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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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El Camino College Names Joan Ingrid Thureson and Josie Cheung 2009 Distinguished Faculty and Staff

El Camino College professor Joan Ingrid Thureson and staff member Josie Cheung were honored at a May 21 reception for their dedication to the college, students and colleagues.

The honorees for the 2009 Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award were recognized at the 12th Annual El Camino College Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day, an event designed to thank all members of the campus community for their commitment to the college and its educational mission.

Joan Ingrid Thureson, an exemplary philosophy professor, is recognized by students and faculty as a master classroom teacher with high academic standards aimed at preparing students for success and a lifelong application of ethics to their everyday lives. For nearly 40 years, Thureson has presented classroom material in such a way that any student willing to work will be successful and will learn precisely what they need to learn – which is her ultimate goal.

“My instructor (Thureson) has taught me a great deal about myself by making me look into my belief system,” wrote one student. “My way of thinking has evolved greatly and I am grateful to have her as an instructor.”

Thureson is known professionally at the national level as an expert in the field of biomedical ethics, and provides pro bono work to Georgetown University where she has taught third-year medical students for a number of years. Among her many professional activities, she participated in the 21st World Congress of Philosophy in Turkey; was a member of the Ethics Committee and the Committee on Human Studies, Institutional Review Board for the Wadsworth Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, Los Angeles; and worked as a visiting researcher at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University.

At El Camino College, Thureson is member of the Behavioral and Social Science Division Curriculum Committee, and the division’s SLO Assessment Committee. She was a member of the college’s China Research Project and has been a member of the division council and the long-range planning committee. She has organized numerous campus programs on philosophical issues and is the author of the honors course, Ethics, Law and Society, which she has taught for many years.

Thureson began her career in higher education as a student at Long Beach City College, where she earned an associate degree. She transferred to California State University, Long Beach where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and went on to earn a master's degree in philosophy from the University of California at Riverside. Thureson also earned a law degree from the Southwestern University School of Law.

Josie Cheung, an accounting officer with Fiscal Services, regularly demonstrates an honest, straightforward approach to her work, which has made a significant contribution to the efficiency of the college's accounting office. She accepts each new challenge with enthusiasm and tackles each new task with determination – providing leadership to important software program changes made by the college.

In addition to her regular job duties, Cheung's highly professional and positive attitude really showed after the agreement was finalized with El Camino College Compton Center. During this transition period, she was extremely helpful in working with Compton accounting staff as they converted to Datatel software. She was a key player in the Compton Center payroll conversion project, worked with Accounts Payable and Financial Aid staff members to build work structures; and most recently, is working with the Compton Community College District Title V grant director and staff to ensure all federal reporting requirements are met.

Cheung has also assumed additional duties, such as maintaining the Cash Management Unit, taking responsibility for the basic skills state apportionment financial reporting, and assisting the payroll unit on a daily basis, is especially adding to the success of our college. She is constantly striving for personal and professional growth, and regularly attends regional accounting workshops and shares her knowledge with her colleagues. At ECC, she is a longstanding member of the Auxiliary Service Board and a former member of the Partnership for Excellence Oversight Committee.

Cheung joined ECC in 1991 as an accounting technician, following 17 years of accounting experience at a private business in Gardena. She has a solid educational foundation in accounting, and earned a bachelor's degree in that subject from California State University, Long Beach. In her time away from the office, she enjoys spending time with her family and is active in her church, serving as a teacher's assistant and social event coordinator.

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