



# President's NEWS

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*El Camino College makes a positive difference in people's lives. We provide excellent comprehensive educational programs and services that promote student learning and success in collaboration with our diverse communities.*



## President's Message

During my first week and a half I have enjoyed meeting students, faculty and staff members. It is an honor to serve as El Camino College's sixth president and I look forward to meeting even more of you!

Coming to the South Bay is a bit of a homecoming for me. I was born in Inglewood and lived in Hawthorne before moving with my family to the San Gabriel Valley, where I grew up and graduated from high school. Every summer vacation included a week or two with my grandparents in Inglewood. I have heard it said that nearly everyone in the South Bay can claim some connection to ECC. This is true for me as well! My father and two of my aunts attended El Camino College back in the day. A cousin graduated from the Nursing Program several years ago, and other family members have or are currently attending the college.



I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding work and achievements of my presidential predecessors. The college is well positioned for meeting the needs of today's students, as well as future students.

I look forward to continuing on this path of success. A focus on stabilizing as well as increasing enrollment will be our first order of business, while ensuring students have access to the instructional programs and support services they need to graduate and move on to their next challenge, whether it is a university, a career – or both! This year, we will also develop a new Comprehensive Master Plan, and continue to support ECC Compton Center in the process to accreditation as an independent college serving Compton CCD residents.

I invite community members to visit the college and see what's new. From exceptional arts and entertainment to community education classes and business training services, El Camino College offers activities and events for everyone.

Watch for information about a meet and greet reception in the coming weeks for the college and community members. If I don't personally meet you before then, I will see you there!

Dena P. Maloney, Ed.D.  
Superintendent/President

## ECC Eligible for Prestigious Aspen Prize

El Camino College was declared eligible for the prestigious 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The \$1 million Aspen Prize is given every two years to the top community college in the country, recognizing high achievement and performance. Eligible colleges demonstrate exceptional outcomes in three areas: student success in persistence, completion, and transfer; consistent improvement in outcomes over time; and equity in outcomes for students of all racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The award program is a partnership of the Aspen Institute, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and Lumina Foundation, which supports educational excellence and the Aspen Prize. The 150 eligible institutions are now invited to submit an application describing what they have done to improve student success on their campus. Ten finalists will be announced this fall, and a winner declared in early 2017.

## Measure E Bonds Issued

The El Camino Community College District recently issued \$100 million in new bonds at a low interest rate of 3.45 percent to fund facilities improvements. The district also refinanced a portion of its outstanding general obligation bonds to generate approximately \$24.5 million in total savings, which will be directly passed on to local taxpayers in the form of reduced property tax bills over time.

The bond sale was well received by investors, and, in most maturities, the demand for the bonds exceeded the available supply. Demand for the bonds was primarily driven by the district's strong credit rating and its location in the stable South Bay region of Los Angeles County.

## Accreditation Update

At its January 6-8, 2016 meeting, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) reviewed El Camino College's Follow-Up Report, evidentiary materials, and the October 2015 Follow-Up Visit Evaluation Team Report. The Commission found that El Camino College has addressed Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 from the fall 2014 comprehensive evaluation, resolved the deficiencies, and meets ACCJC standards. The Commission encourages El Camino College to continue the good work completed to meet the standards. To view the ACCJC letter, click [here](#).

The next scheduled report is the College Midterm Report due by March 15, 2017. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort.

The district's ability to issue the bonds at a low interest rate will correspondingly reduce the burden of paying back the bonds on local taxpayers.

In addition, the district availed itself of the near-historic low interest rate environment to refinance approximately \$98 million in previously issued bonds. Similar to the refinancing of a home mortgage, savings are generated by reducing original interest rates to a new lower rate, thereby reducing the amount in payments required over time to pay off the bonds.

## Spring Enrollment

Spring 2016 enrollment remains below the full-time equivalent students (FTES) target at both El Camino College and ECC Compton Center. As of Feb. 1, ECC was 10 percent away from the goal of 8,658 FTES. The FTES target for the 2015-16 academic year is 20,071. El Camino College Compton Center is 12 percent below its spring 2016 FTES target of 2,447. ECC Compton Center has a target FTES of 6,060 for the 2015-16 academic year. We will have a better idea later this spring where we are in relation to the academic year goals. Enrollment Management Committees at ECC and at the ECC Compton Center are developing plans to support the enrollment management goals and ensure access for students.

**Students can still register for spring classes:** Mid-term classes are available and also add to the FTES count. These short-term classes begin March 19 and can be completed in just a few weeks. Students should refer to the [Online Searchable Schedule](#) for more information.

## Nominations: 2016 Faculty & Staff Awards

Nominations for the 2016 Distinguished Faculty & Staff awards are now open. The [Distinguished Faculty Award](#) honors outstanding faculty members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to their students, the college, and profession. In addition to excellence in helping students succeed, nominees must have a record of outstanding participation both on campus and with professional activities. Nominations must be received by the Vice President, Academic Affairs Office by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 19.

The [Distinguished Staff Award](#) is presented annually to a staff member whose contributions demonstrate commitment to academic excellence and outstanding service to the college and students. Nominations must be received in the Human Resources Office no later than 4:30 p.m. March 4 via regular mail or email. To nominate a faculty or staff member, please click on the links above.

## Community Outreach: LA Opera

The Los Angeles Opera recently staged a free production of "The Prospector" at Marsee Auditorium for South Bay elementary school students. The interactive performance brought more than 1,000 area students to ECC who enjoyed a rousing tale of Gold Rush pioneers. The El Camino College Center for the Arts, in partnership with LA Opera, presented this community education event. The show is based on Puccini's "The Girl of the Golden West" and is set in a California mining camp during the 1850s. The action-packed LA Opera adaptation complements California history curriculum for fourth- and fifth-grade students.



## Share a Ride!

Save money, save time, save the environment – there are many great reasons to carpool and join the ECC rideshare program. Here is another one: join ride-share and you will be able to park in "Staff Only Carpool" spots! The ride-share program has allocated 18 parking stalls for employees who carpool to El Camino College. The stalls are located in Lots A, B, H, J and K. The carpool stalls are marked with orange "Reserved Staff Carpool Only" signs and are ready for your group! Please contact Parking Services at extension 3983 with any questions. Share a ride – carpool today!

## Campus Safety

As part of the El Camino College Police Department's ongoing "whole community" approach to enhance campuswide preparedness, officers are available to conduct safety presentations to any ECC class, office, club, committee, or any other student/faculty/staff group. Simply contact Jan Caldwell at [jcaldwel@elcamino.edu](mailto:jcaldwel@elcamino.edu) or 310-660-3100 for information or appointments.

## Campus Calendar

### February

- 11 Last Day to Apply for Spring Degrees and Certificates  
Black History Month:  
"Spoken Word Lounge"
- 12 Lincoln's Day Holiday  
(Campus Closed)
- 15 Washington's Day Holiday  
(Campus Closed)
- 16 Black History Month:  
"African-Americans in Hollywood"
- 17 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 18 Black History Month:  
African-American Student Conference
- 20 Black History Month:  
History of Black Dance in America

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