

Good news from Compton Center

Accreditation slow in coming but enrollment up at the college

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—El Camino Compton Center is open for business and enrollment is up. That's the word from Special Trustee Genethia Hudley-Hayes, who is continuing the lead the effort to secure accreditation from the Accrediting Committee for Junior and Community Colleges.

The accreditation process continues to be controversial, and the Committee to Save Compton College and the Concerned Citizens of Compton have expressed a lack of confidence in El Camino's intent to get the college re-accredited.

Hudley-Hayes, who was appointed earlier this year, has said that statements released by the district regarding progress made toward accreditation were not supported by the CCCD figures.

Hudley-Hayes bought out the contract of CEO Dr. Lawrence Cox, a move that outraged the college's support groups.

Nonetheless, the college's enrollment is up to its highest level since 2006, and the selection of classes satisfies the community's needs, with a variety of occupational programs as well as courses that earn credit toward a four-year degree.

The college has earned praise for its nursing program, which has continued un-

interrupted through the loss of accreditation, largely because the program's administrators began working with El Camino College beforehand.

"We knew the college would lose its accreditation," Dean of Nursing Wanda Morris said. "It was inevitable. So we began several months before that happened to interact with each other so that we could accomplish a seamless transition once the partnership began in August 2007."

The nursing program has been important to the community of Compton since it was established in 1953. Since the partnership with El Camino College began in August 2007, the program has grown. "The nursing program is even more successful now than it was before the partnership," Morris said. "The partnership has given our students more resources and tools that enhance their education and their ability to pass the NCLEX-RN test, which they must do in order to become registered nurses."

In April the Compton Center launched a new wireless, high fidelity patient simulation lab that has the look and feel of a real hospital. The "patients" are mannequins that actually breathe, cry, sweat and bleed. They are programmed to perform complex scenarios and respond physiologically to treatment provided by the students.

"The students profit from the experience

in the simulation lab because it is not as intimidating as an actual clinical setting," said Morris. "Their actions and reactions are taped so they can be viewed and debriefed. Students appreciate the experience of providing their own critique."

The Aerospace Fastener Boot Camp program at Compton Center began on Nov. 5, 2008. This intensive program includes 40 hours per week in the classroom and three hours of homework daily. A key component is that students may qualify for a paid internship and job placement.

According to David Gonzales, CACT (Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies) director at El Camino College, there is no program like Compton Center's Aerospace Fastener Boot Camp in the western United States.

"One thing that will always be needed in any industry is nuts and bolts," he told the Bulletin. "The aerospace industry in particular needs fasteners that are unique and must be made on highly specialized equipment. The fastener industry serves military needs as well as other industrial needs throughout the country. And 40 percent of fasteners are made in Southern California."

The fastener market totaled \$6 billion in

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Obituary



Maggie B. Watts December 1, 1918 - August 18, 2011

Maggie Belle Watts, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 18, 2011 at the age of 92. She was born on December 1, 1918 in Utica, Mississippi to Alfred and Anna McGriggs. She was the sixth child of the family, all of whom preceded her in death.

Married to the late Miller Watts for 64 years, she is survived by five children, 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Maggie retired from St. Francis Hospital after 26 years of service. Dedicated to her community, she was a member of Citizens of Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Compton, serving on its Mother's Board and was recognized by the California State Legislature, California State Board of Seniors, St. Francis Hospital of Lynwood, and the city of Compton for her leadership and service.

Maggie was a caring mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, a loyal, devoted wife and wonderful friend to many. A woman of faith, she enjoyed gardening, growing flowers, canning, reading, listening to music, especially gospel, jazz and Ray Charles. She was always known to give her "best."

Services were held Friday, August 26, 2011, at Citizens of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 12930 S. Lime Avenue, Compton.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Armenta D. Thornton and B.T. Newman Scholarship Fund, c/o Citizens of Zion MBC as listed above.

District's Title II press release raises questions about class size reduction

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON —The Compton Unified School District interim Superintendent Karen Frison has addressed the issue of Title II federal grant funds 10 days after The Compton Bulletin emailed the district requesting comment.

The information, received by The Bulletin on Aug. 25, has raised more questions about how the school district can use Title II funds to return 21 teachers to the payroll.

"Our allocation for this year is \$2.9 million for the 2011-2012 school year, which in addition to professional development activities, will be utilized to assist in the recruitment of highly qualified teachers, and the implementation of innovative professional development programs, provide scholarships, train and hire regular and special education teachers, promote the retention of highly qualified teachers and principals, teacher mentoring, and implement induction support for teachers and principals," the release said.

The superintendent pointed out the restrictions placed on Title II funds.

"There are restrictions on how Title II funds can be spent," Frison said. "If a school district's teachers are all 'highly qualified,'

those funds could potentially be used for such purposes as class size reduction. We have made enormous progress over the past several years and we now have just a small number of non-highly qualified teachers. Accordingly, we cannot use Title II funds to reduce class size at this time."

One of the purposes of the federal grant, she said, is to develop and implement initiatives to assist all CUSD teachers to become "highly qualified teachers."

"In order for teachers to meet the criteria, they may need additional coursework, training, and professional development activities," Frison said.

Frison also pointed out the district's commitment to abiding by federal guidelines regarding the use of Title II funds, by submitting a plan and budget, explaining how the funding will be utilized to achieve 100 percent highly qualified teachers in the district.

"After all teachers meet this goal, the district may use these funds to hire 'highly qualified teachers' to reduce class sizes," she said.

This information has brought alternative solutions from CUSD teacher Patrick Sullivan during a phone interview on Sunday, Aug. 29.

"Title II money can cover the expense of conducting class from Monday through

Thursday, which is professional development," Sullivan said. "This would save the school district approximately \$2 million. The money that was allocated for those days could then be put back into the general fund and 21 teachers can be re-hired."

He said that professional development can occur on Wednesday's, and it would still come under the Title II auspices.

The Compton Bulletin has sent an email to Frison seeking further clarification on why the solution offered by Sullivan is inapplicable. In addition, Frison has also been asked to disclose how many teachers are not highly qualified, how many highly qualified teachers were laid off at the end of the previous school year, if any, and what the timeline is for the teachers in question to achieve the needed status so funds can be spent on class size reduction.

Additionally, The Bulletin is seeking clarification about Title II money that will be used to attract highly qualified teachers, and how long the district has been working to achieve 100 percent highly qualified teachers.

As of press time, The Bulletin had not received an answer to these questions.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting CUSD's Office of Communications at 310-604-6529 or by visiting www.compton.k12.ca.us.

CUSD withdraws transfers for cafeteria supervisors

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton Unified School District has rescinded the pending transfers of cafeteria supervisors, while they continue to look at ways to cut costs in the department.

The transfers have brought allegations from the workers that they have been retaliated against for their stand against a proposed money-saving heat-and-serve meal program. The supervisors have made appeals to the Personnel Commission and the Board of Trustees seeking relief.

Interim Superintendent Karen Frison made the announcement to board members at its Aug. 23 meeting.

"At our recent special board meeting, I said that I would be looking into the proposed transfers of nutrition supervisors, and would like to give you an update on this matter," Frison said. "We have decided to withdraw those transfers at this time. However, staff will continue to look at the cafeteria program, and how we can improve delivery of these services."

She said they will continue to crunch the numbers and engage the unions in discussions about the potential moves. There will be a new plan brought forward in the upcoming months, Frison said, but "at this time, we have withdrawn the transfers."

Frison was not questioned by the trustees about the decision, and she made no mention of the allegations of retaliatory transfers imposed by Food Service Director Tracie Thomas.

"I am absolutely elated by the action taken by the CUSD," said Service Employees Interna-

tional Union Local 99 President Adrian Cleveland. "I want to thank Board Members Micah Ali, Margie Garrett and Fred Easter, as well as President Satra Zurita for hearing our plight."

Cleveland said although the supervisors won this battle, the issue continues. She said union leadership will make sure that the transfers are handled fairly.

"I also want to thank The Compton Bulletin for its cover-

age of this story," she said. "You guys did an excellent job and it made a difference."

"When complicated changes are proposed," CUSD Board of Trustees President Satra Zurita said. "Several things must be taken into consideration, including making sure that we are in compliance with the education code, the union memo-

randa of understanding and the district's policies and procedures. Sometimes difficult and unpopular decisions have to be made in the best interest of the district and the children, but these decisions must always be fair, impartial and in order."

Zurita said she is satisfied with the superintendent's decision to halt the transfers. "This situation proved to be quite a complicated issue," she said. "We were very concerned with continuity and the opening of school. We want

our children and the employees that serve them on a daily basis to have an enjoyable school experience."

Board Member Micah Ali applauded SEIU Local 99 President Adrian Cleveland for her leadership and diplomacy in this matter, and the cooperative spirit employed to make this happen.

"The decision by the district to stop the transfer of SEIU Local 99 cafeteria supervisors

was not surrender or compromise, but a consensus to work amicably with a union responsible for providing healthy meals to over 90 percent of our students," Ali said. "I applaud CUSD Trustee Fred Easter for joining President Satra Zurita, Vice President Margie Garrett and me in raising concerns about the transfers, to ensure the matter was corrected by staff."



Compton Community College District

REDISTRICTING WORKSHOPS



ATTENTION: URGENT COMMUNITY MEETINGS ANNOUNCEMENT!

Redistricting will impact the future of your community college representation for the next 10 years! Come out and be a part of making history by giving your input and helping create new boundaries for electing our community college leaders. A strong community has a strong community college. Let your voice be heard! **YOUR COLLEGE... YOUR COMMUNITY... YOUR VOICE!!!!**

ATENCIÓN: JUNTAS COMUNITARIAS!

Redistribución de Distritos impactarán el futuro de representación de la comunidad en nuestro colegio comunitario Compton College para los próximos 10 años! Salga y sea parte de la historia al dar su opinión y ayudar a crear nuevas fronteras para la elección de nuestros representantes de la comunidad en Compton College. Una comunidad fuerte tiene un colegio comunitario fuerte. Deje que su voz se escuche! **SU COLEGIO... SU COMUNIDAD... SU VOZ!!**

Wednesday, September 14, 2011, 7pm
Miércoles, 14 de septiembre 2011, 7pm

Los Angeles Adventist Academy
Lorenzo Paytee Pavilion
846 E. El Segundo Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7pm
Jueves, 15 de septiembre 2011, 7pm

Compton Community College District
Faculty Lounge
1111 E. Artesia Blvd
Compton, CA 90221

Saturday, September 17, 2011, Walk-in from 9am-12pm
Sábado, 17 de septiembre 2011, 9am-12pm (Walk-In)

Compton Community College District
Board of Trustees Room
1111 E. Artesia Blvd
Compton, CA 90221

For information please call 310-900-1600 x 2005