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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Compton Community College District Board of Trustee Members Take Oath of Office**

The Compton Community College District (CCCD) held a swearing-in ceremony for its Board of Trustee members on December 8, 2020. Two of the five trustee areas were up for election during the November 3, 2020 general election. Incumbent trustees Sonia Lopez, Trustee Area 3, and Barbara Calhoun, Trustee Area 2, will both serve four-year terms effective December 12, 2020.

On August 26, 2020, the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk notified the Compton Community College District that incumbent Sonia Lopez was running unopposed for Trustee Area 3, which includes Lynwood, South Gate, Paramount, and Downey. Therefore, pursuant to Education Code Sections 5326 and 5328, an election was not held for Compton Community College District's Trustee Area 3, and the governing board approved the appointment of Lopez at its organizational meeting in December.

According to CCCD Board Policy 2100, terms of trustees are staggered so that, as nearly as practical, one half of the trustees shall be elected at each trustee election. The District has all five seats filled on its Board and the members are as follows:

### **Andres Ramos, Trustee Area 1**

Andres Ramos was elected to the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees for the first time in November 2007 at the age of 22, making him the youngest Latino board member in the District's history. He is a native of Lynwood and is a product of the Lynwood Unified School District. Ramos attended Long Beach City College and transferred to the University of Southern California where he earned a bachelor's degree in communications.

### **Barbara Jean Calhoun, Trustee Area 2**

Barbara Jean Calhoun resides in the city of Compton, and retired after more than 34 years of service to the City of Los Angeles, where she worked as a clerk typist supervisor and traffic officer. Since 2014, she has served as a proctor for the State Bar of California's Committee of Bar Examiners. Calhoun was elected and served two consecutive terms, in 2003 and 2007, as a city council member for the City of Compton (District 1). She also served one term on the Board of Trustees for the Compton Unified School District from 2001-2003. She attended Los Angeles Trade Technical College where she studied labor law.

### **Sonia Lopez, Trustee Area 3**

Sonia Lopez, a resident of South Gate, was first elected to the CCCD Board of Trustees in 2013 at the age of 30. She is the deputy director of engagement for Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Second District. In 2019, Lopez served as district director for California State Senate Budget Chair Holly J. Mitchell of the 30th District. Lopez has overseen all district operations and represented the senator throughout the 30th Senatorial District at various community events and meetings while handling the policy

areas of higher education, transportation, utilities, youth, workforce, labor, senior affairs, women's rights, homelessness, and anti-poverty. Lopez has played an instrumental role in creating events throughout the 30th Senatorial District to educate the community on such issues as the Affordable Care Act, common senior frauds, and homelessness. In the past nine years, she has helped to provide resources to families from disadvantaged communities by hosting various district annual events. Throughout her tenure with Senator Mitchell, Lopez has been dedicated to helping constituents navigate state government. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked closely with constituents experiencing severe financial hardships to ensure their access to unemployment benefits. She serves on the Advisory Board for LAtinas, Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation RBI Advisory Committee, and is an active member in the Young Elected Officials Network and National Association of Latino Elected Officials.

#### **Dr. Deborah LeBlanc, Trustee Area 4**

Deborah Sims LeBlanc resides in the city of Paramount, and is a professor of public administration for the School of Professional Studies at National University in Los Angeles where she has taught for 31 years. For 10 years, Dr. LeBlanc has served as the CEO of the Community Family Educational Services Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization designed to assist under-served urban scholars prepare for college. She earned a doctorate in public administration and a master's degree in organizational behavior from the University of La Verne, and a second master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. At National University, she earned her final four master's degrees in human services, educational administration and cross-cultural teaching, and educational and instructional technology. LeBlanc began her undergraduate education by earning a bachelor's degree in political science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

#### **Dr. Sharoni Denise Little, Trustee Area 5**

Sharoni Denise Little, a life-long Compton resident, oversees the global inclusion strategy for Creative Artists Agency. She is responsible for the company's robust set of initiatives to vigorously and consistently ensure the most enriching, diverse and inclusive environment for all employees to excel. She is also the CEO of The Strategist Company, LLC, a boutique consultancy. She formerly served as vice dean and senior diversity, equity, and inclusion officer/professor at the University of Southern California's (USC) Marshall School of Business. Dr. Little is an expert in workplace inclusion, equity, antiracism, mitigating bias, strategic leadership and communication, critical race, and global organizational strategy. She earned a doctorate in rhetoric and cultural studies from Indiana University, a doctorate in education from USC, and bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Los Angeles. An educational and social advocate, Dr. Little has partnered with the Aspen Institute, Obama Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, and the Children's Defense Fund.

Compton Community College District Board of Trustees members are responsible for attending all Board meetings and key Compton College events, as well as participating in trustee education programs.

#### **Annual Organizational Meeting**

As part of its annual organizational meeting on Dec. 8, 2020, the Board of Trustees also elected officers. Sonia Lopez was elected president, Dr. Sharoni Little was elected vice president, and Barbara Calhoun will serve as clerk. Compton Community College District CEO, Dr. Keith Curry, was appointed secretary.

In addition, Andres Ramos will serve as the district representative to the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, and Barbara Calhoun will serve as a member of the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization. In addition, Dr. Deborah LeBlanc was appointed to review nominations for membership on the California Community Colleges Trustees Board.

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#### **About the Compton Community College District**

Board meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. The District is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.