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**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](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu)**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Student Lands Prestigious Internship**

For Renee Smith, woodworking started as a hobby – a time spent with her father, working side-by-side on projects. From a family pastime, the hobby has grown into a passion.

Smith is a recent graduate of the El Camino College Women in Technology Program (WIT), which supports women who want to pursue non-traditional careers. As a working mother of three young children, she found the program to be flexible enough to fit in with her busy life. WIT provides guest speakers, lectures, and industry tours. Counseling, peer support group, tutoring and child care are also available.

A woodworking/cabinet making major, Smith's hard work has already paid off. She recently won the prestigious AWFS (Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers) internship, a program that drew quite a few applicants from as far away as England.

Smith worked in the AWFS City of Commerce headquarters and was in charge of helping with the AWFS@Fair trade show, set for Las Vegas. AWFS@Fair is one of the largest shows in the wood products manufacturing industry and attracts an international audience.

“This was such a great opportunity – it allowed me the chance to network with hundreds of people from all across North America,” Smith said. “These opportunities have helped me make many connections within the job industry and have the potential to open many doors in the future.”

With many details to oversee, the event is very challenging to organize and produce. Interns were able to work hands-on with the extremely diverse aspects, coordination and implementation of a major business event.

Smith said her time at El Camino College prepared her for the internship, and for her future employment.

“I would highly recommend El Camino College to all my friends and family,” she said. “There are many people who have helped me along my journey, such as woodworking instructor Jack Selph. The guidance and help of the WIT program has allowed me to get where I am today.”

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