Congratulations to Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio and Mayra Thrush, two outstanding members of our El Camino College community who will be honored for their excellent work on behalf of our college at the 13th Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation and Recognition reception. The event is scheduled from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. May 20 in the Student Activities Center, East Lounge.

This wonderful El Camino College tradition is a great way to thank our campus community for their dedication to the college and the students we serve. Join us at this reception!

**Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio** is known as an extremely successful teacher in classes that have a positive impact on helping students accomplish their educational and personal goals. She exemplifies the principles of “service” in all aspects of her career, from serving on committees at the college and in the community, to helping students with academics, as well as with personal skills they need to succeed. Kristie is also an advocate of “service learning,” that is, learning through serving others, and her students often participate in projects such as volunteering at homeless shelters.

“Never in my life have I met someone as enthusiastic and full of life as Dr. Daniel-DiGregorio,” wrote one student. “Her immense desire to enhance her students’ lives in regard to education is so sincere, it is contagious. She believed in all of us which made us believe in ourselves. Dr. Daniel Di-Gregorio is both the epitome of what an educator is and my inspiration to be an educator one day.”

Kristie is widely recognized as a professor who impacts students through teaching and learning; counseling and advice; and constant encouragement. Outside of the classroom, she has coordinated an extraordinarily large number of campus and professional activities. She has coordinated ECC’s On Course training and associated follow-up programs, which have provided faculty with training on incorporating cutting-edge, research-proven techniques to improve student success across the curriculum. She has also presented at several national workshops. Kristie is clearly dedicated to the success of students at ECC and beyond.

Kristie graduated from Northwestern University where she earned a doctorate in education and social policy and a master’s degree in education. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Trinity University. Her career background includes teaching human development and academic strategies courses at El Camino College, in addition to teaching courses at California State University, Long Beach.

At El Camino College, Kristie is a member of the Behavioral and Social Science Division Curriculum Committee, and a Human Development Program Review co-author. In addition to her work with On Course, she works with the First Year Experience, Puente and Project Success programs, teaching and developing learning communities. She is also the faculty coordinator for the Compton Center Faculty Inquiry Partnership Program.

**Mayra Thrush** is the senior clerical assistant in the Special Resource Center where she works with students and visitors alike in a caring, approachable, and highly professional manner. She is known for her ability to multi-task in extremely busy situations – always maintaining a calm demeanor while interacting with students. As the first point of contact to visitors of the Special Resource Center, Mayra is the keystone of the office and makes all visitors feel welcome, understood and served.
Approaching everyone with respect regardless of ability, communication skills, or language, she works collaboratively with students, faculty and staff. There are few places at the college with the diversity of the Special Resource Center, and Mayra appreciates and values everyone who visits. She is trilingual – fluent in English, Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) – all critical to serving the college’s diverse student body.

Her professionalism extends to handling sensitive and confidential information – she uses good judgment when communicating and interacting with others and takes measures to ensure and maintain confidentiality. She makes a positive impression on visitors to the Special Resource Center, earning praise from many.

Mayra is working toward completing her associate degree at El Camino College; she has one course remaining to complete this goal. She plans to further her education and earn a bachelor’s degree in human services. In addition to her class work, Mayra continues with additional learning, taking campus staff development workshops such as team building, stress management, and communication.

In her community, Mayra is an active member of her church, where she sings, teaches Sunday school, works on Sunday school curriculum for older students, interprets worship songs in ASL, and travels twice per year to San Telmo, Mexico to help needy families. She also served on the church board and regularly collects and distributes food for the less fortunate at a neighboring church.

A Celebration of Students

Our academic year is coming to an end and this is a great time to recognize the achievements of our students! Our Scholarship Awards Ceremony does just that, celebrating our students’ success and awarding their efforts with scholarships. More than 320 El Camino College students were honored for their academic achievements and more than $310,000 in scholarships were distributed. We congratulate our award winners and thank all those who generously support our scholarship program to help make our students’ academic goals a reality.

This is also the time of year when celebrations are planned by programs, departments, clubs, and other groups. We know many faculty and staff help organize these celebrations for our students, proud that they played a part in the students’ success. Be sure to check out the event calendar on the college website. We encourage everyone to participate in student recognition festivities and congratulate some truly exceptional students.

Classified Professional Development Week

Everyone is encouraged to participate in a variety of Classified Professional Development Week activities, scheduled for May 17-21. The week is titled: “The Power of Teams,” and features several workshops throughout the week, from harassment in the workplace and personal safety to painting a room and gardening. The week’s events conclude with a barbeque lunch and a team building extravaganza called “Mission Possible.”

Got talent? Share it with your colleagues in the program, ECC/CEC Grand Performances: Three Minutes of Fame! Submit your individual or group performance idea using the sign-up link below.

Since 1986, California has honored the invaluable contributions of classified school employees during the third week of May. Classified School Employee Week began as a resolution at CSEA’s Annual Conference in 1984. Two years later, it was adopted as California Senate Bill 1552 and decreed to be an official recognition of classified school employees.

We look forward to seeing all staff at Classified Professional Development Week activities – a bus will be available on May 21 to help with transportation for Compton Center staff to participate and attend that day’s events.

President’s Evaluation

The El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees invites letters regarding Superintendent/President Thomas Fallo’s effectiveness during 2009-10, as well as suggestions for the direction the college should take in the upcoming academic year.

This is the annual evaluation time in which the board reviews all suggestions to assist in planning the college’s future. Please send your comments marked “confidential” by May 30 to Board President Ray Gen in care of Kathy Oswald in the President’s Office. Your comments will be forwarded, unopened, to board members for review.