



NEWS

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El Camino College to Receive \$100,000 Walmart Minority Student Success Award

El Camino College has been selected by the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) to receive a Walmart Minority Student Success Award—a \$100,000 grant to help build on the college's success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating first-generation college students. The \$100,000 grant is made possible by a \$4.2 million grant to IHEP from the Walmart Foundation.

El Camino College is one of only 30 minority-serving institutions (MSIs) to receive this award through a highly competitive application process that recognizes efforts to support first-generation students.

Representatives from El Camino College will attend the annual IHEP Summer Academy where they'll be joined by colleagues from 14 other minority serving institutions to establish action plans to increase capacity, share ideas to better serve first-generation college students, and develop partnerships with other colleges and universities.

"El Camino College is honored to be selected as one of just several outstanding higher education institutions nationwide to receive the Walmart Minority Student Success Award," said Francisco Arce, ECC vice president of academic affairs. "Thanks in large part to this award, we will be able to enhance and expand our work with first-generation students."

The ECC Faculty Inquiry Partnership Program (FIPP) will engage 40 faculty who teach courses associated with five student support programs serving large numbers of first-generation college students in an effort to integrate non-academic skills such as personal responsibility, self-motivation, self-management, the ability to work well with others, emotional intelligence, and lifelong learning into their academic courses. Currently, the development of these skills, so critical to student success, is left to students' own initiative and contacts with counselors. The FIPP project addresses the development of this skill set as part of each academic course.

"The institutions in our 2010 Minority Student Success cohort broaden and deepen the pool of MSIs committed to ensuring the success of the first-generation student success both at their campuses and beyond," said Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) President Michelle Asha Cooper, Ph.D. "We are pleased to be working with them on programs that are sure to serve as models to all of higher education."

"At Walmart, we understand that education is critical to the lives and well-being of all Americans. We're proud to support giving that enables the success of first-generation college students," said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation.

The Walmart Foundation grants support the existing work of MSIs to strengthen first-generation student success programs, with a special focus on classroom practices and the role faculty play in their students' academic success. Approximately 41 percent of students enrolled at MSIs are first-generation, compared to 30 percent of students at Predominantly White Institutions. The overrepresentation of first-generation students at MSIs makes them ideal to help improve retention and persistence gaps for this student population.

The other 2010 winners include: Adams State College (Colo.), Bloomfield College (N.J.), Bowie State University (Md.), Coppin State University (Md.), Delaware State University (Del.), Fort Belknap College (Mont.), Hampton University (Va.), Leech Lake Tribal College (Minn.), New Jersey City University (N.J.), United Tribes Technical College (N.D.), University of Houston-Downtown (Texas), University of New Mexico (N.M.), Valencia Community College (Fla.), and Winston-Salem State University (N.C.).

For more information about the initiative and grantees, visit the IHEP Web site at www.ihep.org/walmartminoritystudents.cfm.

About The Institute for Higher Education Policy

The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) is an independent, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to increasing access and success in postsecondary education around the world. Established in 1993, the Washington, D.C.-based organization uses unique research and innovative programs to inform key decision makers who shape public policy and support economic and social development. IHEP's Web site, www.ihep.org, features an expansive collection of higher education information available free of charge and provides access to some of the most respected professionals in the fields of public policy and research.

About Philanthropy at Walmart Stores, Inc.

Walmart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009, Walmart – and its domestic and international Foundations – gave more than \$423 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

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