



NEWS

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El Camino College Fees to Decrease in 2007

El Camino College student Danielle Marquez sees big potential in the upcoming enrollment fee decrease. Not only will she see more bucks in her own bank account, but she expects to see many new students coming to campus in the New Year.

"This decrease is so great for us, I know a lot of students were talking about this and are really excited," said Marquez, president of the ECC Inter-Club Council. "This really matters to us. I think it will definitely encourage students to take more classes and maybe many more will enroll.

"This will also give greater access to those students who really need a college education and training."

Starting January 1, 2007, enrollment fees at all 109 of the California Community College campuses will be reduced to \$20 per semester unit, down from the current \$26 per unit, signaling a nearly 25 percent reduction.

"This is a great opportunity for us to offer our services to an even greater number of our community members, creating even more access to higher education," El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo said of the change that was recently approved by the State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

"El Camino College has always been a great educational value for students looking to transfer to a university, as well as for those wanting to learn career skills. This new fee schedule will help us provide access to even more students."

Costs for community colleges across the state have been rising in recent years. El Camino College student Alejandro Ruiz III expects the new fees will help bring more students back to school.

"I know for many students this will make a big difference," said Ruiz, a sophomore welding student who plans to transfer to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo next year. "This means they will be able to afford books, or maybe be able to take an extra class, or just have extra money in their pocket so they won't have to work so hard. I think students now, more than ever, are looking for ways to save money."

As always, financial aid is also available at El Camino College. Students who qualify can use financial aid to help cover fees, books and other education costs. The staff at the Financial Aid Office is always ready to help, and information is available online, www.elcamino.edu or by calling 1-310-660-3493.

"I Can Afford College," a financial aid awareness campaign, also offers all the necessary financial aid resources on a centrally located Web site, www.icanaffordcollege.com. A toll-free helpline, 1-800-987-ICAN (4226), is also available. Both the Web site and phone line are available in English and Spanish.

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