



NEWS

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El Camino College Auto Technology Partners with the South Coast Air Quality Management District

The El Camino College Auto Technology Program will be one of the first colleges to offer a ground-breaking program in the cutting-edge all-wheel drive emission control testing field.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is in the process of replacing the college's current two-wheel drive station with high-tech, all-wheel drive equipment. Currently, there are only three in existence, one of which is in the United States, at El Camino College.

"We are pleased to work with the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the SCAQMD to offer ECC students an opportunity to work with the all-wheel-drive high tech equipment," said Stephanie Rodriguez, dean of industry and technology.

"Not only do students benefit from obtaining job-ready skills, but also the technology will assist in lowering emissions into the atmosphere and contributing to the overall quality of air we breathe."

By law, vehicles require emission control testing (a smog test) to renew registration paperwork. As automotive technology advanced, auto manufacturers developed better ways to improve traction control while testing vehicles. As a result, several new vehicles are built with all-wheel-drive and non-disengagable traction control, making such vehicles exempt from smog testing. The new all-wheel-drive equipment at El Camino College will be able to test ALL vehicles, including two- and four-wheel drive.

ECC automotive technology students will have increased career opportunities through an agreement between the Foundation for the California Community Colleges and the state Bureau of Automotive Repairs (BAR) to train as student technicians to assist in performing the necessary technical service in the state's smog check program.

El Camino College students who are enrolled in six units are given first priority for this training. The program is designed to provide training to students to obtain work-ready skills as automotive technicians in the public or private sector.

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