



El Camino College
COMPTON CENTER



PROVOST NEWS

DR. LAWRENCE M. COX

JANUARY 2009

Message from the Provost

Our recent college-wide meeting focused on the importance of articulating our institutional goals to our faculty, staff and community. I continue to emphasize the need for each of us to be unwavering in our commitment to accomplish these goals together while producing outcome-based results.

Various strategies for meeting our top priorities are critical to our success. Among the strategies is the requirement to clearly define and respect the authority and responsibility delegated to Compton Center managers by demonstrating goal achievement, evaluations through observation, surveys, individual interviews and focus groups.

We must form and implement our recovery plan to achieve an increase in FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis Management Assessment Team) scores. For example, evidence of an effective strategy for outreach and development, renewed membership in our foundation board, developing advisory groups and increasing financial resources.

Reinforcing our partnership with El Camino College through participation in joint meetings and campus activities will show how our campus goals contribute to the institutional initiatives.

In budget-related news, our interim chief business officer has informed us that we will have a total structural deficit of \$3.5 million. Our challenge is to increase FTES (Full-time Equivalent Students) and decrease expenditures while being realistic about what each of us must do to be effective and efficient. Growth alone will not resolve our budget situation. We need a multi-level approach; but we can do this. I encourage you all to do your jobs and do them well. Let us all make our Compton campus a place where people love to learn and to work!

Board of Trustees Meeting

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Compton Center. Closed session begins at 4:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to address the Board on closed session agenda items.

The Board Agenda is posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting on district.compton.edu and www.compton.edu.

OMW 2 Compton

El Camino College Compton Center announces a special Metro pass for students registered for classes during the spring semester. The program, known as "OMW (On My Way) 2 Compton", provides cost savings to students who ride the Metro to Compton Center. Valid from February 14 through June 12, a bus pass can be purchased for \$15 for the entire spring semester. The regular price is \$5/day, \$17/week and \$62/month!

Beginning January 26, eligible students may purchase a Metro sticker for their student ID at the Bursar's office. They must be taking 6 or more units and present a printout of their schedule and a receipt from the Bursar's office indicating that their fees have been paid

For information about the program, please contact Dean Keith Curry at 310-900-1600, ext. 2023.

Please help spread the word to our students about this exciting opportunity to save money with convenient, reliable transportation to college!

Graduation Intents and Petitions for Certificates

It is time to alert our students that the filing period for graduation intents and petitions for certificates for **spring 2009 only** started January 12 and ends March 6. This takes place in the Admissions and Records office.

Cash for College Fairs

On Saturday, January 17 and Saturday, February 14, Cash for College Fairs will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fairs each include a financial aid and scholarship presentation, online computer assistance and expert guidance with the Federal Financial Aid Application (FAFSA). Presentations will be made in English and Spanish.

Students are asked to attend with their parents and need to bring with them a parent's social security number (if applicable), public assistance aid information, their social security number or most recent federal income tax return or W-2 forms.

Co-sponsors for the event include LA CASH for College, Long Beach Cal-SOAP, Congresswoman Laura Richardson, state senators Alan Lowenthal and Roderick Wright.

For information about the program, contact Giselle Gamino, financial aid outreach coordinator at 310-900-1600, ext. 2925 or via email at ggamino@elcamino.edu.

ASB Invites You to Celebrate the Inauguration of President Barack Obama

The ASB and the Office of Student Life hosted a reception in honor of the inauguration of President Barack Obama, on Tuesday, January 20 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in the student lounge. A large screen TV was provided to watch the ceremony. All were invited to see this history making inauguration of our 44th president of the United States.

First Students Complete Aerospace Fastener Boot Camp Program

Compton Center announced the start of the Aerospace Fastener Boot Camp Program on November 5, 2008. The first cohort of 23 students is completing 320 hours of training during this 8-week program. To mark the occasion, a ceremony will take place on Friday, January 23, 2009 at noon in the Atrium of the Vocational Technology building. The students qualify for a paid internship and job placement. The fastener training program is offered during Compton Center's winter session, with math skills and basic blueprint reading classes being added.

The demand for well-trained individuals in the aerospace fastener industry is increasing, with an estimate of 200-400 workers needed each year for the next five years. In addition to aerospace fastener manufacturing--the mechanical joining of two or more objects, including bolts and rivets; is used in transportation, defense and construction industries. Southern California is home to numerous aerospace fastener manufacturers and distributors who employ more than 10,000 people. This industry plays a major role in economy of our region and the state of California.

This specialized training and education designed to meet the specific needs of the fastener industry is provided by the Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT), and funded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's office of economic and workforce development. There are 10 centers throughout the state, and all are connected to a community college.

According to David Gonzales, CACT director at El Camino College, there is no program like Compton Center's Aerospace Fastener Boot Camp in the western United States. The El Camino College District joined together industry partners with several workforce investment boards, forming the Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing Training Alliance (AFMTA), which is dedicated to creating a trained workforce in the fastener industry. The Alliance is working to advance the training program to the next level by developing curriculum for a Certificate of Completion and an A.S. degree in Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing Technology.

The large concentration of businesses around Compton Center and the manufacturers' need for trained employees made the program ideal to bring to the Compton community. Gonzales says: "It was a perfect match to start at Compton Center, and Dean Rodney Murray made it happen."

"It is my responsibility, says Dean Murray, "to provide leadership in the implementation of vocational technology educational services and programs. The fastener program meets the distinct needs of students, the job market and our surrounding communities. I am privileged to work with David Gonzales, Stanley Jacobson, and many others who are committed to the successful outcomes of students and to enhancing the District's scope of vocational educational programs."

Stanley Jacobson, the program's instructor, says: "The students get so much knowledge and training in a short time that they are well prepared to enter the aerospace fastener industry. There is no job shortage, only a skill shortage." This intensive program includes 40 hours per week in the classroom and three hours of homework daily. No one can miss even one class—and no one does. Jacobson describes his students as "so skilled and patient, that even without a math background, they can excel in the class." Jacobson's program assistants are Dr. Charles Spence, a physicist in nanobiology and Bryce Garner, whose field is manufacturing technology.

The members of the current class have diverse life and work experience—homeless individuals, veterans, recovering substance abusers, the first woman welder in the air force and a mechanical engineer among others. They all share a dedication to learning as much as they can. Their instructor has high expectations for them and goes by the credo that "practice is perfect is not good enough, perfect practice makes perfect."

For information about the program, call Alicia Zambrano at 310-900-1600, ext. 2779.

ESL Conference Scheduled

On Thursday, January 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the gymnasium is the place to be to participate in an English learner's conference. The theme for the day is "Si Se Puede!" (Yes We Can!), which are the inspirational words of Cesar Chavez. The goal of the event is to showcase the Compton Center ESL program and to increase enrollment in ESL credit courses.

The keynote speaker is Armando Vasquez Ramos, Chicano/Latino Studies professor at California State University, Long Beach. Workshops include presentations about our ESL program, higher education options, the admission process, financial aid and Assembly Bill 540. Entertainment and a community resource fair are planned during lunch, and a campus tour will be provided.

Compton Center's outreach team is actively working with local school district administrators from targeted middle and high schools, partnering with feeder high schools and communicating with the directors of community based organizations.

For information about the conference, contact Priscilla Beas, ESL outreach specialist, at pbeas@elcamino.edu.

Guardian Scholars Program off to a Great Start

The Guardian Scholars Luncheon on December 10 was deemed a valuable experience for the almost 150 attendees. Keith Curry, Dean of Student Affairs, opened the meeting, and our provost, Dr. Cox, provided comments to those assembled.

Compton Center administrators, staff and faculty had an opportunity to interface with city of Compton officials, middle and high school counselors, DCFS social workers, church leaders, nonprofit organizations, foster parents and various individuals and agencies who work with foster/kinship care youth. Seven Compton Superior Court judges were participants at the luncheon, and the keynote speaker was Judge Kelvin D. Filer.

Johnny Conley, an outreach specialist and coordinator of the event said that the takeaway message was: "Compton Center is the right vehicle for students to be successful. When students age out of the foster care system, they will know that this is a welcoming, supportive and safe place for them to attend. Our next plan of action is to develop a Guardian Scholars Advisory Board comprised of participants who attended the luncheon and Compton Center faculty and staff. The advisory board will create a road map for students to attend Compton Center."

For information regarding the Guardian Scholars program and if you are interested in participating on the advisory board, contact Johnny Conley, at 310-900-1600, ext. 2767 or email him at jconley@elcamino.edu.

Music to Our Ears

The holiday spirit was evident at a December concert by Compton Center faculty and students. Professor Mandeda Uch played the guitar and was accompanied by English professor, Ruth Roach, on the violin. English faculty member, Jose Bernaudo, provided some jazz guitar to the concert. Profess Uch's guitar students got everyone ready for the holidays when they played Christmas carols. A good time was had by all!

Service Learning Cultivates Our Garden

Toni Wasserberger, professor of English, describes service learning as an opportunity for students to provide service to a non-profit organization as a term project. Students are required to produce a portfolio of journals and essays connecting their service to ideas of community. Service learning is a component of some of the courses at Compton Center.

Professor Wasserberger says: "Faculty members participating in SL are trained by experienced faculty and develop their own project designs to suit their disciplines and syllabi. It provides an opportunity for faculty-to-faculty collaborations. SL is a faculty-driven project that connects curriculum to community."

Pat McLaughlin, professor of reading, saw the need to restore and maintain the Compton Center garden

established by Professor August Hoffman, who is on a leave of absence and his psychology students in past years. Professor McLaughlin and his instructional associate, Carolyn Lowe, have taken it upon themselves to develop a service learning project to have the vegetable garden, fruit trees and flower beds thrive again and beautify the campus. Students who had a service learning project in another class have chosen to work in the garden. For information about the project, you can email Professor McLaughlin at pmclaughlin@elcamino.edu.

Contact Toni Wasserberger at twasserberger@elcamino.edu for more information about service learning at Compton Center.

New Members Join Compton Center Team

Jim Grivich began working at Compton Center in December and is serving as the Interim Chief Business Officer. He has 40 years of administrative experience at community colleges and as adjunct faculty.

We welcome two returning campus police officers to our force at Compton Center--George Cervantes and Marcus Thompson.

Financial Aid Office Student Scholarship Opportunities

We are reminding all faculty and staff members to encourage students to take advantage of a scholarship opportunity through Compton Center's financial aid office. They announced the availability of \$42,000. The application period began on November 17, 2008 and continues through February 28, 2009.

Scholarships are available to students in all academic areas: behavioral and social science, business, fine arts, health sciences and athletics, humanities, industry and technology, mathematical sciences and natural sciences. Students already participating in EOPS, CARE and CalWORKS programs may apply for a scholarship.

Compton Center's financial aid office is located in room E-17 and is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **The office will be open on Saturday, February 28 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the final day to apply for the scholarship program.**

For information about the scholarship program and additional financial aid opportunities, call the financial aid office at 310-900-1600, ext. 2935.

NOAA Hollings Scholarship Program Nears Application Deadline

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) office of education announced the 2009 Ernest F. Hollings undergraduate scholarship program. Applications are available online at www.orau.org/noaa_uspa and **the deadline is January 30, 2009**. Approximately 100 undergraduates will be selected as Hollings scholars for fall 2009.

A student must be a sophomore at the time of the application, be a U.S. citizen and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Other eligibility requirements are for a student to be majoring in NOAA mission disciplines: oceanic, environmental, and atmospheric sciences, mathematics, engineering, remote sensing technology; physical and social sciences, including geography, physics, hydrology, policy, geomatics; or teacher education.

For information, contact Pai Moua, Program Specialist, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, P.O. Box 117, MS-36; Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0117 or by phone at 865-241-8240.

New Online Classes for Spring

Distance Education has added eight new online courses for the 2009 spring semester. Included is AS 60, Strategies for Success in Distance Education, to assist students in how to be successful in a distance education course. Students new to distance education are strongly advised to take this course along with their other online course/s or prior to enrolling in their first one.

The Student Handbook for Online Courses is available on our webpage, www.compton.edu/academics/distance-ed. It provides important information to students regarding class orientations and other required meetings, instructor contact information, Tips for Success, computer requirements, computer skill requirements, and login information to the ETUDES course management system. Students can also find on the Distance Ed website a quick self assessment tool to see how prepared they are to be successful in online learning.

Two types of distance education courses are now offered at Compton Center--fully online courses and hybrid courses which combine weekly class meetings with online course work.

Registration for Distance Education courses is the same process as regular registration. Students are encouraged to see a counselor for advisement on all courses.

Compton Center has two locations available for students to use campus computers: the Learning Resource Center located in G-36 (310-900-1600, ext. 2535) and the Vocational Technology Building Open Lab, room 226A (310-900-1600, ext. 2266).

For additional information, contact Celia Valdez, 310-900-1600, ext. 2784.

Fire Safety Tips from Campus Police

This time of year is known as the fire season in California. Fire is the third leading cause of accidental death in the United States. A residential fire occurs every 82 seconds in this country, and once burning, the size of a fire doubles every 30 seconds.

If a fire should occur in your building, get out as soon as possible. Do NOT try to act bravely or put it out yourself. That is a fight too easily lost... and it's not worth it. If you have an escape plan, put it into motion at the first sign or smell of a fire. Never exit a door if it feels hot to the touch--you could walk right into flames. Also, it is a good idea to know where all the fire extinguishers are located in your building.

Fire Prevention

In community living facilities, everyone must do their part to make their dwelling a safer place. Here are a few easy steps to help prevent fire or electrical hazards:

- Look for the UL mark on all products; it means samples of the product have been tested for safety.
- Make sure outlets are not overloaded.
- Check electrical wires and cords on appliances, tools, lamps, etc. to make sure they are not worn or frayed.
- Never run electrical wires or extension cords under carpets or heavy items, and never bunch them up behind a hot appliance.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Have your building's management install smoke alarms — at least one on each level — and make sure they are maintained and tested regularly.

Fire Facts

Fire is a chemical reaction involving fuel, oxygen and heat. Take away any of these three elements and a fire cannot last. There are four classifications of fires, dependant on their fuels:

Class A: Ordinary materials like wood, paper, cloth, rubber and plastics. Most home fires fall into this category.

Class B: Combustible liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, alcohol, paint and propane. These tend to be more severe and dangerous than Class A fires because the liquid fuel is highly flammable and can propagate easily.

Class C: Electrical equipment like appliances, switches and power tools. These fires are extremely dangerous due to added shock hazards and because the source is energized—supplying a steady and constant ignition condition.

Class D: Combustible metals like magnesium, titanium, potassium and sodium. These fires burn at a very high temperature and can react violently with water or other chemicals.

Calling all Alumni

Did you attend Compton Center or the former Compton College or know someone who has? We want to hear from you! The Resource Development Office invites all alumni of our Compton campus to register in our Alumni Database. Help us get the word out.

Registered alumni will have the opportunity to be informed of events and activities at Compton Center, receive invitations to alumni functions, participate in leadership opportunities, and much more.

The Resource Development Office looks forward to hearing from you. To register, please contact Nelly Rodriguez at nrodriguez@elcamino.edu.

Share Your News

We want to keep you informed of the news in our campus community. We also want to hear from you. We know there is no shortage of good news at Compton Center—so keep us in the loop.

Know a student who won a scholarship? a professor who just published an article or a book or received an award? a staff member honored by a professional organization? someone on our campus who has been recognized for work in the community? Help us spread the good news!

Please e-mail your news items to Ann M. Garten, community relations director, at agarten@elcamino.edu.