EL CAMINO COLLEGE
Fashion Department History

The fashion department of El Camino College has transformed many students into successful designers, manufacturers and merchandisers over the last 50 years. ECC offers A.S. Degrees in Fashion Merchandising and Design, and Certificates in Patternmaking and Fashion Styling, as well as Design & Merchandising.

Some of the most memorable and successful students have gone on to have careers varying in fields of design. Former student, Naomi Yoshida, was the Costume Designer for the Academy Award winning short film Visas & Virtue. She now works as a live Entertainment Costumer for one of the world’s major theme parks, Disneyland. Tenaya Barrios, is a Senior Technical Designer for Pacific Sunwear, Women’s Division. Eden Clark Coblenz is a Motion Picture Costume Supervisor for Margaret Islander the founder of Margaret Islander School of Fashion Arts. Nina Blanchard founder of Blanchard Modeling Agency and author of “Look” and “The Look.” James Ogg, Freelance Design and Graphic Artist. Their experiences at El Camino College undoubtedly helped build self-confidence to launch their dreams and set the path for their goals.

El Camino initiated its first fashion show 23 years ago, not only to exhibit our fashion students, but also to inspire students and broaden their horizons. Students from surrounding high schools will compete for the Shining Stars Scholarship. They will enter their own designs and will be judged by industry professionals. “Fashion Show Production” is a hands-on class that showcases the Design and Merchandising student projects produced throughout the school year. The Fashion Show Production Class is unique because the students get to decide everything about the show. From the title, to the graphics, to the music, models and spirit of the show, “It's all theirs.” A budget is calculated for advertising, promotion and staging. Models that are trained by the modeling committee display the student designs. The Tailor Made fashion club provides additional funding as a sponsor of this event. The event provides an avenue to share the departments pride to the campus and the community. All proceeds go towards next year's student design show and student scholarships.

Thanks to Fashion Advisors: Chris Morán-Wisdom and Melanie McFarland; Fashion Instructors: Robert Blackshear, Vera Bruce, Vera Kopecky, Caren Jacobs, Christine Mariotti and Shirley Warren, for their teamwork, dedication and creativity El Camino College students are given the opportunity of a fully equipped environment and the skills needed to become successful graduates.

Please join us Friday, June 3rd, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. For Fashion Bound at El Camino College, Marsee Auditorium.