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El Camino College | 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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Compton College Receives Accreditation

Compton College granted initial accreditation

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) granted initial accreditation status to Compton College during its June 7, 2017 meeting. The action establishes Compton College as an accredited college.

“This accomplishment is a huge success story for the entire Compton Community College District community,” said El Camino Community College District Superintendent/President Dena P. Maloney. “El Camino College and Compton College faculty, staff and students are all to be congratulated for their hard work in achieving accreditation directly from eligibility status.”

Accreditation consists of several steps, including eligibility, candidacy, initial accreditation, and reaffirmation of accreditation. The ACCJC granted accreditation eligibility status to the institution in March 2015. The application for candidacy was the next step and a Comprehensive Institutional Self-Evaluation Report was submitted in January 2017.

A four-day visit from the ACCJC External Evaluation Team was completed this past March. In its report, the visiting team commended the El Camino Community College District for entering into this partnership to ensure the Compton community had access to higher education. The team noted that ECCCD’s willingness to enter into this unique relationship “is an excellent model of collegiality, dedication and commitment.” The team also commended the Center on the high level of student engagement in the participatory governance process and campus initiatives.

Typically, the ACCJC process would require accreditation candidacy to immediately follow accreditation eligibility. However, the Commission was so impressed with the progress made during the past two years, they determined that moving directly to initial accreditation was in order.

Granting initial accreditation indicates that the ACCJC has determined that the institution is in substantial compliance with its eligibility requirements, accreditation standards, and ACCJC policies. Compton College is required to submit a Quality Focused Essay as a special report within one year.

“We look forward to continuing to provide comprehensive educational programs and support services to our diverse communities,” said Compton College President Keith Curry. “Thank you to all of our community leaders – at the federal, state and local levels – for your steadfast support. Thank you to the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees for your leadership. Thank you to all of the Compton District students and employees. And last, but not least, many thanks to our partner, El Camino College, for taking this journey with us to an accredited college.”

Established in 1927, the Compton Community College District encompasses an area of about 29 square miles, making educational services available to nearly 300,000 residents of Compton, Lynwood, Paramount and Willowbrook, as well as portions of Athens, Bellflower, Carson, Downey, Dominguez, Lakewood, Long Beach and South Gate.

In August 2006, the El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees approved a Memorandum of Understanding to provide educational and related support services to Compton Community College District residents through El Camino College Compton Center.

When the partnership began, a primary objective was to provide quality educational programs and services for student success at ECC Compton Center, while working to once again have an independent college serving the Compton District community.

The ECC Compton Center Provost/Compton District CEO is now President of Compton College. This is the first in many changes to follow. The El Camino College Superintendent/President and the Compton College President have already begun discussions around developing and implementing a Transition Plan leading to a fully independent Compton College within the Compton Community College District.

In the Commission’s June 7, 2017, letter to Compton College President Curry, ACCJC Interim President Richard Winn noted: On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express our appreciation for the significant scope and quality of work that Compton College undertook to meet the requirements of accreditation, prepare for institutional self-evaluation, and support the work of the external evaluation team.

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