



## EL CAMINO COLLEGE COMPTON CENTER



# EL CAMINO COLLEGE COMPTON CENTER NEWS

MARCH 2010

### **Message from the Vice President ECC Compton Center**

As the spring semester progresses, I look forward to working with each of you to achieve our mission of meeting the educational needs of our community and ensuring student success by offering quality, comprehensive educational opportunities. Central to our mission is student success, which is not exclusive to the interactions between students and faculty in the classroom. Student success is the responsibility of the entire faculty, staff and management as we work together to support student learning in academics, as well as via our programs and services.

As noted in this newsletter, the fourth report from Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) was released in February. Everyone should be pleased with their contributions to the noted progress and marked improvements. Please see the "FCMAT Update" story in this newsletter for an overview of the results and a link to the full report.

A recent article about the FCMAT report in the Compton Bulletin also acknowledged our progress and group efforts in making improvements: "What is clear from the 200-page [FCMAT] report is that the faculty and staff at Compton Center are fully engaged in the challenges to be met before local control or accreditation can occur." The article further states: "A clear and methodical plan has been defined, no small task in itself, and everyone involved is working toward the common goal of fulfilling all requirements."

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend all of the great work accomplished by the members of Enrollment Management Committee for their creation and implementation of the comprehensive plan that guided ECC Compton Center toward achieving significant enrollment increases during the past few years. Our enrollment status is also highlighted in a separate story later in this newsletter.

FCMAT praised the Enrollment Management Plan as being very specific in outlining action plans for academic programs, student recruitment, marketing, registration, and student retention. It also includes timelines for each activity, identifies the lead people to implement the elements of the plan and, where possible, outlines costs associated with the individual elements of the plan. Several elements in each area have already been implemented. FCMAT recommends that we adhere to the goals outlined in the "excellent" Enrollment Management Plan and continue to measure effectiveness.

We are dedicated to building relationships with the community by effectively communicating to the public and delivering quality educational programs that provide students with the ability to complete their general education, earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year institution, and upgrade job skills.

## **Student Success**

Student success is a top priority at El Camino College Compton Center, and in the past year, we have experienced positive trends in many areas, including increases in enrollment, a rise in the overall course completion rate as well as a noteworthy jump in the number of degrees and certificates awarded.

We are dedicated to serving local communities and providing for the educational needs of all students. In the last several years, administration, faculty and staff have worked hard to better our institution by making improvements that ensure students achieve success and attain their academic goals. This semester we will begin to assess student learning outcomes in a variety of courses and programs.

In February, El Camino College Compton Center published its 2009 Annual Fact Book. First produced in 2008 by the Office of Institutional Research, this year's Fact Book includes information about student and enrollment trends, special programs, success and retention rates, and student outcomes such as persistence, graduation and transfer trends. Among the highlights are:

### **Student and Enrollment Trends**

Fifty-five percent of enrolled students are between the ages of 18 and 24, while 35 percent of students are working adults between the ages of 25 and 44. The majority of the enrollment growth last year was among ages 19 or younger, which increased 37 percent.

Among the current student population, 33 percent of students come from outside the district, while the majority comes from local high schools within the Compton Community College District. Last year, enrollment from Gardena Senior High and Carson Senior High (which are both out of the district) increased by 40 percent and 38 percent respectively.

Overall, El Camino College Compton Center enrollment has continued its upward trend over the last several years. From 2006 to 2008, Compton Center experienced a significant increase in headcount. Enrollment increased 14 percent in 2007-2008 over the previous year, and then increased another 31 percent in 2008-2009.

### **Special Programs**

El Camino College Compton Center offers more than 15 different types of student services and programs, one of which is the Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOP&S). This program, designed to assist low income and educationally disadvantaged students, serves approximately 15 percent of our student population. In 2008-2009, there was a 27 percent increase in the number of students benefitting from EOP&S.

In 2008-2009, the number of CalWORKS participants increased by 251 students, an 81 percent increase, which is attributed to successful community partnerships established by the CalWORKS program, as well the Los Angeles County referral program. The program helps eligible students who are single parents earn degrees and certificates while gaining work experience that leads to employment.

El Camino College Compton Center also accommodates students with disabilities through its Disabled Student Programs and others services. During 2008-2009, 2 percent of Compton Center's student population were students with registered disabilities.

## Financial Aid

On average, 32 percent of El Camino College Compton Center students receive some form of financial aid. The college launched a successful financial aid awareness campaign in 2009, which has helped increase the number of students applying for and receiving aid. As of January 27, 2010, more than 5,310 Compton Center students have applied for financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year.

More than \$3 million in Federal Pell Grants have been awarded to 1,496 Compton Center students for 2009-2010. In addition, \$67,500 in Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) has been awarded to 225 students, and 4,929 students have received a collective total of more than \$3.5 million in Board of Governor waivers.

## Success and Retention

There is an overall average success rate (course completion with a grade of C or better) at El Camino College Compton Center of 61 percent and a retention rate (course completion regardless of grade) of 73 percent. In the last year, the success rate for basic skills writing increased by 44 percent, while basic skills reading success rates increased slightly. The success rate for transfer-level courses averages 66 percent. Over the last three years, the average success rate for degree/credit applicable courses was 53 percent.

## Student Outcomes

El Camino College Compton Center has awarded a total of 349 degrees and certificates in the last three years. From 2007 to 2008, the number of degrees/certificates awarded increased by 35 percent. In the last year, the number of associate degree recipients increased by 55 percent. A total of 150 students were awarded degrees in 2008-2009, an increase of 44 degrees over the previous academic year. Students between the ages of 25 and 49 earned 62 percent of the degrees and 57 percent of all certificates awarded over the past three years.

For the complete 2009 Annual Fact Book, [click here](#).

## Transfer Students Follow Their Dreams



### Rashad Lowery

Long Beach resident Rashad Lowery is on track to transfer to a four-year university to major in English in fall 2010. He is anxiously awaiting his college admissions letters—his first choice is to attend San Diego State University and his second choice is San Jose State University.

Initially, Rashad chose to attend El Camino College Compton Center because he was living in Compton at the time and the location was convenient, but he really credits the Transfer Center and Elizabeth Martinez, Transfer Center Coordinator, with motivating him and helping him realize he could attain his life goals. “The Transfer Center really helped me out, from instructing me on what classes to take to encouraging me to go on university tours to check out school campuses, to walking me through the whole process of filling out college applications.”

In addition, Rashad says the Financial Aid office helped make things easier in terms of costs. He was able to take advantage of the Board of Governor’s fee waiver and benefits of the EOP&S Program.

Rashad isn’t totally sure where his career will take him yet. Combining two things he likes to do, writing and playing sports, he is considering a career as a sports journalist. He also has an entrepreneurial spirit and wants to own his own business someday. “I’d really like to produce video games,” he says.



### **Nicholas Bausley**

Nicholas Bausley enjoys his creative pursuits. When he is not studying or spending time with his family, he journals, plays video games and writes poetry for children. He began writing when he was 13 at the advice of a counselor to help him express himself, and he believes writing is a great outlet for young people. He hopes to put all these talents to good use in a future career that has something to do with creating children's entertainment. El Camino College Compton Center has put him on a path to get there.

In fall 2010, he plans to transfer to San Jose State University or California State University, Fresno, and pursue a dual major in graphic design and creative writing. He wants to one day become an animator and produce children's movies.

Nicholas came to El Camino College Compton Center at the suggestion of one of his mother's friends who is a staff member at the college. She, in turn, referred him to Elizabeth Martinez, Transfer Center Coordinator. "If it wasn't for Ms. Martinez, I would probably not be where I am now, he says. She showed me how to prepare myself to transfer."

### **FCMAT Update**

The Fourth Progress Report from the Fiscal Crises and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) was released in February, and overall, the Compton District scored averages of 5, 6 and 7's on a scale of 0-10, with nothing below 4. Thank you to everyone in facilities, fiscal services, human resources, student services, academic affairs and communications, and community outreach for these improvements.

The report notes: advancements have been made with board policies and administrative regulations, particularly in budget development, budget monitoring, requisition processing, bidding, contracting, and many other day-to-day accounting and operational functions; progress has been made in each governance and community relations; comprehensive plans have been developed and are being implemented.

Additionally, FCMAT states: Compton Center continues to have issues related to long-range institutional planning, scope and quality of the written curriculum, quality of classroom instruction, mechanisms for program assessment and accountability, and faculty professional development.

The report also notes that the agreement between the Compton and El Camino Community College districts remains strong, and the entities are more confidently navigating through this unique and complex situation. The recovery process for the Compton Community College District and El Camino College Compton Center requires time and effort toward improvement, and will continue in incremental steps. For the full FCMAT report, [click here](#).

### **Robotics Course Explores Potential Science/Math Careers**

El Camino College Compton Center is now offering a 12-week Robotics Program for high school (grades 9-12) as well as college-level students. Completion of the robotics course with a passing grade gives students two semester units of college credit.

The primary purpose of the Robotics Program is to introduce high school students to electronics and manufacturing technology through the construction, testing and operation of functional robots. Our hope is that participation in the Robotics Program will encourage students to further investigate career opportunities available to them in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering.

“The Robotics Program is designed to pique high school students’ interest in electronics and engineering and get them excited about vocational career opportunities or the possibility of pursuing an advanced degree in these fields,” explains Rodney Murray, Dean of Career and Technical Education.

The Robotics Program is being offered in partnership with the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) organization, which is nationally recognized for its innovative and effective academic development programs. MESA helps engage thousands of educationally disadvantaged students and partners with all segments of California higher education as well as K-12 institutions.

The first Robotics course was introduced in the fall 2009 semester, and the spring semester course MTEC 75 is offered on Saturdays. Contact Career and Technical Education (CTE) at 310-900-1600, ext. 2779, or via e-mail at [azambrano@elcamino.edu](mailto:azambrano@elcamino.edu) for more information and application procedures for high school students.

### **YESS Program Prepares Foster Youth for Independence**

This month, El Camino College Compton Center proudly introduces its new Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) Program. YESS is a comprehensive and integrated program that unites community partners and academic leaders to empower foster youth (ages 16-21) to successfully transition into independent living.

While in the program, students earn college credits and are able to make up high school credits. Using a proven approach, the YESS program provides services that focus on life skills training and academic performance with the objective of participants achieving self-sufficiency, college degree or certificate completion, and employment.

Each year, nearly 2,000 foster youth in Los Angeles turn 18 and are emancipated, many without the necessary skills to support themselves. Studies show that up to 50 percent of emancipated foster youth become homeless, have serious money problems, or end up incarcerated. To better prepare foster youth for independence, YESS was developed in 2007 through collaboration between the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the California Department of Social Services.

The ongoing 14-week program, initially beginning in early March, offers students tutoring and mentoring, as well as life-skills training that includes interactive, hands-on and reality-based experiential activities on housing, money management, employment counseling and exploration, job skills, daily living skills and parenting. Students will also learn how to navigate opportunities at El Camino College Compton Center, be able to earn college credits, make up high school credits, receive assistance with earning a high school diploma, and learn about the financial aid process. Upon completion, YESS students enrolled in 12 or more units will receive a campus job.

The YESS Program at El Camino College Compton Center is open to foster care youth between the ages of 16 and 21 residing in the cities of Compton, Lynwood, Paramount, North Long Beach and Carson. Registration is required to participate in the YESS program.

For information, contact Johnny Conley at 310-900-1600, ext. 2767 or via e-mail at [jconley@elcamino.edu](mailto:jconley@elcamino.edu).

### **Measure C Facilities Bond Update**

Facilities Bond Measure C, passed by voters in November 2002, authorized the Compton District to issue up to \$100 million in general obligation bonds for infrastructure and facilities improvements to the campus.

The first issuance of \$41 million in general obligation bonds occurred in 2003. The Compton District Board of Trustees approved all initial bond allocations for 29 projects. The District Special Trustee has subsequently approved any adjustments of funding for the initial 29 projects. Of these 29 Board approved projects, 11 have been completed, six are currently under construction or in the pre-construction process; and 12 are awaiting the next issuance of bond funds for the planning and work to begin.

Total Measure C funds spent as of June 30, 2008	\$39,539,051
Total State Capital Outlay Funds Spent as of June 30, 2008	<u>\$12,514,834</u>
Total Measure C and State Funds spent as of June 30, 2008:	<b>\$52,053,885</b>

To view the complete report dated November 30, 2009, which includes a status list of the projects and related expenditures, [click here](#).

### **Campus Watch is Everyone's Responsibility**

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to join the new Campus Watch Program at El Camino College Compton Center. This program is designed to empower everyone on campus to watch out for each other, be alert to dangerous situations and report suspicious activities. You can help by joining an area campus watch group! Meetings will be scheduled in two campus areas. Area 1: Math and Science, meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the Math/Science Building. Area 2: Vocational/Technical/Athletics, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the Vocational Technology Building. Always be on the lookout and report any suspicious situations. For more information, contact the Police Department at 310-660-3100.

### **African-American History Month Celebration a Success**



Students, faculty and staff enjoyed an educational and celebratory atmosphere during African-American History Month in February. To kick off the celebration, the opening ceremony took place on February 23, beginning with an "All People's Afrikan Drum Processional" followed by an uplifting all-female Afrikan drum and dance performance, and an African Market Place. Faculty, staff and students were also invited to dress in traditional African attire for the opening ceremonies.

Sponsored by the Student Life Office and Associated Student Body (ASB), the month-long celebration also featured a panel presentation on "Black Athletes and the Professional Sports Industry." Panel participants included Compton College alumni, professional athletes, a professional sports agent and a former NFL team official.

The keynote address was delivered on February 25 by Donzaleigh Abernathy, daughter of the legendary civil rights movement leader the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy. An author, actress and director, Abernathy's speech was titled "Partners to History: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph David Abernathy."

Other featured events include two one-act plays examining the lives of historical icons Harriet Tubman and Malcolm X; a museum bus excursion to "America I AM;" and a traditional African/African-American fashion extravaganza featuring El Camino College Compton Center students. Thank you to the Student Life Office and ASB for a wonderful celebration of culture and history.

## Tax Preparation Workshop a Resounding Success



In February, El Camino College Compton Center hosted Intuit, the makers of Turbo Tax, and the Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA), who provided free tax preparation and filing assistance to eligible members of the community. The workshop aided 65 taxpayers with the preparation of their 2009 tax returns. Representatives from Intuit and CCIA said the event went smoothly and was probably their most successful workshop to date, with limited wait times and enough computers and volunteers to effectively service the attendees.

Intuit extended their appreciation for the partnership in an e-mail: “Alicia Zambrano [and the team] from El Camino College Compton Center really went above and beyond in preparing for this event,” said Francine Migdal, quality assurance manager at Intuit. “I know she worked hard on outreach and even walked the campus on the day of the event distributing promotional flyers. I would like to especially thank Dean Rodney Murray, Alicia Zambrano, Roxana Damas and her team of translators, as well as the team of volunteers for making this event such a success!”

Of the 65 taxpayers who attend the event, 55 completed a feedback survey. The total EITC claimed was \$20,340 and taxpayers received \$32,202 in Federal refunds. According to the survey, community members served by this workshop left very happy and were highly complimentary of all the volunteers.

After the event, Intuit announced it will make a donation of \$5,000 to Career Technology Education at El Camino College Compton Center to honor our partnership and the community outreach we provide.

## Board of Trustees Meeting

The next meeting of the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Compton Center. Closed session begins at 5:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to address the Board on closed session agenda items. The Board Agendas are 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).

## Compton Center Promotional Video Now Available

El Camino College Compton Center’s new promotional “Welcome Video” is available on the [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu) Web page under the “Perspective Students” link, as well as on You Tube. To access the video on You Tube, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type “El Camino College Compton Center” into the “Search” box at the top of the page. Our DVD will be the first video listed.

Please contact Ann Garten at ext. 3406 or by e-mail at [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu) if you would like a copy of the DVD to use for events on campus or for community outreach.

[Click Here to View the DVD online.](#)

## Social Networking at Compton Center

Compton Center is now on Facebook and Twitter. Check out Compton Center’s home page on our Web site to become a “fan” or follow the latest “tweets.” To be in the know, add these sites to your “favorites” list on your

computer. You may send your ideas for postings to Ann Garten, director of community relations, El Camino College, at [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@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 and postings for Facebook and Twitter to Ann Garten, community relations director, at [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu).