



## El Camino College Compton Center

# Community News

Spring 2012

## First Year Experience Program Helps Build Student's Confidence



In 2009, Diego Ramos graduated from Dominguez Hills High School in Compton. He was looking forward to attending California State University Los Angeles in the fall of 2009, until his financial aid application did not go through. It was at this point that he enrolled in El Camino College Compton Center's First Year Experience (FYE) program designed to help students succeed in their first year attending college.

One element of the FYE program involves inviting guest speakers into the classroom who provide college advising and counseling. Diego remembers one such speaker from the University of California, Berkeley. "She talked a lot about minorities in college, which really resonated with me," explains Diego. "I am a minority and it showed me that transferring was possible."

Transferring became more than a possibility for Diego. After being accepted to the University of California at Irvine, the University of California at Santa Cruz and the University of California at Santa Barbara, it became a reality and a big decision.

He works primarily as an assemblage painter and enjoys combining traditional oil painting with manipulated paper that is sometimes embroidered or treated in other ways, to create pieces that resemble fabric.

Today, Diego is studying art at University of California, Irvine and is looking forward to earning his bachelor's degree. His future plans include possibly earning a Master of Fine Arts degree, as well as joining an artist residency program.

Visit [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu) for more information on the First Year Experience program.

## Message from El Camino College Compton Center Vice President Barbara Perez

One of the ways we meet the educational needs of our community is by ensuring student success. We have made progress in this area by enhancing the comprehensive educational opportunities offered to students. Specifically, El Camino College Compton Center has introduced several new programs to help students reach their educational and career goals.

### First Year Experience (FYE) Program

Introduced in fall 2009, the FYE program helps students develop study skills and provides options for studying in groups. FYE students also have access to vital campus resources, and may explore a major, create a career plan, interact in a multicultural environment, and learn how to access electronic information. For more information, contact the Transfer Center at 310-900-1600, ext. 2769.

### Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS)

A chapter of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor and Scholarship Society was established in fall 2010. AGS supports the academic endeavors of its' members through study groups, tutorials and scholarship opportunities. The honor society offers ways to gain leadership positions, participate in community service, and meet other students with similar academic interests. For more information, contact the Office of Student Life at 310-900-1600, ext. 2802.

### Honors Transfer Program (HTP)

A new Honors Transfer Program will be established in fall 2012, and is designed to better prepare highly-motivated students to successfully transfer and complete a bachelor's degree. The HTP provides a unique learning environment that stresses scholastic excellence and develops the academic awareness necessary to achieve this goal. Honors courses are chosen to fulfill the requirements of the associate of arts degree as well as to transfer to the UC, CSU, and most other universities.

Each year, our students and faculty continue to stand out and make us proud of their individual accomplishments. Check out this issue of Community News to read more about some of their successes!

## Transfer Center Helps Students Focus on Their Future

El Camino College Compton Center's Transfer Center is the ultimate resource for making a smooth transition to any four-year college or university and helps students put a successful transfer plan into action.

A variety of services, programs and activities are offered throughout the academic year including; transfer-related informational workshops, visits from university representatives, university/college fairs, university tours, a university catalogue and reference library, transfer websites and internet resources, as well as counseling and advising.

"The Transfer Center helped me with everything from instructing me on what classes to take to encouraging me to go on university tours to check out school campuses, as well as advising me on the whole process of filling out college applications," said Alan Gonzalez, El Camino College Compton Center student and former Transfer Club president who hopes to transfer to the University of California, Merced this year and eventually pursue a career as a lawyer.

For more information, visit the Transfer Center in Room D-29 or call 310-900-1600, Ext. 2764.



## Message from Compton Community College District Interim CEO Keith Curry

In keeping with one of our ongoing goals—to enhance and expand our community engagement—Thomas Henry, Special Trustee for the Compton Community College District (CCCD) recently appointed members to two District community participation committees.

Eight community representatives were appointed to the Special Trustee Advisory Committee. As outlined in AB 318, this committee is organized “to advise the Special Trustee with respect to the management of the Compton Community College District.”

### Special Trustee Advisory Committee

- Domitila Aguilar
- Marie Hollis
- Amelia Apple
- Lestean Johnson
- Oscar Edwards
- Cynthia Macon
- Mark Guillen
- Martina Rodriguez
- Amirah Hendrickson
- Olivia Verrett

Special Trustee Henry also appointed five individuals to serve on the CCCD Redistricting Committee. This committee is an important part of the District’s overall redistricting process.

### CCCD Redistricting Committee

- LeGrand Clegg
- Martina Rodriguez
- Mary Louise Godoy
- Olivia Verrett
- Mark Guillen

The Compton Community College District, along with many other public agencies and school districts in California, is currently in the process of reviewing and modifying its elected trustee area boundaries. Every 10 years, community colleges, city councils and other local agencies must adjust their election boundaries in order to equalize the population and ensure fair elections.

The Redistricting Committee adheres to an action plan that documents the steps taken to submit revised Trustee Area maps. The Redistricting Committee first provided draft plans with four options of Trustee Area maps which were available online for public input beginning October 2011. Multiple opportunities for input included public hearings in November 2011, March and May 2012.

At the May 2012 CCCD Board meeting, a map was adopted by resolution, for new Trustee election areas. A waiver for amending Trustee elections was submitted to the California Community College’s Board of Governors.

Upon approval from the Board of Governors, the new Trustee Area map will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Recorder’s Office by October 15, 2012. The new CCCD Trustee areas are effective for the November 2013 elections.

For more information on these committees and/or the members, go to the District website at [www.district.compton.edu](http://www.district.compton.edu).

## Career Advancement Academy Established

The Career Advancement Academy at ECC Compton Center is part of a statewide initiative designed to increase the access to higher education that leads to jobs. The program combines career technical education with basic skills in high-demand career areas where new workers are needed immediately.

Funded by a \$662,700 grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, the Career Advancement Academy also has technical support from the Career Ladders Project.

The Career Advancement Academy at ECC Compton Center offers programs in machine tool technology/ aerospace fastener manufacturing and welding. Enrolling in one of these programs is a proactive first step for students wanting to gain valuable, marketable skills and set themselves up for successful, new careers.

Students in the program benefit from: numerous career skills workshops covering topics such as resume writing, interviewing, job retention, interpersonal skills relating to the workplace, industry specific “green” classes, and total quality management. Books are also paid for, in addition to workplace safety boots for each student. The program culminates in an exclusive job fair with employers looking to hire.

For more information regarding ECC Compton Center’s Career Advancement Academy and its programs and eligibility requirements, go to: [www.elcamino.edu/academics/indtech/career-advancement-academy/index.asp](http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/indtech/career-advancement-academy/index.asp), or call 310-900-1600, ext. 2779.

Focus on  
**your**  
future.

### Compton Community College District Board of Trustees

Thomas Henry – Special Trustee  
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Andres Ramos – Area 3  
Deborah Sims LeBlanc – Area 4  
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**El Camino College**  
Compton Center

## Students Get Hired into Growing Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing Industry



Jairo Juarez-Lazo

Jairo Juarez-Lazo and his father, Jose Juarez, completed El Camino College Compton Center's Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing summer training program together. After graduating from California State University, Dominguez Hills with a degree in graphic design, Jairo struggled to find a full-time position in the field and saw the ECC Compton Center program as an opportunity to start a career in manufacturing. Alternately Jose, a centerless grinder and veteran in the industry, viewed the program as a way to advance his career.

He was right. Since completing the summer program, Jose was hired at ALCOA Fastening Systems, the world's leading producer of aluminum. And, an additional 12 ECC Compton Center students from the Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing program have been hired in the last year by PB Fasteners and Alcoa. For Jairo, the program motivated him to continue his education in the field and he is now enrolled in the ongoing Machine Tool Technology/Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing program offered by ECC Compton Center's Career and Technical Education division.

"By completing the summer training program together, my dad and I were able to benefit from each other's strengths. My background in graphic design allowed me to help him better understand blueprinting, while his 15 years of experience were a great resource for me in the machinery courses," said Jairo. "The instructors were also very helpful in identifying our strengths. One of them discovered I had a degree in graphic design and opened my eyes to a career I had never considered—making the actual blueprints for the parts to be manufactured."

## El Camino College Compton Center Mathematics Instructor Participates in Jaime Escalante Legacy Project

El Camino College Compton Center instructor Ruth Zambrano dedicates her summers to engaging inner-city youth in a demanding academic schedule of pre-college and college mathematics through the Jaime Escalante Math Program where she teaches pre-Algebra and algebra.

Zambrano, who teaches courses such as basic arithmetic skills, pre-algebra, elementary algebra, intermediate algebra and college algebra at ECC Compton Center, has been a part of the Jaime Escalante Math Program since 2007. This mathematical "boot-camp" provides rigorous instruction in



Ruth Zambrano

intermediate and advanced mathematics to middle and high school aged students in order to improve their chances of being accepted to university-level math and science programs. The program is the legacy of Jaime Escalante, a former math instructor at Garfield High School in Los Angeles who is also the subject of the 1988 film *Stand and Deliver*. During his tenure, Escalante

dramatically improved the performance of his students by demanding the most out of them with a "hard work for student and teacher alike" approach.

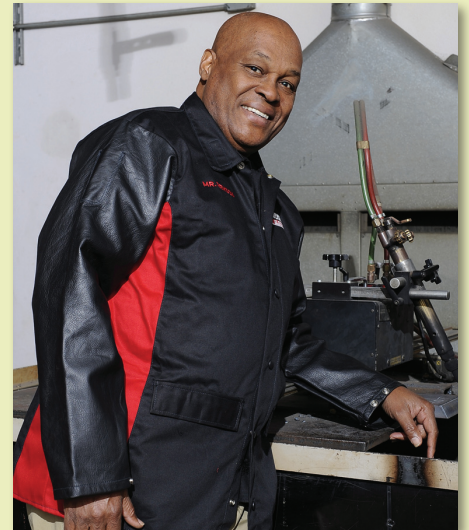
Zambrano's approachable, attentive teaching style lends itself to this innovative, total immersion mathematics program where students cover one year of mathematics (two semesters) in seven weeks.

"In spending four hours per day, five days a week with students, you really get to know their strengths and weaknesses and are better able to meet their needs," says Zambrano. "I try to do the same thing with my students at ECC Compton Center by giving step-by-step instruction, creating a comfortable environment for questions, and making myself available for one-on-one tutoring."

Zambrano spent her formative years in Huntington Park and Lynwood. One aspect of participating in the Escalante Program and teaching at ECC Compton Center that she finds particularly rewarding is working with students in the communities where she grew up.

## Faculty Profile

Eugene Benson,  
Welding Instructor



Eugene Benson has served as a Welding Technology Instructor in the Technical Education (CTE) program for more than 30 years. He has enjoyed watching countless numbers of students blossom into confident professionals. "Students come to us open and willing to learn and leave us with a sense of accomplishment that they've truly earned."

Eugene believes that the CTE program at ECC Compton Center is especially valuable in this tough economy. To keep students motivated, he likes to take them on field trips to the facilities of potential employers and invite representatives from various companies to speak in class. As a result, students walk away from the program with the kind of practical, real-world experience and knowledge today's employers are demanding.

Over the years, Eugene says he has worked with every type of student, from adult learners to those who are fresh out of high school. "I can't tell you how many former students come back to share that they feel more than well-equipped to meet their career goals."

Eugene earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of La Verne and an Associate of Arts degree in Welding Technology from Los Angeles Trade Technical Community College. He also has completed various professional certifications.

He encourages all members of the community to make an education at ECC Compton Center the foundation for addressing career goals.





# El Camino College Compton Center

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## POSTAL CUSTOMER

**El Camino College  
Compton Center**

- EMERGENCY
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
- CAMPUS MAP
- HOURS OF OPERATION
- IMPORTANT DEADLINES
- TRANSPORTATION
- HOW TO REACH US
- SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[m.compton.edu](http://m.compton.edu)

### Mobile Website Now Available

El Camino College is now available 24/7 – via smartphones and tablets. The user-friendly ECC website for mobile devices offers access to an online calendar of events; financial aid and scholarship information; a virtual map; hours of operation for student services; important deadlines; transportation information; direct links to online social media networks; and contact information for academic divisions and student services.



Also new for smartphone and tablet users, ECC's very own mobile app – MOX. MOX is available for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch, BlackBerry, and Android users. On your smartphone, visit the App Store, BlackBerry App World, or Android Market to download MOX. Choose El Camino College from the list of colleges and universities, and you are ready to go mobile!

### El Camino College Compton Center: “Five Years of Success”



Every student is a success story at El Camino College Compton Center, and several personal stories of achievement are shared in a new publication that provides an overview of the success of the students who have attended ECC Compton Center since fall 2006.

The national award-winning report, *El Camino College Compton Center: Five Years of Success*, is available online at: [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu).

### Contact Us! 310-900-1600

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Child Development.....	2902	Student Support Services.....	2765
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