



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.



*First row: DeDe Hicks, Maureen Ann Reilly, Debbie Turano, Sandra Horwitz
Back row: Chris Jeffries, Darlene Daniels, Amy LaCoe, Teri Kuwahara, Susan Stolovy, Jean McMillan*

El Camino College Honors Ten "Women of Distinction"

Ten successful women were honored earlier this week at the 2015 El Camino College Women of Distinction Ceremony. 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. Congratulations to the 2015 ECC Women of Distinction:

Amy LaCoe has worked with ECC students since 1982, first as a student services adviser. After serving as a counselor for 12 years, she continued her role in the classroom for 20 years – she is the longest serving current human development instructor at ECC. Amy's students follow her lead and have completed more than 1,500 hours of community service. She also was a regional delegate for Founders Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles, where she coordinated the Women's Group, founded and chaired two groups for transgender women, and established the Christine Daniels Scholarship.

A human resources professional at The Aerospace Corporation, **Darlene Daniels** has been married to husband, Kelly, for 18 years and is a proud mother to son Darius, 16, and daughter Gabby, 11. Darius was born autistic, and Darlene decided early on that Darius would be educated to the very best of his abilities. Darius attends Gardena High School and after school attends Mychal's Learning Place, an independent living and vocational skills center, where Darlene volunteers. She also helps with Special Olympics (Darius plays basketball), Studio West Gymnastics (where Gabby competes), and Crenshaw Christian Center.

De De Hicks has served as the president and CEO of the Volunteer Center in Torrance since 1986. Through her leadership, the center has grown from a small group with a budget of \$136,000 to a non-profit organization with an annual budget of over \$2 million. One project includes Operation Teddy Bear, which provides 5,600 disadvantaged first graders with school supplies and backpacks, complete with a teddy bear. De De is actively involved with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters in Palos Verdes, among other groups.

Through her involvement with Lawndale schools and the Lawndale Rotary Club, optometrist **Dr. Sandra Horwitz** has changed the lives of many youngsters. She dedicates her time and expertise to the Vision to Learn program, providing free eye examinations and glasses to Lawndale elementary school students who may not otherwise receive treatment due to lack of health insurance. The program spearheaded by Sandy was so successful, the Lawndale district applied for grants to continue the service. A graduate of the UC Berkeley School of Optometry, Sandra operates the oldest optometry practice in the city of Lawndale.

Chris Jeffries is a counselor for ECC's Health Sciences and Athletics Division, as well as co-president of the Academic Senate. She has served as an ECC counselor since 1992 and has also been the vice president of the faculty union, academic senate secretary, Health Sciences and Athletics curriculum committee member, and college curriculum chair. Chris has been a leader in the "Scholar Baller"

program, which honors athletes with high academic achievement. Many of her former students have gone on to play sports at the Division I, II and professional levels.

Teresa (Teri) Kuwahara is the former director of the College & Career Center at Palos Verdes High School and has spent her career advising South Bay students. Well known in the counseling community, Teri is also a dedicated volunteer. She serves on the board for the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute and was a founding adviser for Adventures in Art, a parent volunteer art program. Teri was also president of the Torrance Sister City Association, where she coordinated efforts to assist residents of the earthquake and tsunami-stricken Tohoku, Japan. She currently is an event planner for WACAC.

Born in 1928, **Jean McMillan** was inspired early on to pursue her education. After earning a bachelor's degree in honors chemistry from the University of British Columbia and a master's in physical chemistry from USC, Jean worked as a research chemist for Canadian Atomic Energy and at USC before becoming a faculty member at Immaculate Heart College. While raising five children, Jean served as Manhattan Beach's City Clerk and was a founding trustee of the South Bay Hospital Foundation. She also served on the board of trustees for the South Bay Hospital District and was an advisory board member of several organizations.

While working full time and attending school, **Maureen Reilly** was also a single parent to her son, two nieces, and two nephews. She earned an associate degree in human services, a bachelor's in sociology and psychology from Cal State Dominguez Hills, and enrolled in a graduate program. In 1998, she became a social worker for DCFS, where she remained until she retired in 2014. She now provides therapy at a small group home, focusing on troubled youth. She has worked relentlessly, in her family and in the community, to encourage youth to become successful, responsible members of society.

Susan Stolovy teaches astronomy and physics at ECC, where she is known for bringing current issues into her classroom and for assisting students in need. Once an astronomer at the University of Arizona, she worked with both the Hubble Space Telescope and the Kuiper Airborne Observatory with her research. As a scientist at Caltech, she researched the center of the galaxy via the Spitzer Infrared Space Telescope and the Hubble Space Telescope. Susan has a doctorate and master's degree in physics from Cornell University and a bachelor's degree in physics from Johns Hopkins University.

Debbie Turano has worked at ECC since 1992 and currently serves as senior clerical assistant in the Facilities Department. Debbie has been an active member of numerous ECC committees, including the accreditation team and planning summits at both ECC and ECC Compton Center. In 2006, Debbie established the Sergeant Kirk Johnston Memorial Scholarship in honor of her first husband, who had been an ECC police sergeant. Debbie currently serves on the college's Foundation board and has held leadership positions within the classified employees' union. Her volunteerism extends to her community where she is an elementary school Reading Partners tutor.

Superintendent/President Evaluation

The El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees invites letters regarding Superintendent/President Thomas Fallo's effectiveness during 2014-15, as well as suggestions for the direction the college should take in the upcoming academic year. Please send your comments marked "confidential" by May 29 to Board President William Beverly, in care of Cindy Constantino in the President's Office. Your comments will be forwarded, unopened, to board members for review.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!



All ECC employees are invited to join the Class of 2015 at the 68th commencement ceremony on Friday, May 15 on the Softball Field. ECC alumnus Dr. Gregory Rafjah, assistant clinical professor at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine's Department of Orthopedic Surgery, will be the guest speaker. A "Blue Carpet Event" will be set up during the Commencement Reception from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the Library Lawn. Attendees are invited to take photos and post them online using #ECCGrad to be included in ECC's social media channels. We'll be live tweeting before, during and after commencement at @ecc_online. Alumni, friends, family and the ECC community are also encouraged to share their advice and best wishes to the Class of 2015! We look forward to seeing you at commencement!

Classified Professional Development Week: June 1-5

It's almost time for team building and fun times! Classified Professional Development Week is scheduled for June 1-5, with plenty of personal and professional development activities planned. Also, get ready for the Sixth Annual Team Building Extravaganza, scheduled for Friday, June 5. This year, the Extravaganza is extra special, featuring a "Backpack Relay" benefitting ECC's CalWORKs families. More information to come!

Student Success: Thanks for a Great Year!



2015 Presidential Scholars: Abel Ricano, Langston Chandler, Anthony Co, Isabelle Varma, Jessica Martinez, Miguel Medina Betancourt, and Rodolfo Urioste.

There are so many things to celebrate this spring. To start, it is a great time to thank all faculty, staff and managers for being a part of our students' success. This year, El Camino College awarded \$1.4 million in student scholarships and nearly 50 students were honored at the annual Presidential Scholar and Academic Awards Presentation. This is the 14th year of the Presidential Scholar program that recognizes outstanding graduating students who have a 3.7 grade point average or higher. To date, 132 students have been named Presidential Scholars since the program was established.

Other student success stories include the ECC Debate Team, once again a national champion and the Honors Transfer Program sent a record number of students to the Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research Conference this spring. In athletics, many scholar-athletes were recognized for their achievements, while softball, women's swim, men's soccer, women's volleyball and women's basketball all won conference championships this year. Numerous individual success stories also added to an outstanding 2014-15. Congratulations on a great year!

Student Success: Degrees & Certificates Increase

According to a new Institutional Research & Planning report on degree and certificate trends, ECC is showing an overall five-year growth of 43 percent in terms of awards distributed and ECC Compton Center is showing a five-year growth of 53 percent. The report covers 2009-10 to 2013-14 and indicates that considerable student progress has been made over these past few years.

The 2013-14 academic year yielded the second highest award count in the past five years, even though the number of awards at both locations decreased compared to the previous year. At ECC, the number of degrees decreased by 3 percent during this same time period, and certificates decreased by 21 percent. However, the number of Associate of Arts for Transfer (A.A.-T) degrees grew substantially, with 118 A.A.-T degrees awarded for the 2013-14 academic year. Each of the three majors awarding A.A.-T degrees (i.e., psychology, sociology, and communication) showed an increase compared to the previous year, even though the previous year (2012-13) was a peak year for awards distributed at ECC. Some of the largest increases occurred among majors offering A.A.-T degrees and STEM-related majors. For more information, read the full report: [www.elcamino.edu/administration/ir/docs/research/Degrees Certificates Trends 2013-14.pdf](http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/ir/docs/research/Degrees%20Certificates%20Trends%202013-14.pdf)

Road and Lot C Closure for Fall 2015

Please note, beginning August 10 a portion of the El Camino College perimeter road along Manhattan Beach Boulevard, between the Shops Building and the Planetarium, will be closed. The closure will also include all sections of Parking Lot C and adjacent walkways. Disabled Person parking spaces will be relocated to the west side of Lot B. Community Education will move to the Manhattan Beach Boulevard Modules.

The closure is part the next phase of campus construction, which will include a new parking structure and a new Student Services Center. Demolition will begin in August and construction is scheduled to begin in early 2016. Improvements are supported by funds from both the 2002 and 2012 Measure E facilities bonds. Please watch for more information during the summer months, and via the Professional Development Day (formerly "Flex Day") materials. Thank you for your patience as we work to improve the El Camino College campus facilities.

New Manager



Please take some time to welcome **Lisa Mednick Takami**, El Camino College's new professional development coordinator. Lisa previously served as a Title V curriculum specialist

at Harbor College, where she developed curriculum, implemented technology, and worked with faculty training and collaboration projects. She also has experience as a classroom teacher, writer and owner of a cross-cultural communications training firm. Lisa earned an MBA in international management from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a bachelor's degree in history and French from the University of California, Berkeley. She also is a doctoral candidate at California State University, Long Beach.

Retiring Faculty, Staff & Managers

Thank you and congratulations to all retiring employees who have served El Camino College and our students:

Faculty Retirees

Richard BartonProfessor, Computer Information Systems
Sara Blake.....Professor, English
Deborah ConoverNurse Practitioner, Health Center
Donna GroganProfessor, Real Estate
Hiram Hironaka.....Professor, Automotive Technology
Robert Horvath.....Professor, Mathematics
Douglas Marston..... Professor, Electronics and Computer Hardware
Maria Teresa Martinez.....Professor, Nursing
Victoria McCallumProfessor, English
Claudette Parks.....Professor, English
Francis Bernard RangProfessor, Spanish
Kathleen Stephens.....Professor, Nursing

Staff Retirees

Eleni Arzoian.....Cosmetology Assistant
Antoinette CorsoSenior Clerical Assistant
Joyce Fukuchi.....Senior Clerical Assistant
Murriel FranklinHuman Resources Technician II
Harold GudmundssonPlumber
Jason HaddixHelp Desk Consultant
Marjorie HallStudent Services Specialist
Jakov Jerkovich.....HVAC Mechanic
Hector SalazarPromotion Specialist
Judith Salmon.....Child Development Center Technician
Angela SniderAdministrative Assistant II
Delores ThibodeauxAdministrative Assistant II
Donald Treat.....Supervisor of Technical Services
Katherine ValotAccounting Assistant II
Michele Waller.....Assistant to Vice President
Carolyn WesleyNight Custodian

Manager Retirees

Francisco Arce.....Vice President, Academic Affairs
Hortense Cooper.....Director, Financial Aid
Kathleen GleasonExecutive Director, Foundation
Alice GrigsbyDirector, Learning Resources
Donna Manno.....Professional Development Coordinator
Bruce SpainExecutive Director, Center for the Arts

Save the Date!

Professional Development Day 2015 (formerly “Flex Day”) is set for Thursday, August 20. Check in and a pancake breakfast begins at 7:45 a.m. in Marsee Auditorium South Patio. The theme will be “Strengthening Partnerships to Support Student Success.” Discussions throughout the day will center on resources, services and strategies that help students achieve their educational goals.

Campus Calendar

May

- 7 MESA/SSS-STEM Awards Ceremony
Puente End of Year Celebration
- 8 Mathematics & Natural Science Division Awards
28th Annual Golf Classic
ECC Fashion Show
- 14 ECC Compton Center Commencement
- 15 Last Day of Spring Semester
Commencement
Nursing Pinning Ceremony
- 16 Planetarium Show
- 18 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 19 UC/CSU Admit Reception
- 21 Summer Fee Payment Deadline: Students who Register May 1 – 20
- 25 Memorial Day, Campus Closed
- 26 First Six-Week Summer Session Begins

June

- 1-5 Classified Professional Development Week
- 5 Sixth Annual Team Building Extravaganza
- 22 Eight-Week Summer Session Begins

July

- 6 Independence Day Observed
Campus Closed
- 7 Second Six-Week Summer Session Begins

[Click here](#) for more info about these and other events at El Camino College.

Have a Great Summer!



Stay connected with El Camino College...

