



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College Names Terry Spearman and Cece Fuentes 2006 Distinguished Faculty and Staff

El Camino College recently named Professor Terry Spearman and Student Services Adviser Cece Fuentes as the 2006 Distinguished Faculty and Staff award winners. They will be honored for their outstanding work on behalf of the college at the Ninth Annual Faculty & Staff Appreciation and Recognition reception set for 1 p.m. May 18.

Dr. Terry Spearman is well known as a professor who has been instrumental in developing and promoting educational programs that reach students at the very beginning of their journey into higher education. Students throughout the years have benefited from his style of teaching strategies and principles that stay with them well after their time at El Camino College.

A professor of academic strategies and human development, Terry has been an important part of the campus since he joined the faculty in 1984. He has also taught a wide range of English courses and served as the college and school relations specialist from 1986-89.

Terry has been involved in the launch of many campus programs that serve students. When Project Success began 19 years ago, he was right on board as an instructor, mentor, steering committee member, recruiter, and fund-raiser – all the while providing outstanding instruction and guidance to students. Terry was also there at the start of the First Year Experience in 2000, setting high academic standards that students were eager to meet. In the Puente Project, students have said repeatedly throughout the years that he is an instructor who has motivated them toward achieving their goals.

Terry is also the El Camino College coordinator of Human Development faculty, coordinator of the division council, fund-raiser and member of the Project Success steering committee, member of the CalWORKs advisory group, and is a member of the accreditation team. He also helps with many faculty development activities on campus.

In the community, Terry has served as a speaker for the past eight years at the annual African American Man-Child Conference; he volunteers with the Young Black Scholars organization; and he also presents study skills workshops to students at area middle schools and high schools.

Terry has a doctorate and master's degree from Pepperdine University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Ms. "Cece" Crystal Fuentes is motivated by her deep commitment to the EOPS/CalWORKs/CARE departments, as well as El Camino College as a whole. She is dedicated to student success and is known around campus as "The Motivator" because of her exceptional ability to challenge others to reach higher levels and strive for excellence. As a student services adviser, Cece helps students access the information and support they need to succeed at El Camino College.

Cece joined the El Camino College staff in 1997 as a CIS instructor assistant. Since then, she has worked to: develop and implement the "Sister Circle" workshop series as support for single parents; write and submit various grants; coordinate alumni activities for EOPS/CARE students; guide students through the application process into the various campus programs; coordinate the Summer Leadership program; and train and direct student assistants in various programs.

Throughout her career at El Camino College, Cece is regularly sought out by students, who look up to her as an adviser to the Sister Circle group; parents, who turn to her for help in guiding their children through the college process; counselors, who rely on her to facilitate motivational workshops; community members, who count on her to inform their members about El Camino College and its various support programs; and co-workers, who appreciate her technical expertise and access to resources.

Cece's service in the community focuses on helping the Day Break Homeless Shelter for Mentally Ill Women in Santa Monica, where she serves as a group facilitator. She is also very involved in the Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she volunteered in a number of areas.

Cece has a bachelor's degree in social work from California State University, Los Angeles and is also a graduate of the institution she devotes her career to: El Camino College.

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