



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | FAX: (310) 660-3946 | Contact: Ann M. Garten

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2006

Former El Camino College Professor Honored with Award in Her Name

The Community College Humanities Association (CCHA) Pacific-Western Division recently introduced the inaugural Nadine Hata Humanities Educator Award at its annual conference in Los Angeles earlier this month.

Dr. Nadine Hata was a historian and educator at El Camino College, where she served as a faculty member, dean and administrator during her 30 years at the college. She passed away in 2005 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

As of this year, the Pacific-Western Division's Distinguished Regional Educator Award will be called the Nadine Hata Humanities Educator Award, in honor of Professor Hata's many contributions to humanities education and scholarship. Philosophy professor Jeff Clausen of Green River Community College in Seattle won the award this year.

"This is a fitting tribute to the service Nadine Hata gave to her profession and the community," said El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo. "Nadine was a true supporter of scholarship, focusing on student achievement and academic excellence for all students."

At the award presentation, Dr. Hata's husband Donald Hata, CSU Dominguez Hills Emeritus Professor of History, addressed the group; comments also came from Maria Brown, ECC professor and Pacific-Western Division president. Francisco Arce, El Camino College Vice President of Academic Affairs, opened the ceremony with a greeting on behalf of El Camino College, the host college of the conference.

"It was a very successful conference – a wonderful experience where we were able to exchange ideas, techniques and information with our colleagues," said Brown, who helped coordinate the conference titled, "Intersections: Popular Culture and the Humanities" which attracted participants from eight states, including Texas and New Jersey.

"The atmosphere was so collegial; it enabled us to examine what we are doing in the classroom in terms of how we can reach students and communicate with students."

Moderating or leading sessions were the following ECC professors: Leslie Back, Florence Baker, Sara Blake, Maria Brown, Christina Gold, Emily Rader, and Kirsten

Resnick. El Camino College students also participated two student panels, led by graduate students from California State University, Fullerton. Deans Tom Lew and Gloria Miranda also presented.

To qualify for the award, nominees were asked to demonstrate many or all of the following qualities Dr. Hata modeled in her own life: teaching excellence in humanities or social sciences; excellence in college leadership; ongoing, innovative curriculum development; sharing ideas/teaching techniques with colleagues through presentations/publications; commitment to community service, on campus and in the community; and membership and activity in professional organizations such as the CCHA. Dr. Hata was also an active member of the CCHA.

Founded in 1979, the CCHA is the only national organization of its kind for humanities faculty and administrators in two-year colleges. It is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the humanities in two-year colleges.

#