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El Camino College Awards $210,000 in Student Scholarships

Taking a full load of challenging courses in El Camino College’s engineering and industrial management program is hard work. Add in a job and taking care of a young son, and the daily schedule gets busy.

These are the realities of Helen Hartman, an engineering student at El Camino College. Fortunately, she has a head start on reaching her academic goals, at least financially. Hartman is one of 181 outstanding students who received an award at the recent El Camino College Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception. About $210,000 in scholarships was distributed to deserving students.

“This takes a lot of worry away from me so can concentrate on my studies,” said Hartman, who plans to transfer to California State University, Long Beach this winter. “This scholarship program is so helpful to students – if you can get the financial obligations of college out of your mind, you study better.

“I think El Camino College scholarships make great students even greater.”

With many of scholarships offered at El Camino College, students will receive financial assistance that will fully cover tuition, fees and textbooks.

“Our annual scholarships awards ceremony is a great time to celebrate the many academic accomplishments our students,” said Thomas M. Fallo, president of El Camino College. “We are also extremely grateful for our supporters who made these scholarships possible.”

New this year are the Warren E. Ford Scholarships, with awards to both a nursing student and a chemistry student. The Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarships are also new this year – 12 separate $2,000 scholarships given to students across all disciplines.

Liberty Peru received the Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarship for Humanities. She is studying journalism and communications, with plans to transfer to a university and earn a bachelor’s degree. In the meantime, she plans on finding internships and other work opportunities in the public relations field.
“This scholarship is so great, it takes care of my fees through graduation from El Camino College,” said Peru, who grew up in Redondo Beach and is the oldest of four children. “This really helps my family out a lot and is a great opportunity for students. I would really like to thank the donors for making this possible.”

Many donors pledged their support to create “named scholarships” which reward hard-working students with a drive to succeed. Named scholarships for this year include: Paula Carabelli Memorial Scholarship, Warren E. Ford Chemistry Scholarship, Warren E. Ford High School Nursing Scholarship, Louis and Susan Garcia Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Robert Haag Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Olive Hall Scholarship, Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Scholarship, Kinecta Federal Credit Union Scholarship, Dr. Stuart and Audrey Marsee Scholarship, Joe Boyd Noble Memorial Scholarship, Margaret and Philip Pelland Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarships, Verizon Scholarship, and the White Family Scholarship for Fine Arts.

Mr. Ford, a former chemistry teacher at El Camino College, is one of several donors with a professional connection to the college. Dr. Hall, Dr. Hata, Dr. Marsee, Dr. Haag, and Mr. Turner were administrators/faculty members whose many years of dedication to the campus carry on through these scholarships. Other donors, such as the Pelland Family and the White Family, made major bequests to the college in their wills, demonstrating the value they place on education in our community.

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