



NEWS

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El Camino College Names Janet Young and Martha Smith-Ortega 2007 Distinguished Faculty and Staff

El Camino College professor Janet Young and staff member Martha Smith-Ortega were honored at a May 17 reception for their dedication to the college, students and colleagues.

The honorees for the 2007 Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award were recognized at the 10th Annual El Camino College Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day, an event designed to thank all members of the campus community for their commitment to the college and its educational mission.

Janet Young is a professor of childhood education who is well known for her dedication to students and for being a leader who considers teaching both a monumental honor and a tremendous responsibility.

Janet teaches a variety of early childhood education courses, implementing teaching strategies that provide students with an optimal learning environment, all with the highest possible standards since she joined the faculty in 1996. Janet has also served as the director of the Careers in Child Care CalWORKs program.

With a strong commitment to the college and its students, Janet has served on a variety of division and campuswide committees throughout the years, including the Curriculum Committee, which she currently serves as chairwoman. She is also the former director of the El Camino College Teacher Education Program (TEP), giving vitality to the campus student teachers' club.

Janet's work with supervising grant programs has gone a long way to serve countless students. One notable success was her work with a Title V grant with CSU Dominguez Hills. She took over as director and led the project into a successful instructional model which has since been praised and copied by other colleges. She was also a pioneer in launching the college's Learning Communities model of instruction, linking her own classes and classes of colleagues with corresponding English courses.

Janet has a master's degree in education from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a bachelor's degree from Antioch University in Los Angeles.

Martha Smith-Ortega is motivated by her dedication to the El Camino College nursing department and its students.

As the administrative assistant in the El Camino College nursing department, Martha is in charge of all aspects of keeping the department running, including working with students, faculty, and staff to ensure exceptional service all around.

A graduate of El Camino College with an associate degree in communications, Martha joined the El Camino College staff in 1989, bringing a dedication to the campus and its students. She is in charge of running the program office, coordinating student orientation programs, scheduling CPR classes, maintaining student files for the various off-campus programs, guiding students as they are evaluated for program eligibility, and managing the files of transfer students, among other duties.

Martha has been an important part of the campus ever since she arrived. She promotes the nursing program in many ways, sending out informational materials, greeting walk-in visitors, and helping students with applications and other forms. Maintaining nursing book inventory is another important part of her job she manages with efficiency.

She also supervises and delegates tasks to student workers, essentially leading an on-the-job training program that benefits student employees and the department alike.

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