



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | Email: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

April 11, 2016

El Camino College Named a Leader in STEM Education

El Camino College alumnus Mario Cabrera plans to graduate later this spring with a master's degree in physics – and will continue his studies at the University of Rochester, working to complete a doctorate in physics and astronomy. The work is challenging, with long hours of studying, but he said he is ready.

“El Camino College faculty members provide a great education and care about their students' success,” said Mario, who transferred to California Polytechnic University, Pomona as an aerospace engineering major (later changed to physics) after graduating from ECC. “At Cal Poly Pomona, I often surprised my classmates by showing them how prepared I was and how well I was doing in my upper-division courses. El Camino College definitely prepared me for the future.”

Mario's success story is one of hundreds found in El Camino College Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs. A leader in STEM higher education, ECC was recently named one of the “Top 25 STEM Schools” by The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine. In the January 2016 edition, ECC was specifically honored among two- and four-year colleges and universities across the nation, for support programs geared toward Hispanic students earning degrees in mathematics and statistics.

ECC was also honored in the February 2016 edition as one of the top 25 community colleges in the nation for enrollment and associate degrees awarded to Hispanic students.

Recognition from the magazine highlights El Camino College's commitment to helping students achieve their academic goals through outstanding course offerings and a variety of support services.

Mario said he received a lot of help from the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program. ECC's MESA program is one of the largest, comprehensive and most successful programs in the state. MESA has supported students for more than 15 years by providing critical services and resources, such as tutoring, career and academic advisement, scholarships, and internships.

“In addition to great faculty, programs like MESA provided invaluable support for me and many other students,” Mario said. “Having a place to gather and study together with other classmates made it much easier to be able to get through the long hours of studying. MESA Director Arturo Hernandez and all of the staff were always very helpful and provided many resources like scholarships, workshops, internships, and job opportunities, just to name a few.

“I can certainly say that I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for the great education and support that I received from El Camino College and the MESA program.”

###