



# NEWS

El Camino College Compton Center  
Public Relations Department | 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506  
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | FAX: (310) 660-3946 | Contact: Ann M. Garten

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Compton Community College District Announces New Foundation and Board of Directors**

The Compton Community College District recently announced the establishment of a new foundation to help work toward its mission to maintain and expand educational programs and services to students. Eleven new board members have been appointed.

Through partnerships with individuals and corporations in the surrounding areas, the foundation will provide financial support, scholarships and other needed resources to El Camino College Compton Center students, faculty and staff for ongoing improvement of the academic environment.

"I am committed to serving our communities' educational needs in the most honorable fashion and look forward to working with the board members in pursuit of the foundation's mission and objectives," said Tony Williams, Compton Center Foundation board president.

New members include: Tony Williams, James Castillo, Dasol Mashaka, John Phalen, and Martin Vargas. In addition, board members from the Compton Center include: Provost Lawrence Cox, Ronald Gerhard, Mohammad Khalilzadeh, Elizabeth Martinez, Rodney Murray, and Nelly Rodriguez.

**Tony Williams**, Compton District Foundation board president, is a manager of professional development at Southern California Edison (SCE) where he has served for 18 years. He also has served in leadership positions with the following organizations: the East Los Angeles Skills Center, the UCLA Department of Engineering & Technology, and the Rim2Rim youth basketball program.

**James Castillo**, Compton District Foundation board vice president, is the former senior vice president of operations for the Los Angeles Urban League. He recently retired as a vice president of district operations for the United Parcel Service (UPS) after 23 years of service. He has also served on the boards of several community service organizations such as the West Los Angeles Community Development Corp., Executive Service Corps of Southern California, Save Africa's Children, and the MARCH Foundation.

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## Compton Center Foundation Board 2-2-2-2

**Dasol Mashaka** is a program manager for Parsons Corporation, which manages school campus facility planning, design and construction. He has more than 36 years of experience in project construction management, architectural design, and general contracting both in the U.S. and internationally. His activities include advisory council member for California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo College of Architecture and Urban Design; chairman, AAMOBOYS Mentoring Organization; and forum member, Baker Forum for National Technical & Science Universities, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

**John Phalen** is president of Pacific Directions, where he developed a refugee English language and vocation training school serving 600 to 800 students annually. Phalen has extensive experience in philanthropic endeavors and management of non-profit organizations including The United Way, the International Institute of Los Angeles, and the USO. He has helped raise tens of millions of dollars through public and private sector grant writing. Phalen also served 12 years on the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations and has extensive experience working with elected and administrative leadership at federal, state and local government levels. He holds a number of degrees and earned a Doctor of the Science of Theology at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California.

**Martin Vargas** is vice president of customer relations for First Class Vending, Inc., and is also a board member of the Los Angeles City College Foundation. He previously served 27 years at the Los Angeles Community College District at Pierce College in Woodland Hills. Through the years, he has donated his time to the improvement of education as a primary school PTA member and as president of the Latino Parents Association at USC, as well as other community volunteer commitments.

Foundation board members from the Compton Center include:

**Lawrence Cox** is the CEO of the Compton Community College District and provost of El Camino College Compton Center. He has more than 25 years of academic leadership experience and was previously the provost of Stark State College of Technology in Ohio. From 1995-2002, he was president of Olive Harvey College in Chicago; and from 1990-1994 he was president of Shelby State Community College in Memphis. He has a bachelor's degree in education, a master's in educational psychology and a doctorate in sociology, all from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Cox is a graduate of the Institute of Management at Harvard University and has participated in the Yale School of Management of Leadership and the American Association of Community Colleges Leadership Academy.

**Ronald Gerhard**, Compton District Foundation board treasurer, is the chief business officer for the Compton Community College District. He previously served as business manager for the San Bernardino Community College District. Gerhard is a licensed CPA with a background in strategic planning/forecasting and has more than 10 years experience serving both the public and private sectors. He received his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Redlands and his master's degree in accounting and finance from the University of California, Riverside.

**Rodney Murray** was appointed dean of vocational education at Compton Center in August 2008. He previously held various sales and marketing positions in the private sector, and has taught business courses at Compton for the past 14 years. He received his bachelor's degree in science and business, and his master's degree in business administration from the University of Redlands. He has an ABD from Capella University in criminal justice.

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### Compton Center Foundation Board 3-3-3-3

**Nelly Rodriguez**, Compton District Foundation board secretary, is the director of resource development (Title V) for Compton Center. Rodriguez established the Community Education Business Partnership Group to encourage local industry and business leaders to expand academic programs and support workforce and job development in area communities. She served as a program director at El Camino College from 2003-2007; and has served as part-time faculty at the University of Phoenix and California State University, Los Angeles. She obtained her doctorate in organizational leadership at Pepperdine University in 2005, and earned master's and bachelor's degrees in communication studies at California State University, Los Angeles.

Additional Compton Center employees serving on the board include: Mohammad Khalilzadeh, associate professor of computer information systems; and Elizabeth Martinez, transfer center coordinator.

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