



## El Camino College COMPTON CENTER



# PROVOST NEWS

## DR. LAWRENCE M. COX

APRIL 2009

### Message from the Provost

The continuous increases we are experiencing in our enrollment are due to the diligence and commitment of our faculty, staff and managers. A key element in keeping our momentum is making sure we always put our students first by providing the best possible customer service.

Good customer service also applies to our colleagues at the Center. When we consider each other as important customers, we set in motion the “pay it forward” attitude. As each person we encounter experiences a positive attitude and good customer service, the attitude and service is passed on until every student or coworker we interact with both gives and receives a positive experience at Compton Center!

By thoughtfully and actively listening to our students’ questions and addressing their needs we become a friendly, helpful resource to them. Although we can not resolve every issue, putting forth the effort to do as much as we are able – even if it is just listening to what they are requesting -- pays off ten-fold when students pass along positive feedback to others.

Additionally, we work best as a team when we treat each other as important customers. The results are satisfied customers — our students and our colleagues.

Always put our students first and provide them with the best possible customer service.

### Accountability Report for Compton Center

The Accountability Report for the Community Colleges (ARCC) provides a series of performance trends for each California community college, including El Camino College Compton Center.

The 2009 report shows a mix of improvement and decline among the seven performance indicators for the Center.

The Student Progress and Achievement Rate showed a slight improvement, while the percentage of students earning at least 30 units increased by more than 7 points, despite the fact that these long-term indicators still span the period of accreditation loss. These positive results suggest that students are coming back to Compton Center after leaving during a time of perceived uncertainty.

Both vocational and basic skills successful course completion rates have declined from the previous year. Declines in success rates will be investigated to determine appropriate remedies.

Compton Center shows low improvement rates for ESL and basic skills. However, the three-year time span of the indicator still crosses the period of total curriculum change following the agreement with El Camino College. In the next two ARCC reports, this measure will provide a more realistic evaluation of how well students are succeeding and moving on in English, math and ESL courses.

Overall, the 2009 ARCC report reflects Compton Center emerging in both enrollment growth and performance. Despite its continued underperformance in areas, the recent improvements related to earned units, persistence, and progress are a sign of promise of a stronger Compton Center in the future.

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at 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 at [www.district.compton.edu](http://www.district.compton.edu) and [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu).

### **Provost Open “Hour”**

Provost Cox holds an open meeting time every Thursday, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Students, faculty and staff are welcome to stop by to discuss any issue during that time. Please check with Paula Van Brown if you plan to visit on a Thursday evening, just to be sure an off-campus obligation has not resulted in postponing the open meeting for that week.

### **Spring, Summer and Fall at Compton Center**

El Camino College Compton Center’s spring eight-week session began Saturday, April 18. Students may register online or in the Admissions and Records office.

Please encourage students to check out the summer schedules online. Printed copies are also available. The first five-week session begins June 15, the second five-week session begins July 20 and the eight-week session begins June 22. Fall schedules will be online in early May. Registration for returning students is May 11. Registration for summer and fall classes for new students begins on June 1.

### **Compton Center Welcomes**

Compton Center welcomes our new Chief Business Officer, Ronald Gerhard. He holds an MBA and BS degree in accounting and finance from University of Redlands. Ron is a Certified Public Accountant. He brings ten years of accounting experience in both the public and private sector and has a background in strategic planning, forecasting and problem solving. From 2001 to 2004, he was the internal auditor for the San Bernardino Community College District; and since 2004 he has served as the District’s Business Manager. We look forward to welcoming him on May 5.

### **Do the math...**

Southern California Edison (SCE) approved our grant proposal, and 20 laptops for the Math and Science Division have already been delivered! We want to thank Tony Williams, SCE manager of professional development (TDBU Training), and new member of the Compton Community College District Foundation (CCCCDF), who facilitated the process.

The grant proposal was prepared and submitted in February by a team of faculty and staff from the Mathematical and Natural Science Division with the assistance of the Resource Development (Title V) Office.

Dr. Donald Roach, chair of the Mathematical and Natural Science Division says: “The math and science division is very grateful to SCE for the generous donation of 20 laptops for use in our program. This will allow our students to have increased access to the internet, and all the valuable resources that it provides in mathematics and science.” He goes on to say that “more students will have access to Mathematica, a very useful resource in math and science. In our astronomy courses, astronomical phenomena can be observed and studied via the internet. Additionally, science students can do their research using online sources. Our textbooks come with CDs and DVDs that can be used with computer access. The online courses that we offer require the use of a computer.”

Dr. Roach further indicates: “the laptops will expand the horizons of our students, many of whom are first generation college students in their families. The timing could not be better at all levels due to the present economic situation we find ourselves in.”

Compton Center is extremely thankful to SCE for this generous donation.

## **You Are Invited to Meet the “Patients” in the Nursing Sim Lab**

The diagnosis is in—the nursing program is in excellent health and about to get an infusion of new patients. Wanda Morris, dean of health and human services and assistant director of nursing at Compton Center, announces the much anticipated ribbon cutting and launch of our new wireless, high fidelity, patient simulation lab. This will take place on Thursday, April 23 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in room E-50.

The simulation lab has the look and feel of a hospital unit. The wireless lab consists of three adults, a child, a newborn and a birthing simulator. The “patients” include “Big Hal,” an adult with male and female attributes who is used for trauma situations and emergency team training; “Noelle,” a woman about to give birth; “Little Hal,” a child, and an infant. The most advanced wireless human patient simulator is “iStan.” He closely mimics the anatomical workings of the human body to such a level of realism that he actually breathes, cries, sweats and bleeds. iStan is also the most famous as he has appeared on Grey’s Anatomy and The Doctors.

It will be possible to create simulated care experiences from basic assessment to complex multi-organ failure. The simulators can be programmed to perform complex scenarios and respond physiologically to the interventions, or lack thereof, applied in real time. A sequence of events may be created for students at all levels of the nursing program and in a variety of treatment areas—psychology, obstetrics, pediatrics, medical and surgical. A student may even experience a healthy patient who is waiting for an elective surgery, but begins to deteriorate.

Ms. Morris says: “We provide an individualized approach to meet the needs of each student. The simulation lab will prepare our nursing students with real life experiences so they may perform more effectively and confidently in a clinical setting and in a ‘code blue’ emergency situation. Each scenario is curriculum driven and focuses on didactic disease processes.”

Meta Simmons, a nursing instructor, says: “Students profit from the experience in the simulation lab as it is not as intimidating as a clinical setting. Their actions and reactions are taped to view and debrief. Students love the experience of providing their own critique.”

For information about the nursing program or the ribbon cutting, call Kayla Ellis at 310-900-1600, ext. 2700.

## **A Birdie for Compton Center Athletes**

Faculty, staff, administrators and friends of El Camino College Compton Center athletic programs are invited to participate in the Inaugural Compton Center Tartar Golf Open on Friday, May 8 at The Links at Victoria in Carson. Registration and check-in are at 6:00 a.m. There is a shotgun start at 7:00 a.m. Lunch is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. with a raffle to follow at 1:00 p.m.

The cost for registration is \$125 per player. This includes greens fees, a cart, tee package, continental breakfast and lunch. The deadline for entries is Monday, April 27.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the "Program for Athletic Student Success" and the first Compton Center Athletic Hall of Fame. Our goal is to assist the student-athlete in developing strong academic skills, a commitment to community service and a competitive spirit while exhibiting good sportsmanship.

Compton Center currently hosts 11 athletic intercollegiate teams and anticipates an additional three women's teams in coming years. We have a proud history of an outstanding athletic program that fostered national championships in football, state championships in basketball and track, and many conference titles. We are poised to continue that proud tradition.

Albert "Lefty" Olguin, athletic director, says: "We look forward to establishing a golf tournament to assist us in fundraising for our academic program needs, as well as provide the opportunity to further develop relationships with our business community."

Your support and participation in the Inaugural Compton Center Tartar Golf Open insures a win-win for everyone. For information, contact Lefty Olguin at lolguin@elcamino.edu or Alice Hawkins, athletics assistant, at ahawkins@elcamino.edu or by calling 310-900-1600, ext. 2940.

## **Women's Conference Scheduled**

Compton Center will present a women's conference entitled: "Yes I Can" on Thursday, May 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The purpose is to empower young women by providing information about educational and career opportunities and the resources available to them. Approximately 200 young women between the ages of 16 and 21 are scheduled to attend. For many of them, the day will mark their first time on a college campus.

The conference will provide presentations from financial aid, CalWorks, the transfer center and others. The format will include stations in the areas of auto technology, welding, nursing, fashion and childcare and child development. A dance performance is part of the day's activities, and lunch will be provided.

For information, contact Joyce Duren at 310-900-1600, ext. 2202 or via e-mail at jduren@elcamino.

## **Congratulations are in Order!**

Congratulations to the 22 students in the second cohort of the Aerospace Fastener Program who have completed this challenging coursework. A few have already secured employment. We wish them all much success in the future.

The next program is scheduled to begin in June.

## **Shooting Hoops**

Congratulations to Compton Center's Cartheal McDonald, who was selected for the 2008-2009 All-South Coast Conference—South Division Men's Basketball Team. The Tartars will be well represented!

## **ESL Instructor/Volunteer**

Aurora Cortez-Perez, an ESL instructor, is volunteering her time every Friday morning to provide free instruction, tutoring, and review to our ESL students so that they may improve their English language proficiency. She has done so completely on her own initiative and with no fanfare, because she perceived a need among her own students and others at Compton Center. On a recent Friday morning, 27 students availed themselves of this opportunity.

For information, contact Ms. Cortez-Perez at [acortezperez@elcamino.edu](mailto:acortezperez@elcamino.edu).

## **C-ID Project at Compton Center**

Ella Stewart, a speech instructor, is a member of the Course Identification Number System project (C-ID), a component of the State Academic Senate. The C-ID System relies upon appointed discipline faculty to determine comparability based on detailed course outlines of record. A committee for each discipline, called the Faculty Discipline Review Group (FDRG), is established to undertake the development of course descriptions and to determine course equivalencies.

For information, contact Ms. Stewart at [estewart@elcamino.edu](mailto:estewart@elcamino.edu).

## **Educators to Visit**

Dr. Jane Harmon, interim administrative dean of academic affairs, recently announced that a basic skills external review committee will be at Compton Center April 30, May 1 and 2. She indicates that the team lead by Dr. Laura Hope, interim dean of instructional support at Chaffey College, "will be taking a look at everything that touches under-prepared students." They will provide a report by the end of May, which will be used for the development of a five-year plan.

## **Transfer Center Tour**

Thirty-five students participated in the northern California university tour that took place from April 13-17. They visited University of California at Berkeley, Santa Cruz and Davis; and California State University, Sacramento, San Francisco and San Jose. Compton Center students met with students and representatives from each of the schools and learned about admission requirements, various majors, student support services, student life and received a tour of each campus.

Elizabeth Martinez, transfer center coordinator, plans the university tour and accompanies the students. She says: "Every year our students learn a lot about each of the schools first-hand and get a feel for what options they will consider."

## **Digital Bridge Academy**

On April 10, faculty members were invited to attend a presentation by Diego Navarro, founder of the Digital Bridge Academy (DBA). The program targets students who are unprepared for college. Through a curriculum that sparks intellectual curiosity and motivation, students are lead through a fast-paced program to have them work at a college level.

The objectives of the DBA “have been to develop curriculum that helps students learn and change from the inside out, rethinking their relationship to learning and their own behaviors, helping them succeed in college.”

The program indicates higher retention rates than the average community college student population and improved academic success.

### **March Came in Like a Lion At Compton Center with Over 2500 Visitors**

On March 6, a special guest, Dr. Debbie Malumed, vice president of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges toured Compton Center. She met with Dr. Cox and had a chance to visit a machine tool technology classroom, the music and theater building and the gymnasium. Members of the Board of Governors set policy and provide guidance for the 72 districts and 110 colleges that constitute the system. The 17-member Board, appointed by our governor, interacts with state and federal officials and other state organizations and selects the system’s chancellor.

This was Dr. Malumed’s first time at Compton Center, and she was warmly welcomed. We look forward to a future visit.

On March 11, the Annual Giant Spring Employment and Career Expo took place with approximately 2,000 attendees seeking employment, looking for career options and exploring educational opportunities. The event included more than 60 employers, Compton Center support services, academic and career technology departments; and several representatives from community organizations and four-year colleges and universities. Particularly with today’s economic downturn, Compton Center truly provided a venue to secure employment and consider education and training alternatives.

The media was well represented that day with NBC 4, ABC 7 and Compton Bulletin covering the event. NBC 4’s Ted Chen interviewed participants and businesses, spoke extensively to Rey Garcia about the CalWORKS program, and reported on a student who was recently laid off from work and attending Compton Center for career re-training. In addition to the news broadcast, Ted Chen hosted a live web cast interview with Dean Curry that afternoon. A KPCC interview with Joseph Lewis was heard on the radio that evening and the next day.

Kudos to the committee, led by Rey Garcia and Joseph Lewis, for presenting this important event.

On March 18 the Male Conference entitled, “Yes I Can,” took place with 450 students in grades 6-12 attending. The keynote address was provided by Compton’s Mayor and Deputy District Attorney, Eric J. Perrodin. He stressed the importance of education, spoke about the diversity in the city of Compton, and shared his own life struggles as someone born and raised there. He engaged the students, and his message was well received.

The career exploration portion of the conference was set up in stations to highlight various majors and vocational careers including music technology, welding, auto technology, fire technology, nursing and a pilot program in robotics, among others. Students that day were extremely interested in the welding, auto body and nursing programs. Several of the students were pleased to learn they could take advantage of Compton Center programs while they were still in high school, and expressed an interest in attending this summer.



Attendees had an opportunity to speak with representatives of California State University, Northridge and CSU Dominguez Hills, and University of California, Los Angeles, at the resource fair.



Campus life was another element of the day's conference. A "mini step show" was presented by Alpha Pi Alpha, an African American fraternity, with Latino fraternity members of Lambda Theta Phi on hand as well, demonstrating a kind of "gang" with positive rather than negative role models.

According to Johnny Conley, outreach specialist and coordinator for the event, "The purpose was to empower young males with practical knowledge about how to utilize the services and programs available at Compton Center. The counselors and chaperones were very impressed with what we have to offer." He went on to say that: "Without the support for the conference and for

the outreach department by the whole Compton Center community, the event would not have been as successful as it was."

## WIT Group Meets

The Women in Technology program hosts ongoing support group workshops for program participants. In mid-March an Image Workshop was held. The focus was on improving your appearance and increasing self-confidence to create a good first impression on prospective employers. Approximately 25 women attended. A representative from Women In Non-Traditional Employment Roles (W.I.N.T.E.R.) was a guest speaker. A sales director from Mary Kay Cosmetics provided cosmetics.

Other topics have included ways to be debt-free, careers of the future, and ethics and attitudes in the workplace.

The workshops provide encouragement to women to enter and/or stay in a career. For information about the program, call Alicia Zambrano at 310-900-1600, ext. 2779 or Arlene Alvarez at ext. 2785.

## We Met the Funders



Compton Center's first Meet the Funders mini-conference took place in the Faculty/Staff Lounge on March 18. The event was coordinated through the Resource Development (Title V) Office as part of a comprehensive plan to develop a strong culture of grantsmanship on campus and strengthen community partnerships to support student success.

The event was made possible with the collaboration of the following professionals from local private foundations: Pat Christopher, Crail Johnson Foundation; Mark Eiduson, Annenberg Foundation; and Kerri Bennett and Carleen Beste, Northrop Grumman Corporation. They served as expert panelists to provide information on grant writing from the funder's perspective.

The event was attended and well received by faculty and staff from El Camino College, Compton Center, Charles Drew University and members of local nonprofits and schools. It served the purpose of raising awareness of grant opportunities and reinforced Compton Center's commitment to engaging in mutually beneficial community collaboratives.

For more information, contact Nelly Rodriguez, Director, Resource Development Office (Title V) at [nrodriguez@elcamino.edu](mailto:nrodriguez@elcamino.edu).

## **Mini-Grants Competition**

Compton Center Title V Mini-Grants program will be awarding grants of \$500 to \$2,000 to faculty and staff who create projects to improve the instructional process and could merit funding from outside sources such as foundations, corporations or government entities. The focus is on achieving student success, retention and/or graduation rates or bringing added value to our students.

Two mini-grant workshops were held in March. Seven applications were received by the April 1 deadline. A committee will be meeting to determine the awardees, and an announcement of those selected will take place by the end of April.

## **ASB in Action**

The Student Life Office and the Associated Student Body (ASB) hosted a Cesar Chavez Day Celebration on March 31. Paul Flor, political science instructor, made a presentation on the life's work of Cesar Chavez, the founder and long-time president of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW). Chavez exemplified a visionary leader fighting for social justice through nonviolent means. The celebration included a Mariachi band and Mexican food. The appreciative audience of students, faculty, staff and members of the board of trustees filled the student lounge to capacity.

The deadline for Compton Center Associated Student Body applications for student government positions was April 3. The election will be held on April 28 and 29. Watch for the results of who our student leaders will be. We appreciate all of the students who are running for office with the goal of making a difference in student life on our campus.

Thank you to our current ASB leaders for their dedication.

Support the ASB Earth Day Recycle Drive on Wednesday, April 22. It is all day event beginning at 9:00 a.m. Watch for details!

## **Student Health Survey**

The administration at El Camino College is considering opening a student health center at Compton Center. A survey of our students is being conducted to assess their health related needs and how a health center could best serve them.

Please encourage your students to visit the following link to complete the survey: <http://www.elcamino.edu/cgi-bin/rws4.pl?FORM=HealthCenterNeedsAssessment>. The survey takes about 10-15 minutes and needs to be completed by April 24.

For survey information, students can visit the Student Services Office in the Administration building or by calling 310-900-1600, ext. 2023.

## **Scholarships for High School Students**

El Camino College Compton Center is providing \$26,000 in scholarships to students in 13 local high schools. The scholarships will range from \$500 to \$1,000. To apply, students must complete a Compton Center scholarship application, have two letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or community member; submit a typed personal statement of 500 words or more, and provide an unofficial transcript.

To be eligible, students must have a 2.0 G.P.A., be a high school graduate by the summer of 2009, plan to attend El Camino College Compton Center in the fall of 2009, and participate in the First Year Experience Program. The scholarship is open to undocumented students.

For information, contact Ricky Shabazz at 310-900-1600, ext. 2763 or via e-mail at [rshabazz@elcamino.edu](mailto:rshabazz@elcamino.edu).

## **Financial Aid e-services Lab**

Compton Center's financial aid e-services lab has 20 computers available for students to complete an application for admission and register for classes online, view unofficial transcripts and educational plans, check the status of financial aid, retrieve *MyECC* email and view financial aid award letters. E-service provides an online orientation to financial aid and the ability to search and apply for grants, scholarships and loans; complete promissory notes and review the status of a Cal Grant application.

Other services provided at the financial aid office include the option to pick up and submit financial aid forms, meet with a financial aid advisor and pick up and submit scholarship applications.

Please remind all students to make sure we have current contact information, including an e-mail address, so that they may receive important notifications.

Compton Center's financial aid office is located in room E-12 and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For information about e-services, contact Henry Ross, financial aid program specialist, at 310-900-1600, ext. 2935, or at [hross@elcamino.edu](mailto:hross@elcamino.edu).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu).