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El Camino College to Offer New Free California High School Exit Exam Prep Program

El Camino College offers a new CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) Prep program geared toward assisting area high school students who have not passed the exit exam. Classes in the 10-week program are free, and are taught by college instructors who focus on strengthening math and English skills.

The program is designed for high school students who should have received their high school diploma in June 2008 but did not because they did not pass one or both parts of the CAHSEE, or because they also need other high school credits.

The college was awarded a grant through the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges to provide this support for students to earn their high school diploma. El Camino College CAHSEE program Coordinator Denise M. DiPasquale urges students to attend, stressing that it is not too late to get the necessary help that can lead to a diploma.

Classes in CAHSEE English and Math are available at El Camino College in Torrance, Compton Center, and at the El Camino College Inglewood Center, 110 S. LaBrea Avenue, #200 in Inglewood.

Students also have access to work with an in-class tutor and meet with a program counselor on a regular basis to ensure they stay on track as well as have an individual educational plan created for them. Bus tokens are also available to help students with transportation needs.

"With this program, the short-term goal is to prepare students well enough so they have the confidence to take and pass the CAHSEE exam," DiPasquale added. "The long-term goal is to have the students stay in college to pursue an academic track, a short-term certificate program or learn a skill or trade."

For information, students and parents can call the El Camino College CAHSEE Hotline at 310-973-3159 for more information.

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