



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2009

El Camino College Experiences Spike in Enrollment 2009 Expected to be Largest Spring Enrollment in 20 Years

Following a strong Fall 2008, enrollment continues to grow rapidly at El Camino College, with spring numbers already up by 14 percent over this time last year. Enrollment numbers could top 28,000 students by the time classes begin on Feb. 14, making Spring 2009 the largest spring enrollment in more than 20 years.

El Camino College officials note that this increase is higher than originally expected, but is similar to the growth that many other community colleges are experiencing. When the final counts are tallied, El Camino College expects 2008-09 to achieve the highest enrollment levels in at least the last five years.

These skyward numbers led to El Camino College's ranking as *Community College Week's* 41st fastest-growing community college in the nation, and follows an impressive fall semester, when enrollment grew by about 9 percent. At that time, most of the growth was found among younger (ages 17-18) full-time students, enrolling in El Camino College right out of high school. Student enrollment also showed strong growth among the 23-29 and 50-64 age groups.

Enrollment for the Spring 2009 semester at El Camino College follows this trend, with figures suggesting that a higher percentage of transfer-oriented students are enrolling.

"El Camino College is sending more students than ever to UC campuses and the numbers continue to rise – for many universities, the college is posting its highest numbers ever," said President Thomas M. Fallo. "El Camino College is ranked among the top 10 colleges in the state for transferring students to the UC and CSU systems; and we more than doubled the number of students transferring to UC Berkeley."

The highest growth areas this spring at the college include the sciences, particularly disciplines such as astronomy, biology and geography. English, mathematics and academic support classes also are filling fast.

Fallo noted that another driving force behind the surge in community college growth is the understanding that a degree will improve students' chances to land well-paying jobs in the field of their choice. In light of the current economic times, more people are realizing that it helps to have more education when competing in the job market. At ECC, career and technical programs

also are showing strong enrollments, including fire and emergency technology and health care careers.

Recent statistics from the College Board indicate that individuals with a degree earn more than those with only a high school diploma. With more universities reducing admissions due to the budget crisis, a community college degree becomes even more attractive, all the while remaining attainable, accessible and affordable – El Camino College is about one third of the cost of a university. In addition, El Camino College has solid transfer agreements with many universities and maintains close ties with area high schools to assist new students through enrollment and orientation to the college.

“Our affordable fees, outstanding transfer programs to four-year colleges and universities, and many career training programs all contribute to the rising numbers of students at El Camino College,” said President Fallo. “Of course, our beautiful campus, facilities improvements and additions, quality professors and staff, excellent financial aid and scholarship assistance are also part of the package offered at El Camino College.”

Registration is now open for Spring 2009. Classes begin Feb. 14. El Camino College offers more than 80 highly acclaimed career programs and includes nine academic divisions which comprise more than 75 academic programs. At only \$20 per unit, El Camino College offers the most affordable higher education opportunities in the state.

#