

# Accreditation and the Process Forward

## An Internal Transition Planning Document

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### Overview

From the inception of the partnership, both the El Camino Community College District and the Compton Community College District (CCCD) have been fully committed to obtaining independent accreditation for El Camino College Compton Educational Center. On June 7, 2017, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) announced that the ECC Compton Center had [achieved initial accreditation](#).

When the partnership began, a primary objective was to provide quality educational programs and services for student success. By initiating new student programs and expanding current offerings, student success has become a focus throughout Compton College. Academic programs initiated or expanded during the last eleven years include: Supplemental Instruction, First Year Experience, student-led tutoring, a nursing simulation lab, honors transfer classes, guaranteed transfer partnerships, Upward Bound Math/Science, Brother & Sisters mentoring program, Formerly Incarcerated Student Transition program (FIST), a debate team, the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor and Scholarship Society, and the Historically Black College and University transfer program.

Additionally, student success is evident through the increase in the number of El Camino College Compton Center students earning degrees. Other achievements include the annual Academic Awards Tea, which recognizes honors transfer students, Presidential Scholars and scholarship recipients. Through financial aid assistance and an ongoing awareness campaign, El Camino College through Compton College continues to provide financial support for students. Scholarships to students totaling more than \$31,500 were awarded to 39 students in 2017-18.

Compton College has initiated a variety of new academic offerings, as well as enhancing existing Career & Technical Education programs, including cosmetology, robotics, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), aerospace fastener manufacturing, and career advancement and fire academies.

In fall 2015, a new Early College High School was established in partnership with the Compton Unified School District. In addition, partnerships establishing pathways with the Compton and Lynwood unified school districts, Compton College and CSU Dominguez Hills have been implemented.

Work on Measure CC and state capital outlay funded facilities projects continues with many campus improvements including a new central plant, upgraded main north/south road and parking lots, a renovated football stadium, campus theater, and new cosmetology facility. Two significant milestones in facilities improvements include the 2016 grand opening of the 20,000-square-foot Allied Health Building and the 2014 grand opening of the 45,000-square-foot Library-Student Success Center. In 2014, voters approved Measure C, a \$100 million dollar facilities bond for Compton College.

### Completed Activities

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Since beginning the process to apply for Accreditation Eligibility, the following activities/events have been completed:

#### Spring/Summer 2012

1. Continued coordination of the assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) statements in the Student Services and Academic Affairs areas. Compiled documentation showing revisions to courses and programs that improve student learning and are based on SLO assessments.
2. Documented evidence showing strong links between the budgeting and planning processes.
3. Implemented fiscally sound policies and procedures in the Business Office.
4. Resolved all CCCD prior year audit findings.
5. Reconstituted the Fiscal Integrity Accreditation subcommittee.
6. Continued transferring the functions performed by ECC on behalf of the Compton Center to CCCD offices and personnel.

7. Hosted a collegial consultative Planning Summit.
8. Produced and distributed widely, an update to the “Process to Accreditation” document.

#### Fall 2012/Spring 2013

1. Published and distributed eligibility information to internal and external audiences.
2. Hosted open forum to discuss status of readiness to submit eligibility application.

#### Fall 2013

1. Reviewed Accreditation Steering Committee checklists regarding accreditation eligibility readiness.
2. Posted third draft of narrative document that describes the Compton Center’s status in meeting the 21 eligibility criteria on the Portal and reviewed document with the El Camino College Cabinet, Senior Management and other constituencies.
3. Hosted a collegial consultative Accreditation Summit on September 26, 2013.
4. Held open forum on December 5, 2013 to discuss the third draft of the narrative document.
5. Published information on El Camino College and ECC Compton Center websites.
6. Hosted community workshops in concert with CCCD Special Trustee Advisory Committee.

#### Spring 2014

1. Reviewed the CCCD 2012-2013 fiscal year audit to determine if the CCCD meets the ACCJC fiscal eligibility requirements.
2. Presented a copy of the third draft of the Eligibility Application to the ECCCD and CCCD Board of Trustees for review and comment.

#### Fall 2014/Spring 2015

1. Completed writing Eligibility Application.
2. ECC Compton Center Accreditation Liaison Officer initiated contact with the chair of the Accrediting Eligibility Committee to review the final draft.
3. El Camino College submitted the Eligibility Application to the Accrediting Commission Eligibility Committee on January 25, 2015.
4. The Commission’s Eligibility, Candidacy, and Initial Accreditation Committee reviewed the final Eligibility Application and supporting documentation.
5. The President/CEO of the Accrediting Commission informed ECC Superintendent/President on March 18, 2015, that the Eligibility Proposal for the ECC Compton Center was approved.
6. Produced and distributed widely, an update to the “Process to Accreditation” document.

#### Summer 2015

1. ECC Superintendent/President and CCCD Special Trustee met with the ACCJC to discuss the timelines for submitting the ECC Compton Center Self-Evaluation Report and application for Accreditation Candidacy, as well as the subsequent visit by the ACCJC evaluation team.

#### Fall 2015

1. ECC Compton Center began preparing to apply for the Accreditation Candidacy, which includes a self-evaluation report.
2. ECC Compton Center’s Accreditation Self-Evaluation Steering Committee established standards committees that align with the ACCJC 2014 Accreditation Standards and requested volunteers from faculty/staff to participate on the standards committees.
3. At ECC Compton Center’s faculty/staff Professional Development Day on August 21, 2015, ACCJC President/CEO presented the keynote address to explain the new Accreditation Standards adopted by the ACCJC in June 2014. ECC and the ECC Compton Center began working on the initial Self-Evaluation Report for candidacy.
4. Trainings for Accreditation Standards committee members on how to write to the Accreditation Standards.
5. Standards committees review and discuss sub-standards and begin gathering evidence to support the narrative.
6. Accreditation training from the ACCJC to Accreditation Standard committees.
7. Complete findings and evidence for the standards.

#### Spring 2016

1. Completed descriptive narratives for all parts of each accreditation standard.

2. Completed self-evaluation for each accreditation standard and identified Actionable Improvement Plans.
3. Standards committees reviewed first draft of Self-Evaluation Report for accuracy, and provided edits.
4. Editors completed second draft of Self-Evaluation Report.
5. Draft of the Self-Evaluation Report posted on ECC Compton Center and El Camino College websites.
6. Held two accreditation forums: May 5, 2016 at ECC and May 10, 2016 at ECC Compton Center.
7. ECC Superintendent/President, CCCD Special Trustee, and Provost/CEO held meetings with California Community Colleges Chancellor and Chancellor's Office staff; ACCJC President/CEO and staff; and local assembly and senate representatives regarding the ECC Compton Center and the Self-Evaluation Report.

#### Summer/Fall 2016

1. Completed the consultation process for Self-Evaluation Report.
2. Performed final editing of the Self-Evaluation Report.
3. Revised ECCCD and CCCD Partnership Agreement.
4. ECC Superintendent/President, CCCD Special Trustee, and Provost/CEO met with California Community College Chancellor and staff regarding the ECC Compton Center and the Self-Evaluation Report.
5. Presented copy of the Self-Evaluation Report to ECCCD Board for review and comment.

#### Spring 2017

1. January 6, 2017, submitted the ECC Compton Center Self-Evaluation Report to the ACCJC, along with the letter of application for Accreditation Candidacy.
2. ACCJC's external evaluation team visited ECC Compton Center March 6-9, 2017.
3. June 7, 2017, received notification from ACCJC that Compton College achieved candidacy and initial accreditation.

### **Projected Timeline Going Forward to "Change in Control of Institution"**

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#### Fall 2017

1. Host community forums as it relates to the Compton College accreditation status and the process going forward, at Compton College.
2. Prepare and submit Quality Focus Essay to ACCJC for review and approval by November 30, 2017.

#### Spring 2018

1. ACCJC reviews Compton College Quality Focus Essay.
2. Prepare draft of Substantive Change Proposal – "Change in Control of Compton College" from El Camino Community College District to Compton Community College District.
3. Editors complete review of Substantive Change Proposal – Change in Control.
4. Post draft of the Substantive Change Proposal – Change in Control on the Compton College and ECC websites.
5. Hold two Substantive Change Proposal – Change in Control -- forums at ECC and at Compton College.

#### Summer 2018

1. Finalize Substantive Change Proposal – Change in Control document.
2. Present copy of the Substantive Change Proposal – Change in Control document to ECCCD and CCCD Board of Trustees for their review and comment - July 2018.
3. Submit Substantive Change Proposal – Change in Control document to ACCJC by August 1, 2018.

#### Fall 2018/Spring 2019

1. ACCJC Substantive Change Committee reviews the Substantive Change Proposal – Change in Control document.
2. As part of the substantive change process ACCJC requires a visit within six months of the change to verify that CCCD has the human, physical, technology, and financial resources reported in the Substantive Change Proposal– Change in Control document.
3. Receive notification from ACCJC regarding Substantive Change Proposal – Change in Control.

#### Summer 2019

1. Compton College offers summer term under the authority of CCCD.
2. Partnership between ECCCD and CCCD is concluded.