



News Release

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COMMISSION DECIDES TO TERMINATE COMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S ACCREDITATION

SACRAMENTO – The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) will terminate Compton Community College's accreditation. California Community Colleges Chancellor Marshall (Mark) Drummond announced that the System Office is reviewing options and will formulate a plan of action this week.

"I'm going to use the full resources of my office to advocate on behalf of the students at Compton," said Chancellor Drummond.

ACCJC, the organization that accredits community and junior colleges, announced that the decision to terminate Compton Community College's accreditation would become effective August 19, 2005, so students who have enrolled there still can attend and complete their summer session courses.

Founded in 1927 and formed as a community college district by voters in 1950, Compton College serves the racially diverse, culturally rich communities of Carson, Compton, Lynwood, Paramount and Willowbrook. Compton College's termination of accreditation will be the first time an accreditation of a community college in California has been terminated. But Chancellor Drummond is determined and passionate about keeping education available to the more than 6,000 students -- most of whom are under-represented students of color from low-income families.

The problems at Compton College have been in the making for years -- long before Dr. Drummond was appointed Chancellor on January 18, 2004. But since then, conditions have improved at the nearly 78-year-old institution.

With the support of the Board of Governors, Chancellor Drummond has committed System Office staff, resources, time and effort to put Compton's financial house in order, as recommended by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), an organization well experienced in identifying and resolving the financial problems of school districts. FCMAT reported that there are major challenges that require

past six months," said Dr. Rita Cepeda, interim president/superintendent. Cepeda said students, faculty and staff of the college have reaffirmed their commitment to stay on track, to continue with the implementation of changes undertaken during the past year, and to ensure that students' academic progress is not impeded by the commission's action.

Special Trustee Art Tyler said he is forming a "strategic team to prepare for the review and appeal process." The plan will also ensure that "core faculty and staff stay the course to serve students without interruption."

Compton College, founded in 1927, is one of the oldest public two-year colleges in the State of California. It has a track record of numerous distinguished alumni who have established themselves in all segments of American society and around the world.

Additional information regarding ACCJC's findings and the college's response can be found in the college's website at <http://www.compton.edu/>

(A chronology of significant actions undertaken by the State Chancellor's Office to place Compton College on sound footing is attached.)