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El Camino College Compton Center | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | Email: agarten@elcamino.edu

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‘Voices of Compton’ Literary Journal Highlights Creative Talents and Aspirations of El Camino College Compton Center Students

Carlos Ornelas, a 2014 graduate of El Camino College Compton Center, plans to return to Compton to teach after he completes his studies as an English major in the rhetoric and composition program at California State University, Long Beach.

He recently received validation of his talent as a writer when some of his compositions were published in *Voices of Compton*, a literary journal of student work, but also received two first place honors. Ornelas’ essay “America Writes for American Rights” and spoken word art “Amiri Theory” both took top honors in the 2013-2014 competition.

“During the last two years, I have participated in the *Voices of Compton* literary journal because I love literature and poetry,” said Ornelas, who also served as ECC Compton Center’s Associated Student Body president for 2013-14 academic year. “I believe that we are in the midst of an artistic renaissance period; and therefore we are the voices of Compton in this particular space and time. We are the documenters of the age and it is important that I do my part.”

More than 29 literary compositions and artistic works created by students at ECC Compton Center were published in the 6th annual edition of *Voices of Compton*, a fine arts journal and competition. The ECC Compton Center Humanities Division, Academic Affairs and Office of Student Life recognized the students’ exceptional academic and creative work with prizes in nine categories.

Below is a list of the student awards by category:

Essays:

- 1st Prize: Carlos Ornelas for “America Writes for American Rights”
- 2nd Prize: Egypt Muhammad for “Baba and Quila’s House”
- 3rd Prize: Stephanie Ramirez for “A Destination to Leave”
- Honorable Mention: Christopher Jacobs for “America: The Continuous Change”

Education Essays:

- Kehmena Ockiya for “Rethinking the Thinking Process”
- Honorable Mention: Kumba Varnee for “Liberal over Vocational Education”
- Honorable Mention: Justin Villanueva for “Educational Benefits”

Sketches:

- 1st Prize: Isabel Herrera for “Self Portrait: My Excuse to Come See You”
- 2nd Prize: Stephanny Peralta for “Water Bottle”
- 3rd Prize: Justin Aguilar for “Male Face”

Paintings

- 1st Prize: Edelbert Alvarado for “John Coltrane”
- 2nd Prize: Daniel Felix for “Ché”
- 3rd Prize: Egypt Muhammad for “Ab Sol”
- Honorable Mention: Samuel Isidoro for “Emiliano Zapata”
- Honorable Mention: Carlos Vergara for “Sammy Davis, Jr.”
- Honorable Mention: Jazmin Rodriguez for “Audrey Hepburn”

Mixed Media:

- 1st Prize: Brandon Segovia for “Nursing Home Blues” (Spoken Word Art and Sketch)
- 2nd Prize: Anita Johnson for “My Son” (Poem and Photo)
- 3rd Prize: Roxana Gomez for “Music at Heart” (Poem and Photo)

Song Lyrics:

- Marcus Coleman for “16 Bars of Procrastination”

Photo:

- Carmen Raman for “Folkloric Dancers”

Poetry:

- 1st Prize: Maor Lain for “Matty Matter Man”
- 2nd Prize: Brandon Segovia for “Poem on House on Mango Street”
- 3rd Prize: Josephine Jones for “Love” & Michelle Naranjo for “My Life’s an Open Book”

Spoken Word Art:

- 1st Prize: Carlos Ornelas for “Amiri Theory”
- 2nd Prize: LaQuita Smith for “Friendship”
- 3rd Prize: Ariel Rufo for “Community Service Hours”

About El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center is the community’s education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. El Camino College Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.