



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

April 14, 2009

El Camino College Sponsors Successful Tour for the Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers

More than 30 woodworking industry professionals recently attended a tour of the El Camino Community College Industry & Technology Division to learn about the Torrance-area college's programs and services. At least three companies are now looking for El Camino College student interns.

The tour was organized by the Young Furniture Associates (YFA), a local chapter of the Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers (AWFS) that plans social networking and educational events in the Southern California region. The purpose of the El Camino College event was to familiarize local furniture manufacturers with the ECC Industry & Technology Division and to encourage them to host a student at their facility as an intern.

Participants toured the college departments that pertain to the woodworking and furniture industries, including fashion design (upholstery techniques), machine tool technology, welding, CAD/Drafting, and the furniture and cabinetmaking programs within Construction Technology.

Representatives from Stiles Machinery, Hanes Industries, Jonathan Louis Manufacturing, and Sandberg Furniture attended the event and were pleased with the programs they learned about. AWFS Board member Jon Sanchez said, "It was great to see the advanced technology that the school was using, I was impressed. We learned that the fashion design department uses the same machinery that is used commercially for upholstery, so it opened up possibilities for the college as well."

The YFA Internship program at El Camino College began in spring 2008 when YFA directors met with Juan Morales, of Contract Resources, a Cerritos, CA custom furniture manufacturer, and with Jack Selph, an ECC woodworking instructor to discuss the possibility of an internship opportunity. Within weeks, El Camino sent two promising students from their Construction Technology program to Contract Resources for an eight-week internship.

The focus of the Contract Resources internship was for interns to learn CAD programming, and Morales reported that both learned the software and CNC machinery very quickly. After only two weeks of training, both were producing pieces on their own with the software. This was a huge benefit for Morales: instead of spending time training the students, he had developed two productive employees, improving his efficiency and output.

The YFA has also established a scholarship for students in the Industry & Technology Division, with up to four \$500 scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year. Members of the YFA Board will select the scholarship recipients from eligible applicants by May and funds will be disbursed in time for the student's summer or fall terms.

#