

Academic Senate

COMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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Dear Assemblyman Gipson:

As President of the Academic Senate of the Compton Community College District, I write to you on behalf of the faculty to thank you for your interest in our institution and for your ardent desire to assist us in regaining our accreditation as a college. Your sponsorship of Assembly Bill 986 regarding Compton Community College District requiring the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to report to the Legislature on the priorities identified in each Fiscal Crisis and Management Team (FCMAT) report and to provide a response on how the Chancellor intends to resolve issues identified in the report(s) is acknowledged. But my personal feeling is that faculty and staff are best positioned to address and resolve issues regarding our institution and we have been successful.

As you know, we were granted accreditation eligibility status. The eligibility application marks a significant step in the process for the Compton Center to become an accredited college. The next step is to prepare the initial Self-Evaluation for Candidacy based upon a timeline developed by the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). We are in the midst of this intensive process, preparing for application for candidacy. We have made notable progress. This compounded work has annealed our faculty, our academic offerings have diversified, our student services are augmented, and our facilities have been replaced and/or renovated. The progress is obvious and the expectation of success is palpable.

It has been a long and difficult path for our institution and we are aware of the great interest and expectation both the Legislature and our residents have in helping us to regain our status as an independent college. However, it must be stated that we would not have reached this point without a strong, concerned, and committed partner in the El Camino College District (ECCD). Our curriculum, our services, our resources, and our professional development have been enhanced by this partnership. It has been and remains vital to our goal of restoration. We have worked on accreditation for El Camino College and El Camino College is contributing to ours.

El Camino College, Compton Center has also developed a durable, constructive relationship with ACCJC, whose President has provided counsel, leadership, and encouragement as we have begun the slow but meticulous comeback and have now reached eligibility status. The President's recent visits to the Compton Center attest to our staunch, collegial relationship with the Commission and its willingness to diligently assist us towards our approval of candidacy and eventual college status.

Moreover, our fiscal stability, procedures, and oversight have improved consistently each and every year since the loss of our accreditation. This is evidenced by the District's independent audits and the reports of the FCMAT team, which has now submitted nine comprehensive reports. Our audits are unblemished and we have a comprehensive fiscal plan to continually improve our accountability and transparency. Thorough oversight of our institution's progress by Chancellor Harris and the Board of Governors has been invaluable in this effort. Passage of two bond measures, approved by voters, has helped us leverage our facilities construction projects with State funding to transform the campus infrastructure and landscape for the benefit of our students and community.

The Compton Center has been selected to collaborate with the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative from the Chancellor's office. Compton faculty and staff attended a specific training session conducted by ACCJC on the new accreditation standards. We have unconditional support from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) who wants to see Compton become an independent college again. The Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) and countless other proponents share in our vision and goal to obtain accreditation and independence once again. With so much support, we are clear in our purpose and in our objective. The encouragement of our partners, the Commission, and our advocates in the Legislature, boost our confidence in the outcome of our efforts. To that end, the faculty wishes to stress the following points to you:

- 1) We do not believe that any supplemental actions by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee are needed at this juncture. Time and effort expended for additional reporting purposes may only distract us from the hard work which we are engaged in relative to the Self-Evaluation Report to the Commission;
- 2) We are most grateful for and fully appreciative of the partnership with the El Camino College District, which is guiding us to regained accredited status, and of the Chancellor and the Board of Governors;
- 3) We have complete confidence in the guidelines and actions of the ACCJC, which is working with our institution on all aspects of the accreditation process;
- 4) We are fortunate to have the direction and assistance of an outstanding Special Trustee who regularly communicates to and speaks for the Chancellor's Office. As an exemplar of fiduciary duty, his guidance has groomed the current Board of Trustees for the Compton Community College District.
- 5) We recognize the commitment to progressive improvement of quality instruction and student success demonstrated by the newly appointed Provost of the El Camino College Compton Center who shares an effective working rapport with the Special Trustee and the Boards of Trustees for El Camino College and Compton Community College districts.
- 6) We will not be derailed from our current course as we have always championed for ethical and transparent governance for the interest of our students, community, and institution.
- 7) Our fortitude does not waver with the encouragement from all sectors of the California community college system;

Again, we are most grateful for your leadership and advocacy. Once the legislative recess ends on August 17, 2015, I have faith you will champion for us and our unremitting pursuit of accreditation for the Compton Community College District. The CCCCCO, ACCJC, ECCD, FCMAT, ASCCC, FACCC, and others across California who have wrestled with accreditation are all on our side. With you as our delegate in the Legislature, I trust you will guard us from external interferences. Thank you in advance for all your efforts to help Compton become an autonomous college once again. With our many friends and advocates, and our own hard work and diligence, we are confident that Compton will once again be an independent college, continuing the proud tradition since 1927, and keeping faith with our residents who have loved and supported it.

Sincerely,

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