

President/CEO Message - September 11, 2026

From: Keith Curry <kcurry@compton.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 6:11 PM

Campus Community,

During Monday's Managers/Supervisors Forum, we discussed what went well during the first two weeks of the fall semester and identified opportunities to better support students in future terms. Information tables continue to be helpful, and we will look at ways to finalize staffing schedules earlier so coverage is available during key times, including mornings, midday, and when evening classes begin. We also discussed the need to evaluate extended registration hours and Saturday support, with one Saturday, particularly the Saturday when fall and spring classes begin—likely providing the greatest benefit. As we continue to improve our start-of-semester support, we will also remind students to review their class schedules carefully, including meeting days, times, locations, and class formats.

During Wednesday's Student Forum, I also heard directly from students about what is working well and where we can continue to improve. Students expressed appreciation for Welcome Week activities, the variety of resources available to them, the overall positive campus atmosphere, support for single parents, and campus safety. At the same time, students identified customer service and student engagement as areas where we can continue to strengthen our efforts.

The discussion also highlighted that students receive and process information differently. Some students appreciate regular communication, while others feel overwhelmed by the number of emails they receive. Some are aware of the [online calendar](#) and upcoming events, while others are not. This reinforces the need to continue evaluating how we communicate with students and how we make information easier to find, understand, and use.

College spirit was another topic of interest—not only to support athletics, but also to build camaraderie, create connections, and help students learn more about one another's backgrounds and experiences. As we plan future programming, we should keep in mind the needs of all students, including adult learners and students who may not be as comfortable using smartphone apps such as [TouchNet](#) and [Handshake](#).

The conversation also reminded me that while Compton College provides many free resources to support students, not all students may understand why student clubs, organizations, and activities still need fundraising. Students struggling to make ends meet may not immediately see the value of fundraising for activities beyond direct services, so we have an opportunity to explain better how these efforts create a fuller college experience and build a stronger sense of belonging.

This week's message includes an update on fall 2026 enrollment, information about the Library-Student Success Center Open House, details about next week's Compton College Campuswide Forum, and information about the September 14, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting and Public Budget Hearing.

Compton College Fall 2026 Enrollment Update

As of **September 10, 2026**, Compton College has generated 1,709 full-time equivalent students (FTES) for fall 2026 (0.1% more than this time last year). Currently, 12,228 seats are filled, representing 68% of available seats. Fall headcount is 6,050 students, up 3% from the same time last year.

Fall 2026 enrollment is showing strong growth since early August. Students can still enroll in 8-week “Late Start” classes beginning ***Saturday, October 17, 2026***. Please encourage students to take full course loads and remind them that support services like tutoring and workshops are available to help them succeed.

Library-Student Success Center Open House

Faculty and staff are encouraged to share information with students about the Emily B. Hart-Holifield Library, Student Success Center, and MESA|STEM Center Fall 2026 Open House. The Library-Student Success Center has been an important cooling station for students and one of our key academic support hubs, where students can access library services, tutoring, and specialized STEM support to help them reach their goals and succeed in their classes. Students who attend the open house can learn more about these resources, participate in a scavenger hunt for a chance to win prizes in the opportunity drawing, meet the Dean of Student Success, and enjoy light refreshments. Please encourage your students to attend and take advantage of the many academic support services available to them at Compton College.

Compton College Campuswide Forum

I will host a virtual Campuswide Forum on ***Tuesday, September 15, 2026***, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. This forum will allow the campus community to hear updates, ask questions, and discuss topics connected to student success, including Accreditation, the 2026–2027 Compton CCD Budget, the Student-Centered Funding Formula, the Compton College 2035 Economic Value Model, and the [Compton College 2035 Institutional Set Goals](#). Please register in advance using the [Compton College Campuswide Forum Online Registration link](#).

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

The Compton Community College District Board of Trustees will hold its next Board Meeting and Public Budget Hearing on ***Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.*** in the Board Room in the Administration Building. The agenda will be available at least 72 hours before the meeting on BoardDocs, which may be accessed through the [Board of Trustees Meetings webpage](#). During the Budget Hearing, members of the public may comment on the proposed [2026–2027 Compton Community College District Final Budget](#).

President/CEO Closing the Loop

In the [President/CEO Message – July 16, 2026](#), I announced that we were conducting a search for an interim dean of student learning position and that we would begin the search for the permanent dean of student learning in the fall. I want to inform the campus community that I have decided to close recruitment for the interim dean of student learning position. At the same time, I asked the Human Resources Department to begin recruitment for the permanent dean of student learning. In the interim, Dr. Rebekah Blonshine, Dean of Student Success, will continue to provide administrative oversight for the Social Science Guided Pathways Division, and Gerson Valle, Dean of Student Learning will continue to provide administrative oversight for the Business and Industrial Studies Guided Pathways Division.

Final Thoughts

This week, I met with the [ECMC Foundation](#) and other educational leaders in California to discuss how we can better support students who have some college credit but have not yet completed a credential. During the conversation, I emphasized the value of education and the importance of removing barriers that prevent students from reaching their goals. I am sharing this because these conversations will continue, and higher education leaders, philanthropic partners, and policymakers

will be exploring ways to better support this student population. If you have thoughts or suggestions on how Compton College can support students with some college credit and no credential, please email me at kcurry@compton.edu.

You may have seen on social media that, as part of its Neighborhood Concerts series, members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic will provide a free concert at Compton College on **Friday, December 11, 2026**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium. Tickets will be available beginning **Thursday, November 12, 2026**. Once we have more information about ticket availability, we will share it in a future President/CEO Message.

Finally, I want to remind everyone to join us on campus for the first home game of the season as the Compton College Coyotes take on San Bernardino Valley College. This opening game is free for all employees and guests. Kickoff is **tomorrow, September 12, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Compton College football field. Come out to support our team, show your school spirit, and enjoy an exciting evening of college football.

Sincerely,

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