



President's NEWS

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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.



Student Success: Degrees/Certificates Increase

A recent report indicates that as a whole, the number of students earning degrees and certificates continued to steadily increase at both El Camino College and ECC Compton Center for academic years 2008-09 to 2012-13. El Camino College's degrees and certificates increased by 20 percent and 22 percent, respectively, for the five-year period. These increases totaled more than 2,600 degrees and certificates for the first time in at least 20 years. This was partly fueled by the first graduating cohorts of Associate of Arts for Transfer (A.A.-T) students, as well as strong growth in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors. A total of 79 degrees were earned across three different A.A.-T majors (communications, psychology, and sociology). Additionally, strong increases were seen among STEM degrees and certificates, with past-year growth of 79 percent and 81 percent, respectively.

El Camino College Compton Center awarded a total of 380 degrees and certificates in the same five-year period. From the previous year, degrees increased 23 percent. The Natural Sciences division experienced the greatest growth, increasing by 200 percent compared to the previous year. Similar to El Camino College, ECC Compton Center saw large growth in the number of STEM degrees and certificates awarded, with past-year growth of 300 percent and 900 percent, respectively. There were 10 A.A.-T degrees awarded at ECC Compton Center. For more information, or to view the full report, click [here](#).

Accreditation News

As part of the accreditation self-evaluation process, Accreditation Forums are planned for the ECC and ECC Compton Center communities. This is a time for faculty, staff, and students to review and discuss the draft Self-Evaluation Report, in preparation for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges team visit in October. Accreditation co-chairs Jean Shankweiler, Matt Cheung, and Holly Schumacher, along with Accreditation Liaison Officer Jeanie Nishime, will present Accreditation Forums at ECC & ECC Compton Center on March 27 and April 3.

The El Camino College Accreditation Team reviewed and gathered the information for the draft report, working to strengthen the evidence for each standard. As the accreditation process continues, it is important to note that the report should reflect what we do each day to contribute to student success. All are encouraged to read the Draft 2014 Institutional Self-Study in Support of Reaffirmation of Accreditation Report [here](#). Please send all comments to Co-Chair Jean Shankweiler via email at jshankweiler@elcamino.edu.

Cherry Blossom Festival



Under a canopy of cherry trees, El Camino College's 14th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival celebrated the start of spring season with koto and taiko artist performances, inspiring speakers, and a bit of poetry.

The "Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Cherry Blossom Festival" is named after the college's former Vice President of Academic Affairs, who passed away in 2005. The event included an address by Donald Hata, performers from the Taiko Center of Los Angeles, and original haiku poetry from students in English instructor Clint Margrave's poetry class.

Women's History Month

A variety of Women's History Month events are planned for March. This year recognizes the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women with the national theme: "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment."

The celebration begins with the Women's History Month luncheon from 12:30 to 2 p.m. March 7 in the Alondra Room. In keeping with this year's theme, five women veterans (ECC employees, students, and off-campus guests) will share their military experiences. The guest speakers will discuss why they chose to serve our country, how it impacted their lives, and in some cases, why they are returning to college. Events continue with a screening of the film "Girl Rising" from 1 to 3 p.m. March 11 in the East Dining Room. A "Girls in the Garage – All-Girl Car Show & Vintage Fashion Exchange" is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 15 in Parking Lots J & K.

In addition, a tea and book discussion is scheduled for 1-2 p.m. March 27, covering the book "My Beloved World" by Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

Another highlight of Women's History Month is the El Camino College Women's Wall of Fame Reception at 1 p.m. March 26, where the 2014 Women of Distinction will be honored. Nominations will be accepted until March 7. Women's History Month activities are sponsored by the ECC Office of Professional Development, Staff and Student Diversity, and the Women's History Month Committee. To nominate a candidate, or for a full list of Women's History Month activities, go to www.elcamino.edu/events/whm.asp or call 310-660-3868.

First ECC TSA Graduation

The first students to complete training in El Camino College's Homeland Security Education program recently celebrated at a ceremony held at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Fifty-one Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees received a Certificate of Accomplishment from ECC. Through this partnership between El Camino College and the TSA at LAX, the inaugural class completed specially designed courses in homeland security. The program includes career guidance and opportunities for participants to complete a certificate of achievement and/or an associate degree in the college's Administration of Justice program.

ECC is one of only six community colleges in California authorized by the TSA to offer this program.

The partnership has worked so well that El Camino College has expanded the program. "Introduction to Administration of Justice" was added to the curriculum for spring.

Space Science Day

El Camino College welcomes NASA Astronaut Col. Douglas H. Wheelock to Onizuka Space Science Day 2014, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 8 at the college's planetarium and science classrooms. Sponsored by El Camino College and American Honda Motor Co., Inc., and coordinated by the El Camino College Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial Committee, the event is dedicated to Ellison Onizuka, a Space Shuttle Challenger astronaut who perished along with six other crew members during the tragic events of 1986. It is free and open to serious-minded science students in grades five through 12.

Wheelock began astronaut candidate training in August 1998, and since then he has flown aboard the space shuttle, the International Space Station and the Russian Soyuz TMA spacecraft. He has accumulated more than 178 days in space and has conducted six spacewalks totaling 43 hours and 30 minutes. His experience outside of the station includes four contingency spacewalks.

During Onizuka Space Science Day, Astronaut Wheelock will make a presentation to students before they join classroom activities and demonstrations led by El Camino College professors, students, and guests from JPL and other institutions. To register, contact SpaceDay@elcamino.edu. For more information, call 310-660-3487 or go to www.elcamino.edu/academics/naturalsciences/onizuka-space-science-day/.



Photo courtesy of NASA

Spring Recess

Enjoy the spring recess! No classes March 15-21. Please check www.elcamino.edu for individual office and department hours.

Campus Calendar

March

- 5 Historically Black College Fair
- 7 Distinguished Women Nominations Due
Women's History Month (WHM) Luncheon
- 8 Onizuka Space Science Day
- 11 WHM: *Girl Rising* Film Viewing
- 11-13 Blood Drive