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For Immediate Release

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Compton Community College District's Tartar Athletics Hall of Fame Highlights Athletics Program Legacy

The Compton Community College District will host an inaugural Tartar Athletics Hall of Fame event on Saturday, April 23. The festivities begin with a Red Carpet and VIP reception at 11:00 a.m. with a \$50 admission price to help raise funds for current athletic programs. The VIP reception will be followed by the induction ceremony at 2:00 p.m. in the Tartar gym. Induction ceremony admission is \$20 for reserved seating and free for general admission.

Intercollegiate athletics in California's Community colleges have a rich history and tradition. Great athletes like Flo Hyman, Jackie Robinson, Warren Moon and Debbie Meyer all started their athletic careers at California community colleges, as well as legendary coaches such as football's Bill Walsh, John Madden and Joe Gibbs. Even the late NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle was a California community college alumnus who in 1946 enrolled at the former Compton Junior College and worked as the athletic news and sports information director. On April 23, Rozelle will become one of the first inductees in the inaugural Tartar Athletics Hall of Fame.

"I have never seen such a line-up of talent and history being honored by a single athletic program in this state," said Albert "Lefty" Olguin, Athletic Director, El Camino College Compton Center. A former professional baseball scout for the Cincinnati Reds and hall of fame inductee from Los Angeles Harbor College, Olguin emphasizes the "need to recognize and remind people of the crucial role community colleges and their athletic programs play in our community, especially during these tough economic times. What better way than by creating the Tartar Athletics Hall of Fame and recognizing our past."

The history of the Tartar Athletic Program begins in 1927. Early luminaries include gold medalist Cornelius "Corny" Johnson. Johnson won the gold medal in the high jump and helped lead an American sweep of the medals at the 1936 Olympic Games. Pro football hall-of-fame running back Hugh McElhenny's 1948 Tartars rolled to a 11-0-0 season, and a world record was set by Olympic Discus Champion Sim Iness in 1952. In 1956, Charlie Dumas became an Olympic Gold Medalist and the first human to high-jump seven feet. These are just a few of the inductees being recognized during the Inaugural Tartar Athletics Hall of Fame event.

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Ron Richardson, a 6' 10" center from the undefeated 33-0 Basketball State Championship Team from 1970, will also be inducted along with his teammates. The team's scoring record of 166 points in one game will never be broken since it happened before the 3 point shot. Richardson explains the significance of this tribute, "This was more than a team. Up to this day, we are a family that takes care of each other. For us, the opportunity to specifically honor Coach Newman as an inductee is something extremely important and well deserved." Coach James Newman recorded two State Championships, and coached one of the only undefeated basketball teams in California Community College history.

The Tartar Athletics Hall of Fame event will take place at the Compton Community College District, located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, California 90221.

To purchase tickets or for more information about the event, please visit www.Foundation4Compton.com or call 310-900-1600, ext. 2971.

About the Compton Community College District

The Compton Community College District serves the communities of Carson, Compton, Enterprise, North Long Beach, Lynwood, Paramount and Willowbrook. The District is governed by a state-appointed Special Trustee, who works with the five-member elected Board of Trustees. Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. The District is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA, 90221.

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