



NEWSLETTER

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President's

"The mission of El Camino College is to meet the educational needs of our diverse community and ensure student success by offering quality, comprehensive educational opportunities."

Online Success/Retention Rates Discussed

El Camino College faculty recently gathered for a workshop to discuss student success and retention in online courses. "Success" is defined as the percentage of enrolled students who pass the course with a C/P or better. "Retention" is the percentage of students who remained enrolled to the end of the course, and did not drop or withdraw.

Success in online classes is typically lower than in on-campus courses at nearly all California community colleges, spurring efforts to address this gap and to assist students in online courses.

Issues ranging from administrative challenges such as difficulty with dropping students online to students starting late or not purchasing materi-

als early enough in the semester were covered.

Faculty members expressed concerns that some students are just not ready for the online environment. In a previous [survey](#) of distance education students, 15% of respondents did not participate in an orientation to the course or the online format; and about 42% indicated that it was their first online course. In addition, faculty members find that many of their students lack the reading skills necessary to complete the assignments required in the online format.

The next faculty workshop, "Online Retention and Success: Best Practices" will take place on November 19, 1:00-1:50 p.m. in the West Library Basement.

Accreditation News

El Camino College submitted the Follow-Up Report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). A visiting team comprising Dr. Don Averill, Dr. Jane de Leon and Ms. Rhea Riegel met with selected individuals on October 27.

During the exit review the visiting team members noted they observed varying levels of progress in the nine areas of recommendation. The ACCJC will make the findings public during its January 2010 meeting.

Budget News: FTES Update

Once again our enrollment numbers continue to climb, as we do our best to accommodate students. As our Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES) increase, we are experiencing declining funding from the state, equating to further cuts to the California Community Colleges general fund. Allocations for FTES to local districts have been reduced through a "workload reduction formula." El Camino College's workload reduction FTES target for 2009-10 is about 19,000. Even with hundreds of course section reductions, we will likely be about 1,000 FTES above the funded level, equating to more than \$4 million in apportionment loss.

Academic Focus: SLOs

The Assessment of Learning Committee (ALC) will present "Assessment of Student Learning

Week" from November 2 - 6. Activities are planned throughout the week, designed to help everyone complete SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes) for each area. The lineup for the remainder of the week includes:

• Division-Sponsored Events

November 4 & 5

Please contact your division's ALC representative for more information.

• SLO Mini-Conference: Focus on Meeting the Deadlines

November 6, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.;

Communications 104

This half-day workshop will clarify deadlines, offer tips on how to meet them, and show how to plan for future deadlines. Breakout sessions will include: creating course-level SLOs and assessment plans; planning assessments and collecting data; and SLOs and assessments at the program level. Lunch will be served.

Flex Credit is available for all activities. Advance registration is required for the Mini-Conference only. Please sign up through the Staff Development Office, Ext. 3872 or [online](#).

Facilities Master Plan: New Campus Proposal

Thank you to everyone who attended the open forums to discuss the college's Facilities Master Plan. Concept proposals, developed in collaboration with our Facilities Steering Committee, were presented by the architectural firm HMC. This

document details facilities plans for the college through the year 2020.

The “preferred option” shows a student-centered campus where academic areas are organized in a unified grouping of buildings connected by landscaped pathways.

The instructional buildings along Crenshaw Boulevard, for example, would become an academic corridor, featuring traditional lecture and lab classrooms. All student services would be housed together along Manhattan Beach Boulevard, in a new building that facilitates student access to college support services and provides convenient parking. Also in the plan is a proposal for a new art complex near Marsee Auditorium; athletics programs and facilities would likewise be positioned together in a unified cluster.

The proposal focuses on a campus that has increased green space, with plenty of places for students to gather, study and socialize.

Your comments are welcome! Drop by the offices of Vice President Jo Ann Higdon or Facilities Director Bob Gann, check out the poster-sized plans on display, and record your thoughts on sticky notes, right on the spot.

Osher Initiative

We are proud to announce that our efforts in the Osher Scholarship Endowment Program continue to gain momentum. Several named scholarships were recently pledged for deserving El Camino College students.

Students will be able to apply for the Construction Technology Scholarship, established by the Enright Family. The Enright Family Scholarship for Construction Technology also features an additional \$10,000 contribution from Los Angeles-based Urban Design Center.

Nursing and social work scholarships are also available, established through the Teague Family Foundation. Gensler, a global architecture, design, and planning firm with an office in Santa Monica, has also sponsored a scholarship.

Torrance Memorial Hospital established two endowed scholarships at El Camino College, one for a radiological technology student and the other for a respiratory therapy student. Another scholarship was established in memory of a former teacher from a donor in the South Bay.

Pledges have come from individuals and corporations – all dedicated to help serve the neediest El Camino College students. The program has already received almost 100 percent support from the managers at El Camino College and Compton Educational Center, for a total pledge of \$79,000.

For information on how to support scholarships, contact Katie Gleason, Ext. 6040 or kgleason@elcamno.edu.

Student Success Stories

Congratulations to the El Camino College **forensics team**, for its most successful tournament in the program’s more than 25-year history. Competing against 37 colleges and universities including UCLA, University of Texas, ASU, University of the Pacific, California State University, Long Beach and the U.S. Air Force Academy, El Camino College was the top school in overall sweeps and debate. Additionally, the team finished third overall in individual events.

On the first day of competition at Concordia University, ECC “closed out” the semifinal bracket of Novice Parliamentary Debate. This means that all four remaining teams in the tournament were El Camino College teams!

In Senior Parliamentary Debate, the second-year team of Robert Maxwell and Stirling McKenzie made it to the final round where they lost on a 2-1 decision to Point Loma. This is a truly remarkable accomplishment when you consider that Robert and Stirling were the only community college students to successfully compete as seniors, a division normally reserved for university students. The next day, the ECC team traveled to Azusa Pacific University where four novice teams and one senior team collected a total of five medals, more than any other college at the tournament.

In individual events, ECC had six students make the final round of novice extemporaneous speaking. The team ultimately swept the top three spots with Jenna Bradford placing third, Mark Faaita placing second and Richard Ewell placing first. In novice Impromptu Speaking, ECC had eight students in the final round with Sydney Awakuni placing third and Richard Ewell placing first. Our students also did well in Oral Interpretation of Literature with Whitney Gamble and Stirling McKenzie placing first in Novice Duo and Kory Fonvergne placing third in Novice Prose.

Congratulations to the team, coached by Francesca Bishop, Mark and Diana Crossman, and Mark Urista!

Also, congratulations to the No. 4 Southern California regionally-ranked Warrior **football team**. Mark your calendar for the Nov. 7 homecoming game. Go Warriors!



CAMPUS CALENDAR

November

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| 6-7 | ECC Theater, “Picnic” |
| 7 | ECC Homecoming
ECC Symphony Orchestra |
| 8 | Rhonda Klinghofer,
Henri Venanzi Concert |
| 13 | Veterans Day Holiday
(Campus Closed) |
| 13-15 | ECC Theater, “Picnic” |
| 16 | Board of Trustees Meeting |