



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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El Camino College to Award \$290,000 in Scholarships

When Maria Cleofe Carlos moved to California from her native Guam with her family nearly nine years ago, she was looking for more opportunities for herself and her young son. After exploring several career options, she found her true calling – nursing. Now a nursing student at El Camino College, not only did she find unlimited possibilities, she found a promising career and a bright future.

“Back in Guam, I didn’t really have a future plan -- I didn’t know what was going to be my next step,” said Carlos, a Lawndale resident. “Now I know where I’m going, and I am even looking forward to getting my master’s degree someday.”

Carlos is one of about 290 El Camino College students who will be honored for their academic achievements at the Torrance-area college’s annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. May 14 in Marsee Auditorium. About \$290,000 in scholarships will be distributed – a \$60,000 increase from last year. Carlos secured three separate scholarships for a total of \$1,600.

New awards this year are 20 scholarships at \$1,000 each provided by the Osher Foundation, part of \$25 million private gift to the California Community Colleges from the Bernard Osher Foundation, which will fund endowed scholarships throughout the state. California’s 209 community colleges were challenged to raise \$50 million by June 2011. If accomplished, the Osher Foundation will give an additional \$25 million, bringing the total for endowed scholarships to \$100 million. El Camino College is challenged to raise \$973,717, with efforts already in place toward raising these matching funds.

“Our Scholarship Awards Ceremony is an excellent forum to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, while also thanking our supporters who made these scholarships possible,” said Thomas M. Fallo, president of El Camino College. “We are certainly proud of the size and scope of our scholarship program, which grows significantly each year.”

Other new scholarships this year include Southern California Edison WIT scholarships, Kaiser scholarships for nursing, and increased funding for high school scholarships from \$24,000 to \$32,000 for this year. With many of these scholarships, students will receive financial assistance that in numerous cases will fully cover tuition, fees and textbooks.

Student Ashley Dester looks forward to transferring to California State University, Dominguez Hills in the fall, knowing that her \$2,000 Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarship will take quite a bit of stress off her checkbook.

"The scariest part about college is paying for it, and the scholarships offered at El Camino College are a huge relief," said Dester, a lifelong Torrance resident who plans a career as a high school English teacher. "Knowing I am able pay for college makes me feel less intimidated and more motivated to keep going."

"Being a teacher is the only career path I have ever wanted. Once I became really active in teaching and working toward this goal, it seems more and more like where I am supposed to be headed. I took advantage of many programs and services at El Camino College to help me get there, and I couldn't be happier."

Many scholarship donors pledged their support to create "named scholarships" which reward hard-working students with a drive to succeed. Named scholarships for this year include: Paula Carabelli Memorial Scholarship, Chuck Turner Theatre Scholarship, Warren E. Ford Chemistry Scholarship, Warren E. Ford High School Nursing Scholarship, Louis and Susan Garcia Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Robert Haag Music Scholarship, Dr. Olive Hall Scholarship, Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Scholarship, Kinecta Federal Credit Union Scholarship, Dr. Stuart and Audrey Marsee Scholarship, Joe Boyd Noble Memorial Scholarship, Margaret and Philip Pelland Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarships, Verizon Scholarship, and the White Family Scholarship for Fine Arts.

For more information, Contact the El Camino College Foundation at www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation or call 310-660-3683.

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