Nine successful women were recently honored at the 2013 El Camino College Women of Distinction Ceremony. Nominated by friends, family, and colleagues, award winners were selected by the ECC Women’s History Month Committee. Honorees are selected based on service in the areas of professional accomplishments; leadership and/or mentorship; and social, educational, or health services. All must live or work within the El Camino Community College District.

The accomplishments of these award winners will be featured on the El Camino College Women’s Wall of Fame (in the Schauerman Library) throughout the year and their names will be engraved on a plaque that is a permanent part of the display. Congratulations to the 2013 El Camino College Women of Distinction:

**Antoinette Brown-Leon** is the executive director of the Asomugha Foundation, a non-profit organization in Torrance, chaired by NFL defensive back Nnamdi Asomugha. The Foundation was established in 2010 to support disadvantaged youth in the U.S. and underprivileged orphans and widows in Africa through education and empowerment. After earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration from California State University, Long Beach, Brown-Leon led a successful career in cable TV marketing and sales. She is a strong advocate of education and focuses on the foundation’s mission to ensure that those with less means are given the opportunity to obtain a quality education, and thereby transform themselves, their families, and communities.

**Bonnie Coronado** is an ECC graduate and a fourth-grade teacher in the Compton Unified School District. She was the first Hispanic woman elected to the board of the Lawndale Elementary School District more than 25 years ago, and has served as school board president six times. A 48-year resident of Lawndale, she has been a leader in the community for many years. Coronado was recognized this year as a Distinguished Woman by Senator Roderick Wright, and serves as a dedicated Neighborhood Watch member. After earning an associate degree from El Camino College, where she was also a peer counselor, she transferred to UCLA to complete her bachelor’s degree.
Mattie Eskridge has worked at ECC for more than 30 years, currently serving as assistant to the vice president of Student & Community Advancement, in addition to working as an assistant to five previous vice presidents. Eskridge graduated from Sawyer College of Business and is now working on a bachelor’s degree in business management from the University of Phoenix. She is a licensed missionary for her church, working with shelters for battered women, feeding the homeless, and assisting orphanages in foreign countries. She has served as an elected member of the board of directors for her church, as well as a Sunday school teacher for missionaries. She is also a lecturer, workshop presenter, mentor, and volunteer.

Leslie Fletcher is an ECC graduate and registered nurse. After becoming a R.N., Leslie had several nursing jobs, and was eventually hired by a plastic surgeon. This led her to pursue a career in esthetics, and soon created two companies in this industry. She runs the InjectAbility Clinic in Torrance, and the InjectAbility Institute, which trains thousands of doctors and nurses, in addition to lecturing at national and international conferences. She has been published in a number of periodicals and has appeared on local media shows. Over the years, Fletcher developed a technique known as the ArqueDerma Lift, and now has hundreds of licenses worldwide that use this trademarked and patented technique.

Christina Gold has been a U.S. history professor at ECC since 2005, where she developed two new courses: Los Angeles History and Asian American History. A published author, she has presented papers at various historical society meetings. She received her master’s degree and doctorate in U.S. History from UCLA, and was a postdoctoral scholar at the California Institute of Technology. Gold has served as president of the ECC Academic Senate since fall 2010, where she has worked to facilitate communications among faculty, administration, the board of trustees, and other key campus groups. Gold’s leadership is also seen through her service on many campus wide committees.

For many years, Heidi Maerker’s work at Herald Publications (which publishes six community newspapers in the South Bay) has been helping to build and expand relationships between private businesses, local and state government, and residents of El Segundo, Inglewood, Lawndale, Hawthorne, Manhattan Beach, and Torrance. Her commitment to providing the residents of the South Bay a voice through which they can express their concern, joy, and gratitude has made her a successful business woman and a trusted source for residents of these communities. Maerker has also shown her commitment to various non-profit organizations by supporting their local advertising efforts.

Penny Rahmeyer has served as a foster parent to more than 150 children over a period of 46 years. While raising five children of their own, Rahmeyer and her husband devoted their lives to bringing love, stability, care, and guidance to foster children with significant disabilities. These children were hard to place and needed constant care, including rocking, counseling, physical therapy, hearing aids, heart/apnea monitors, g-tube feedings, tracheotomy tubes, leg braces, wheelchairs, and diabetes testing/shot around the clock. Many of these children, after moving on to adoption and adulthood, have stayed in touch with “mom” to this day. Rahmeyer attended foster parent training at ECC years ago, often serving as a source of instruction and inspiration for the class.

Lisa Raufman has been a community college career counselor since 1975, beginning at Moorpark College before joining ECC. She worked as an instructor and career center coordinator at both colleges, as well as dean of counseling, and faculty development coordinator at ECC. She also served on the California Community College Chancellor's Office statewide Career Development Advisory panel for more than 12 years, in addition to other statewide organizations. Lisa is co-author of The Career Fitness Program: Exercising Your Options, a career book used in community colleges and universities. Lisa earned a doctorate from UCLA in higher education, work and adult development, and has been a marriage and family therapist since 1979.

Recognized as one of the leading chamber executives in California, Marna Smeltzer has been president and CEO of the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce since 1995, and has worked as a chamber employee for more than 25 years. A graduate of Stanford Institute of Management, she's mentored a number of people, guiding them toward career mobility. Smeltzer is one of the founders of Leadership Redondo, which has produced more than 200 graduates. She is also involved in the Redondo Beach Unified School District, and the Western Association of Chamber Executives Foundation board of directors. Smeltzer was instrumental in assisting three cities participate in the Blue Zones Project – implementing methods and changes to help people live longer, better lives.
Accreditation Update: Student Success

As part of the new standards and the college’s proposed methodology to reach goals for overall student achievement, Institutional Research will continue to measure the success, retention, and transfer rates, as well as degree/certificate completion rates for ECC and CEC. The new reporting requirement is based on federal regulations for satisfactory institutional performance with respect to student achievement.

In recent research, the college’s “success rate” or successful course completion rate was 63.7 percent at El Camino College. The data was analyzed over 10 years to average out the effects of external factors, such as economic, state budgets/funding, and CSU/UC enrollment restrictions. The success rate was 64.5 percent for ECC Compton Center, analyzed over four years to reflect performance since Fall 2008 when the Center’s enrollment began to stabilize.

For ECC, the proposed institution-set standard for course completion rate is 65 percent; the successful course completion rate recorded for Fall 2012 is 69.7 percent. These numbers are 58 percent and 62.9 percent for ECC Compton Center.

Facilities News

Please use caution in the area of the North Field, which is under construction in preparation to become the site of the new Shops Building. Parking spaces along the fence line, surrounding the construction area, will be closed to faculty and staff parking in the next few weeks. The $31.9 million Shops Building project includes the construction of a new building to house the air conditioning/refrigeration, auto collision/painting, automotive technology and welding programs of the Industry & Technology Division. Hardscape and landscaping, as well as a pedestrian walkway, will also be included. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for May 20.

Donated Vehicle to Join ECC Police Department

The City of Manhattan Beach recently donated a 2004 Chevrolet police emergency command vehicle to ECC Campus Police. The SUV will serve as a replacement for the department’s existing 1980s GMC emergency command vehicle that is mechanically no longer serviceable. We thank the City of Manhattan Beach for their generous donation.

Debate Team State Champs!

The powerhouse El Camino College debate team recently swept the state championship title at a tournament in Woodland Hills, with ECC student Jonny Deatherage named best speaker in the state. The team crushed the competition, with second place many points behind. ECC finished the tournament with 265 points, followed by Irvine Valley College with 210. This win marks the first state tournament championship in ECC history. The team, coached by Francesca Bishop, Diana Crossman, and Mark Crossman, is now looking forward to the national championships, also in Woodland Hills, on April 16. For a list of student winners, go to www.elcamino.edu/administration/publicrelations/docs/2013/march/Debate-Team-State-Champs-03-2013.pdf.

El Camino College championship Forensics Team: bottom row, from the left: Mario Mejia, Joy De Guzman, Nicholas Bishop, Frank Masi, Harrison Shieh; middle row from the left: Brooke Matson, Crystal Smith, Andrew Escalante, Lawrence Lan, Carter Beck; top row, from left: Abigail Watkins, Jonny Deatherage.
Save the Date: Space Science Day 2013

Space Science Day returns to El Camino College April 20. Serious-minded science students in grades five through 12 are invited to attend this free event sponsored by ECC and American Honda Motor Co., Inc. Students will listen to an astronaut presentation, participate in hands-on workshops, and explore a variety of scientific topics. The event is dedicated to Ellison Onizuka, a Space Shuttle Challenger astronaut who perished along with the six other crew members during the tragic events of 1986. For more information, go to www.elcamino.edu/academics/naturalsciences/onizuka-space-science-day/.

Campus Calendar

April
4  Holocaust Remembrance Day
6-12 Spring Recess
13  Mid-Term Classes Begin
15  Board of Trustees Meeting
16  Undecided Major Workshop
18  Scholarship Awards Ceremony & Reception
20  Space Science Day
26  Fire Academy Graduation
27  ECC Children’s Day

May
9  Project Success Luncheon
10  Last Day to Drop with a “W”
   Athletic Golf Classic
10-11  The Crucible
11  Polli Chambers-Salazar/
   Christopher Brennan, piano
14  Continuing Student Registration Begins
15  Citizens’ Bond Oversight
   Committee Meeting
17-19  The Crucible
19  ECC Concert Band
   ECC Women’s Chorus
20  ECC Dance Band
   Board of Trustees Meeting
22  Admit Reception
27  Memorial Day Holiday, Campus Closed
29  Puente Banquet
30  Fee Payment Deadline
   (for students who register 5/15-30)
31  ECC Jazz Band

Spring Recess

Enjoy your spring break! No classes April 6-12. Please check www.elcamino.edu for individual office and department hours.