



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

December 3, 2008

El Camino College Recruits Women to Join CalWomenTech Project

El Camino College is actively recruiting women to join its Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) program; Electronics and Computer Hardware program; and Welding programs.

ECC is one of eight California community colleges selected to participate in the innovative CalWomenTech project, with a goal to increase the number of women enrolled and retained in traditionally male technology occupations.

"We are eager to offer opportunities for students to study and train for these excellent, high-paying jobs," said Thomas M. Fallo, president of El Camino College.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, women currently represent only 7.7 percent of the workers in the electrical and electronics field. Women make up 5.9 percent of welders and 2.7 percent of HVACR workers in the United States.

"We are thrilled to increase the number of women in these three key fields. Women often do not realize the opportunities available to them if they have the necessary training," said Stephanie Rodriguez, dean of the El Camino College Industry and Technology Division.

The Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) program; Electronics and Computer Hardware; and Welding programs at El Camino College were developed in response to a strong demand for trained individuals in these three fields.

Students completing the HVACR program may expect to enter the industry as advanced apprentices or entry-level technicians.

"As a woman I can do anything I put my mind to. Finishing something that I started and getting my degree has given me confidence," said Valerie Brown, HVACR service trainee and El Camino College graduate.

By completing the welding degree or certificate requirements, students gain proficiency in the following welding processes: oxy-acetylene cutting, plasma arc cutting, brazing and welding, shielded metal arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, and flux cored welding, all the while preparing students for employment in the field.

"I tell people to not be scared to try it; it doesn't hurt to try," said welder Dulce Rodriguez, an El Camino College grad. "These are high paying jobs. As long as the state keeps growing, they're going to need welders."

The Electronics and Computer Hardware Technology program prepares students for employment in the areas of computer hardware and industrial, military, and consumer electronics.

"I was hooked on electronics the day I realized that there are thousands of little pieces inside every little gadget," said Annalisa Strass, El Camino College graduate. "Anyone with creativity and knowledge can learn how to create something that might change the future. I plan to be someone like that."

El Camino College is currently accepting applications for the Winter Session and Spring Semester. Enrollment is ongoing until the beginning of the semester as long as space is available in each class. Students can apply online at www.elcamino.edu and click on **MyECC**.

For more information, contact Stephanie Rodriguez, dean of the Industry and Technology Division at El Camino College, 310-660-3600 or SRodriguez@elcamino.edu.

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