



## El Camino College COMPTON CENTER



# PROVOST NEWS

DR. LAWRENCE M. COX

SEPTEMBER 2008

### Message from the Provost

Our fall 2008 semester is off to a great beginning! Enrollment is up, faculty and staff are meeting the needs of our enthusiastic students, and planning for the continued improvement and success of our campus is in full swing.

We are continuing to make progress toward our three overarching goals to increase enrollment, build capacity, and restore credibility.

Next month El Camino College will be visited by a team representing the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Instruction, programs and services at both campuses will be reviewed in the self-study report and team members will visit both campuses for their final report.

Please plan to attend the Self-Study presentation Wednesday, September 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the Student Lounge to learn more about our self-study and what to expect during the accreditation visit.

Again, welcome back to campus to our students and all employees. Have a great year!

### Student Enrollment Up for Fall

At the end of week three, El Camino College Compton Center has surpassed enrollment goals for the fall semester with a more than 31% increase from last year at this time. Compton Center is at 110% of its fall goal. In addition, there is a 40% increase in full-time equivalent students (FTES). It is exciting to see the energy level and enthusiasm throughout the campus. Our students are engaged and ready to learn.

All roads are leading to Compton Center through word of mouth, outstanding community outreach and by publicizing our high quality academic and career technology programs, transfer opportunities, support services and events throughout our community. The team effort and commitment of administrators, faculty and staff to meet the educational and career goals of our students is truly making a difference.

## Accreditation Presentation Scheduled for September 17

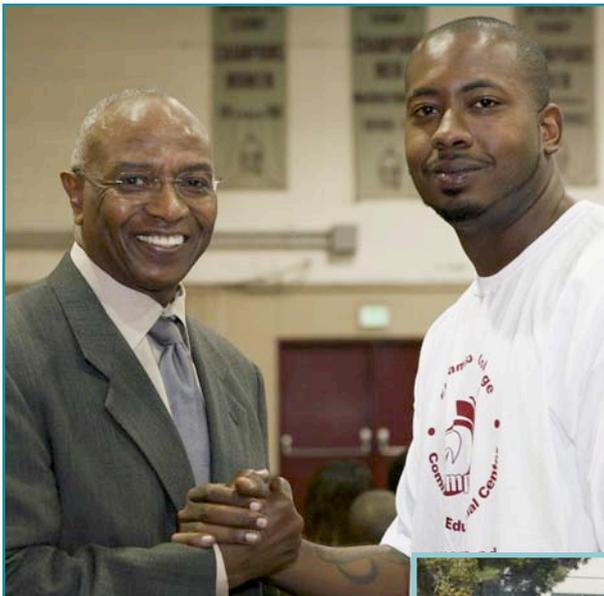
All are invited to attend a presentation on the 2008 El Camino College Accreditation Self-Study. The presentation, scheduled for Wednesday, September 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the Student Lounge, will be given by Susan Dever and Arvid Spor. There will be a brief review of the study, discussion about the upcoming visit by the accreditation commission in October and a question and answer period.

The accreditation commission works with six themes when evaluating colleges: institutional commitments, evaluation, planning and improvement; student learning outcomes, organization, dialogue and institutional integrity. El Camino College is going into the visit without any pending recommendations from previous accreditation reviews.

Our self-study process began in the spring of 2006 with the selection of faculty and management co-chairs. By fall of that year, 108 faculty, staff, students and administrators were brought together to form nine committees. Committee members represent academic and vocational areas and student and support services from the Torrance campus, Compton Center, the Hawthorne Business Training Center and the Inglewood Center.

Compton Center personnel and students were involved in the data gathering and initial writing segments. There were three opportunities to assess the content and provide feedback before the study was completed.

The self-study is available on the Compton Center Web site.



## New Student Welcome Day

New Student Welcome Day on August 20 was a great success with approximately 250 students and parents in attendance. After a welcome by Provost Cox and Student Body President Rob Pitts, the event's coordinator, Rosa Carillo, presented an "Orientation to Success" to highlight academic and career training opportunities, support services and tips to navigate campus life. A student panel provided an overview of their backgrounds and experiences at Compton Center. The sessions that followed, some presented in Spanish, provided in-depth information about academic departments, support services and financial aid.

During lunch, a resource fair with 30 programs and departments represented offered an opportunity for students to ask questions and dialog on a one-to-one basis. Many students met with academic counselors throughout the day and took the opportunity to participate in convenient in-person and online registration for classes.



Positive comments were heard throughout the day. One new student, Diana Gonzales, remarked that she found everyone friendly, enjoyed the environment and learned about financial aid options.

Kudos to the hard-working New Student Welcome Day committee and everyone involved in the day's event.

## **Board of Trustees Meeting**

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 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 at [www.district.compton.edu](http://www.district.compton.edu) and [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu).

## **Provost to Speak at Town Hall**

Provost will be the presenter at a Compton Town Hall meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Compton city Hall. Provost Cox will provide an update on El Camino College Compton Center activities including our accreditation visit and the latest FCMAT report.

## **Compton Center to Host Academic Senate Area C Meeting**

Compton Center will host the upcoming Academic Senate Area C Meeting on Saturday, October 25, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Student Lounge. Provost Cox will be on hand to offer greetings to those assembled.

Representatives from the 27 community colleges in the Area C region will come to our campus in preparation for the fall plenary session of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, which takes place in November in Los Angeles. During the daylong meeting, participants will be reviewing proposed resolutions and discussing statewide issues relevant to the California community college system.

Darwin Smith, instructor of philosophy, has been teaching on our campus since 1986, and has served on the Academic Senate for almost the entire time, representing adjunct faculty. Darwin has been a delegate and a participant in many of the fall and spring plenary sessions. His involvement in the Academic Senate and commitment to Compton Center led him to advocate for the Area C meeting to be held on our campus.

Darwin was an engineer at Rockwell, and had worked on the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs. During his career, he decided he wanted more knowledge about current issues, so he became a student at Compton Center. Several years later he was contacted by one of his instructors who asked him to teach classes at the college, and he has been here ever since.

## **New Dean of Vocational Education**

Mr. Rodney Murray is the new Dean of Vocational Education. He is a seasoned teacher of business courses for the past 14 years on the Compton campus. He received his bachelor's degree in science and business and his master's degree in business administration from the University of Redlands. He has his ABD from Capella University in criminal justice and is working on his thesis.

Mr. Murray indicates that his primary goals include ensuring a solid foundation for all of the current programs, growing the department's advisory board and renewing relationships with local feeder schools. He maintains a focus on providing programs to train students for well-paid positions by keeping pace with employer needs, new technology and the environmental industry. Mr. Murray has held various sales and marketing positions in the private sector prior to teaching at Compton.

## UCI Summer Program Sets the Stage for Transfer Students

El Camino College Compton Center students spent the week of August 10-16 on the University of California, Irvine (UCI) campus. Through a partnership with UCI, students who participate in Compton Center's Regional Transfer Collaborative (RTC) program experience college life at a four-year university first-hand.



The RTC students are recruited in their senior year from local high schools and put on a "fast track" to transfer within 6-8 semesters to a four-year university. They meet each semester with a counselor and attend workshops and field trips in an effort to make the transfer process as smooth as possible. There is a special curriculum of linked coursework and learning communities coordinated by Compton Center faculty.

The intent of the summer residential program is for students to feel comfortable in a university setting, to learn to put theory into practice and to be exposed to the array of majors available. The focus this past summer was on public policy and administration, and urban planning. University faculty worked with students on team-building exercises and "referendums" geared toward the enhancement of their college and community. As a result of the student work at UCI, one group plans to start an AB 540 club on campus to inform students about their eligibility. Another group is looking at a mentoring program with UCI for area K-12 students. A third group is interested in creating a youth center on campus to provide programs for local youth to encourage them to go to college and to increase enrollment at Compton Center.

Elizabeth Martinez, Compton Center's transfer center coordinator, accompanies the students to UCI and provides a "home base" for them during the school year. She says: "The partnership between Compton Center and UCI benefits students by removing fear and building their confidence. It provides an opportunity for them to thrive as they move toward the next step in their education."

Juan Vargas describes the program at UCI as "life changing." He said: "It was an incredible learning experience and a chance to build relationships with professors and develop friendships." Maribel Barron said: "I learned that if you believe in yourself, you can do anything you set your mind to do, and nothing is impossible."

A good indicator of the success of the program is that each of the students wants to return to UCI in the summer of 2009.

## Faculty Member Joins Advisory Board of New TV Network

Samuel Martino, Compton Center assistant professor has been selected to join the advisory board of a new television network, *Better Black Television* (BBTV). Percy Miller, CEO and founder of BBTV, recently launched the new diverse network and describes it as "family friendly" with a goal of ... "promoting positive content to educate and preserve the next generation."

Samuel Martino, who teaches Introduction to Video/Film Production and Film Analysis and Appreciation at Compton Center looks at his service on the advisory board as an opportunity for students from minority communities to secure internships and training for positions in the field of

production. He is in good company in this endeavor as fellow advisory board members include Will Smith and Denzel Washington.

## **Compton Center Faculty and Staff Make Trip to Africa a Reality**

Camela (Cam) McClain, a personnel analyst in Compton Center's Human Resource Department, spent eleven days in Africa this summer - an experience she will never forget. The generosity of faculty and staff made it possible.

Cam is a member of the West Angeles Church in Los Angeles, which supports the *Save Africa's Children* program by providing funds for orphanages and other services for children. Each summer a delegation visits Africa to insure that the programs they fund are well run. Cam applied and was selected to be a delegate this summer. She received a scholarship of \$800 from her church, but needed to raise additional funds. Having worked on the Compton campus for 21 years, Cam has many friends who were happy to support her in this endeavor. Because of donations by faculty and staff, she was able to raise \$2,800 for the trip.

Cam had been drawn to the West Angeles Church because it included a deaf ministry, as one of her 8 children is hearing impaired. She particularly wanted to participate in the church's mission to Africa because of their support for the Little Rock Education Center, a preschool for children who are hearing impaired or disabled in Kenya. Cam was struck by the fact that elementary school there is not mandatory, but a choice by parents who are able to afford to have their children attend. Many are working locally to raise money for school uniforms and supplies.

For information about *Save Africa's Children* or to find out more about Cam's visit to Africa, email her at [camdenice@yahoo.com](mailto:camdenice@yahoo.com).

## **Show Your Compton Center Spirit**

Football and soccer seasons are in full swing for Compton Center teams. Come out to support our talented athletes and great coaches at home and away.

### **September/October Football Schedule:**

Saturday, September 20 - 6 p.m. Compton Center @ El Camino College  
Saturday, September 27 - 6 p.m. Compton Center @ S.D. Southwestern College  
**Saturday, October 4 - 1 p.m. Mt. San Jacinto College @ Compton Center**  
Saturday, October 18 - 6 p.m. Compton Center @ San Bernardino College  
**Saturday, October 25 - 1 p.m. Golden West College @ Compton Center**

### **September/October Soccer Conference Games Schedule:**

Tuesday, September 30 - 4 p.m. Compton Center @ Cerritos College  
**Friday, October 3 - 4 p.m. El Camino College @ Compton Center**  
**Tuesday, October 7 - 4 p.m. Pasadena City College @ Compton Center**  
Friday, October 10 - 4 p.m. Compton Center @ Mt. Sac  
**Tuesday, October 14 - 4 p.m. Long Beach City College @ Compton Center**  
Friday, October 17 - 6 p.m. Compton Center @ L. A. Harbor College  
Tuesday, October 21 - 4 p.m. Compton Center @ East L.A. College  
**Friday, October 24 - 4 p.m. Cerritos College @ Compton Center**  
Tuesday, October 28 - 4 p.m. Compton Center @ El Camino College  
Friday, October 31 - 4 p.m. Compton Center @ Pasadena City College

## Cafeteria and Bookstore Update

The construction, modifications and modernization of our cafeteria are close to completion, with plans for operation to begin shortly. Food service will be provided by S & B Foods. The cafeteria will be open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday hours are from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bookstore hours September 8 through December 5 are Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The bookstore is scheduled to be closed on Fridays.

The store will be closed on Monday, November 10 in observance of Veterans' Day and Wednesday through Friday, November 26, 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Calling all Alumni

Did you attend Compton Center or the former Compton College? We want to hear from you! The Resource Development Office invites all alumni of our Compton campus to register in our Alumni Database.

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.

Many of you have attended the former Compton College or Compton Center, or know someone who has. Help us get the word out!

Staff members at the Resource Development Office look forward to hearing from you! To register, please contact Rudy Lopez at [rlopez@elcamino.edu](mailto:rlopez@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 book? A staff member honored by a professional organization or someone 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).

