



NEWS

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El Camino College Honors 10 “Women of Distinction”

Ten exceptional community leaders were recently honored at the 2010 El Camino College Women of Distinction Luncheon.

All 10 of these exceptional “Women of Distinction” were recognized for their dedicated service and contributions to the community: Regina (Bradford) Martin, Josie Cheung, Nancy Cobb, Jan Dennis, Diana Dunlap, Rebecca Foo, Kathleen Gleason, Amy Grant, Cheryl Kroll, and Ethel Pattison.

Nominated by friends, family, and colleagues, award winners were selected by the ECC Women’s History Month Committee, based on service in one or more of the following areas: professional accomplishments; leadership and/or mentorship; and social, educational, or health services. All honorees live or work within the El Camino Community College District.

The accomplishments of these award winners will be featured on the El Camino College

Women’s Wall of Fame throughout the year and their names will be engraved on a plaque that is a permanent part of the display.

A full list of winners includes:

“Women of Distinction” 2010 Profiles

Regina (Bradford) Martin is the director of business development (soon to be Resource Parent Coordinator) for the Koinonia Foster Family Agency in Carson, where she goes beyond the call of duty to help abused and neglected children. She also supports children in her neighborhood, helping with Christmas gifts, books for tutoring, and free Clippers tickets for children and their parents. Regina does all of these things and more with a gracious, kindhearted spirit, and a generous heart.

Josie Cheung has been an accounting officer at El Camino College for 15 years, where she is an expert in her field and manages accounts for several grants and projects.

While completing her bachelor’s degree at CSULB, she volunteered to tutor students, and continues to enjoy mentoring staff at ECC. She also serves at her church as a teaching assistant for children’s bible lessons and coordinates social events. She has been married 32 years and has two accomplished children – one a faculty member at ECC.

Nancy Cobb has more than 17 years experience as a high school English teacher and more than 20 years experience as an executive recruiter – a background she uses to develop partnerships between businesses, education, and the community. As chair of the Leadership Team, in 2009 Nancy led El Segundo High School

to six-year clear WASC accreditation – the highest clearance any school can earn. In addition to numerous other achievements, Nancy was awarded El Segundo Unified School District Teacher of the Year in 2009.

Jan Dennis is well-known as the “local historian” of Manhattan Beach, where she has lived for 30 years, serving as mayor from September 1986 to June 1987. She was president of the philanthropic Neptunian Women’s Club of Manhattan Beach from 1996-1997, and is chair of the Cultural Heritage Conservancy of Manhattan Beach. She is the author of numerous books about Manhattan Beach, detailing its history, architecture, women, pier, and police department, and currently writes a historical column for the “Manhattan Beach Sun” and Patch.com.

Diana Dunlap has worked as an Aerospace employee in executive support for 23 years. She received a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 2006 and a master’s degree in management and leadership in 2008. Recently she received her certificate in conflict resolution/mediation. Diana is an active and distinguished member of the Aerovision Toastmasters Club. She is currently working through the LAPD Youth Mentoring Program and gives youth ministry leadership assistance at her church, as well as raising and “mentoring” her own three grandchildren.

Rebecca Foo’s accomplishments have made a positive and long lasting difference in the lives of children with learning, social, emotional, and developmental disabilities and their families. Since 1994, she has been the executive director of the Switzer Learning Center in Torrance and is the current president of CAPSES (California Association of Private Special Education Schools), a statewide association of approximately 180 nonpublic schools that specialize in the delivery of quality special education programs to more than 8,800 students with exceptional needs.

Kathleen Gleason’s leadership has been vital to the growth of the ECC Foundation. When she joined the Foundation in 2001, annual contributions averaged \$200,000 per year, with assets of \$3 million. After becoming executive director in 2009, annual donations now average \$900,000 – reaching \$1 million in 2007 – with \$7 million in total assets. A mother of four, she also participates in the Network for California Community College Foundation (NCCCF), Community College Alumni Network (CCAN), and the Manhattan Beach Rotary Club, and supports breast cancer research programs.

Amy Grant has been a member of the ECC Chemistry Department since 1999, and has since become a role model for new faculty members. A department leader, she serves on the division curriculum committee, and helps in developing Student Learning Outcomes. She also heads the “Hands On Chemistry” presentation for ECC’s Onizuka Science Day, and is the division coordinator for the Math and Natural Sciences Division Award Ceremony. Outside of ECC, Amy was a volunteer reader to elementary school students at 156th Street School in Gardena for many years.

Cheryl Kroll joined the ECC faculty in 1993 as an English instructor, and has served on numerous committees, including the Accreditation Steering Committee, the College Curriculum Committee, and a variety of Humanities and Counseling division committees. In 1999, she was appointed a Special Projects Coordinator for the Vice President of Academic Affairs, where she helped create the Presidential Scholars award for outstanding students. She also helped organize and facilitate the highly successful College Curriculum Strategic Planning Day sessions and currently serves the Teacher Education Program as counselor.

Ethel Pattison is a 54-year employee of Los Angeles World Airports, the city department which operates LAX. She is also historian and vice president of the nonprofit Flight Path Learning Center and Museum, and has helped with numerous video productions chronicling airport and aviation history. As past national president and distinguished honoree of the United Airlines Clipped Wings organization, she was also awarded the prestigious L.A. City Career Service Award in 1991 and a Youth Service Award by Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Department.

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