” courses beginning in October. We must continue to encourage students to check the class schedules on the Compton College website, meet with a counselor, and register early to ensure a smooth start to the semester. ***Every Student Enrollment Counts!***

Reminder: Students adding a class on or after their first day need an authorization code from the instructor. Waitlisted students who receive a seat notification should act immediately to secure their spot.

Compton College 2035 Institutional Set-Goals

In prior messages ([May 30, 2025](#); [October 17, 2025](#); [December 12, 2025](#); [April 3, 2026](#)), I shared updates on the [Compton College 2035 Institutional Set-Goals Dashboard](#). The [Compton College 2035 Institutional Set Goals](#) will continue to help align program plans, program reviews, and budget allocation with our singular goal: ***accelerating student completion with an emphasis on equity and success.***

As mentioned yesterday, during fall 2026 Professional Development Day, we have made tremendous strides in the following areas,

- Successful Enrollments increased from 36% in 2024-2025 to 40% in 2025-2026.
- The Number of Dual Enrollment students increased from 2,319 in 2023-2024 to 3,104 in 2025-2026.
- Course Success Rate has increased from 68% in 2023-2024 to 75% in 2025-2026.
- Distance Education Course Success Rate has increased from 58% in 2023-2024 to 68% in 2025-2026.
- Completion of Transfer Level Math in the First Year increased from 11% in 2023-2024 to 16% in 2025-2026.
- Average Units Completed per Academic Year – Part-Time Students increased from 7.6 units in 2023-2024 to 8.4 in 2025-2026.
- Average Units Acquired Per Associate Degree is down from 79 in 2023-2024 to 77 in 2025-2026. This goal is important because we aim to reduce the number of units acquired to 67 by 2035.
- Certificates Awarded increased from 535 in 2023-2024 to 584 in 2024-2025
- Number of Transfers increased from 214 in 2023-2024 to 274 in 2025-2026.

Please note that we still have areas to improve, but I am proud of the progress and appreciate everyone for all we do to support student success. We anticipate updates throughout the fall 2026 semester to the [Compton College 2035 Institutional Set-Goals Dashboard](#) as we continue to receive data for the 2025-2026 year.

Return on Investment and Economic Mobility

In previous President/CEO Messages, I have shared a lot of information and reports related to our ongoing conversations on Return on 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](#), [February 27](#), [May 1](#), [July 9](#), [August 6](#)).

First, I hope everyone enjoyed the presentation during the fall 2026 Professional Development Day about the Compton College 2035 Economic Value Model, which we will move forward with implementing. This model will set Compton College apart from many other institutions, as we can frame our conversations around our academic programs and student completion.

In the [President/CEO Message – August 6, 2026](#). I made the following statement regarding the Student Tuition and Transparency System and Earnings Accountability requirements:

Let me be clear about what this means. As soon as July 1, 2028, if a Compton College program fails to demonstrate return on investment for its graduates in two out of three consecutive award years, that program could lose eligibility to participate in the federal Direct Loan Program. After three years of consistently failing the earnings premium measure, the U.S. Department of Education could also terminate Title IV eligibility, including Pell Grant eligibility, for the institution's low-earning outcome programs.

As a follow-up to the [August 6](#) message and to my comments at the Fall 2026 Professional Development Day, included in the Fact Sheet: Trump Administration Implements [Accountability Provisions of the Working Families Tax Cuts Act](#), from **June 29, 2026**, there is a one-year Delay for Programs Associated with Predominantly Tipped Occupations, which for us includes our Cosmetology Program. Therefore, their date is **July 1, 2029**. As I mentioned yesterday, I have been nervous and monitoring the potential sanctions associated with the Student Tuition and Transparency System and Earnings Accountability requirements, because many of our students rely on the federal Direct Loan Program and Pell Grants. If students cannot receive federal aid through these programs, many students and prospective students will not enroll at our campus, which will impact our funding. Because the Student Tuition and Transparency System and Earnings Accountability requirements, along with changes to the Federal Direct Loan Program, will affect funding, I anticipate some colleges and universities in the United States will close. ***So, yes, I have a sense of urgency, and yes, this must be one of our priorities for Compton College, but Compton College's 2035 Economic Value Model is a great start for our institution.***

More information on the Return on Investment and Economic Mobility and the Compton College 2035 Economic Value Model will be included in future [President/CEO Messages](#).

2026-2027 Compton College Professional Development Calendar

This year's calendar offers a wide range of learning opportunities designed to support your growth—whether you are a faculty member, Classified Professional, or a manager/supervisor. Sessions will be available in virtual, hybrid, and in-person formats to fit your schedule and preferences. View the [2026-2027 Compton College Professional Development Calendar](#).

Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

At the **August 17, 2026**, Compton Community College District Board of Trustees meeting, the following Board Policies (BP) were approved, and the Administrative Regulations (AR) listed below were issued.

- [Board Policy 2345](#) – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- [Board Policy 3340](#) – Energy and Sustainability
- [Board Policy 5130](#) – Financial Aid
- [Board Policy 5700](#) - Athletics
- [Board Policy 6307](#) – Debt Issuance and Management
- [Administrative Regulation 5130](#) – Financial Aid
- [Administrative Regulation 6307](#) – Debt Issuance and Management

September 14, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting and Public Budget Hearing

The public is invited to the upcoming Compton Community College District Board Meeting and Public Budget Hearing on **Monday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Board Room in the Administration Building. The Board Agenda will be posted 72 hours before the meeting. Agendas are posted on the BoardDocs website under the "Meetings" tab on the [Board of Trustees Meetings webpage](#).

The Budget Hearing will allow the public to comment on the proposed 2026-2027 Compton Community College District Final Budget.

President/CEO Closing the Loop

1. On **August 3, 2026**, U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon [issued a national call to action](#) to university presidents and governing boards, urging them to reaffirm higher education's foundational commitments to academic excellence, pathbreaking research, and national service. At first glance, the letter appeared to focus primarily on universities rather than community colleges. In a communication we received from Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President/CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, the Department of Education stated that it welcomes community colleges' participation in the Call to Action but does not expect every institution to address every element in the same way research universities might. I want to inform the campus community that, at this time, I will not be submitting a response to the [National Call to Action Letter](#), as institutional leaders were asked to address their questions and detail the adopted and planned reforms. Compton College and Compton Community College District priorities are outlined in [Compton College 2035](#) and reflected in the [Compton College 2035 Institutional Set Goals](#). Furthermore, the [National Call to Action Letter](#) does not require action.
2. My responses to the Academic Senate Summary of Decisions are available for the **May 21, 2026** and **June 4, 2026** meetings. In the [President/CEO Response to Academic Senate – Summary of Decisions made at the May 21, 2026 meeting](#), the Compton College Academic Senate Resolution – Enforcement of Sanctuary Campus Protections and Defense of Human Rights was not accepted based on legal counsel's advice. Compton College and the Compton Community College District continue to uphold policies that reflect our values of equity, dignity, and respect. The [President/CEO Response to Academic Senate – Summary of Decisions made at the June 4, 2026 meeting](#) is also available.

Final Thoughts

I also want to recognize Wednesday's New Student Welcome Day, where approximately sixty new students came to campus to complete the steps to enrollment. Thank you to everyone who helped welcome and support these students as they prepared to begin their Compton College journey.

As we begin the new academic year, please keep the Caring Campus Initiative in mind by taking small, intentional steps to help students feel welcomed and supported. A friendly greeting, answering a question, or walking a student to their destination when feasible can make a meaningful difference as they start the semester.

Sincerely,

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