



# NEWS

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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](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu)

**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino Community College District Trustees Appoint Keith Curry Provost of El Camino College Compton Center**

The El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees voted at its July 20 regular meeting to appoint Keith Curry as Provost of El Camino College Compton Center, effective immediately.

In this position, Curry will plan, organize, coordinate and direct the educational programs and activities of El Camino College Compton Center, while providing leadership in the planning, development, and implementation of the district's instructional and student services programs at the Center. Additionally, he will continue as Compton Community College District CEO, reporting to the special trustee.

"I was most pleased to recommend Dr. Curry as provost of El Camino College Compton Center," said Superintendent/President Thomas Fallo. "His commitment to continuous improvement, quality instruction, and a focus on student success is a tremendous benefit to the center."

Curry recently celebrated his two-year anniversary as the permanent Compton Community College District CEO. The past two years have produced significant progress in all areas of the center, including student success, community support, and facilities improvements.

Under Curry's leadership, ECC Compton Center has increased enrollment, added additional classes, and more students are graduating with associate degrees. The number of students transferring to four-year universities has continued to grow and, in the past two years, more than 35 new full-time faculty members and five managers were hired. In addition, many existing student support programs at ECC Compton Center have expanded and others were created.

Through financial aid programs and an ongoing awareness campaign, ECC Compton Center has also expanded financial support for students. In the last two years, El Camino College Compton Center students received a total of \$65,000 in scholarships. An average of 40 percent of students received financial aid in 2013-14 at an average of \$1,510 per student.

One major facilities milestone is the successful passage of the \$100 million bond Measure C. In November 2014, voters showed their support for the Compton Community College District and ECC Compton Center by logging an impressive 77.8 percent of "yes" votes in favor of Measure C. The bond measure will allow the district to upgrade classrooms, labs, infrastructure, and instructional equipment, while making much-needed health and safety repairs and energy efficiency improvements.

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The district also celebrated the grand openings of the new Library-Student Success Center and the Central Plant, as well as upgrades of the main north/south access road and campus parking lots. Now under construction is the district's next major project: a state-of-the-art, \$12 million allied health instructional building supported by the 2002 Measure CC facilities bond and state capital outlay funds. Additionally, renovations to the football field and track began this month and are scheduled to be complete for football season this fall.

Progress is also being made in the accreditation process. The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) granted accreditation eligibility status to ECC Compton Center this past March. The next step will be to apply for accreditation candidacy for ECC Compton Center, which includes a self-evaluation report.

A Compton native, Curry's life work has centered on the city. His service to the community has included volunteering as chair of the Compton Unified School District Achieving College Partnership and serving on the Compton Unified School District Foundation board. He says some of his proudest moments come from his dedication to student success and from working with former gang members and at-risk teens who have earned their degrees at ECC Compton Center and transferred to both the University of California and California State University systems.

Before becoming the permanent CEO, Curry served as interim CEO of the Compton Community College District for two years. Additionally, he served as the ECC Compton Center dean of student services from March 2006 to June 2011.

As part of ongoing community outreach efforts, Curry continues to encourage community members to be more involved in district matters. Through a series of "Community Roundtable Discussions," Curry and ECC Compton Vice President Barbara Perez have worked to build a better understanding of the partnership with El Camino College.

Perez will serve as the chief academic officer for ECC Compton Center throughout the accreditation process. She will direct the planning, development, and implementation of El Camino College's instructional program at ECC Compton Center, and will serve as the Accreditation Liaison Officer for the Center.

Prior to joining the district, Curry worked at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) as director of the Early Academic Outreach Program. While at UCI, he was instrumental in re-establishing a partnership between local school districts, including Compton Unified School District and UCI. He earned his doctorate in educational administration from UCI and a bachelor's degree in American studies from UC Santa Cruz.

In 2013, Curry was honored with a distinguished alumni award by UCI. He was recognized at UCI's 43rd Annual Lauds & Laurels ceremony, along with 17 other recipients. Sponsored by the UCI Alumni Association, the award recognizes the honorees' outstanding contributions to the university and their communities.

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