



NEWS

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El Camino College Compton Center Alumni Named Preschool Teacher of the Year

Gwendolyn Crews, a graduate of El Camino College Compton Center, was one of six preschool teachers in Los Angeles County recently named Preschool Teacher of the Year. She was honored this summer at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

The award, first given in 2008, is sponsored by Los Angeles County Universal Preschool to recognize outstanding preschool teachers “for going above and beyond the call of duty to better prepare students for school and life.”

Crews, who first enrolled at El Camino College Compton Center after the age of 30, earned her associate degree and continued on to receive a bachelor’s degree in childhood education. She was honored with this award for her efforts to push the boundaries of the average preschool curriculum.

Crews is founder and owner of Junioriversity Preschool (www.junioriversity.com), which she opened with her husband in 2006. She previously owned and operated a daycare business, Little Lambs Training Center in Carson.

Crews, who currently has 50 students enrolled, decided to start her own preschool after developing innovative teaching techniques based on years of working with young children at her daycare.

In collaboration with her daughter, Dr. Sabra Smith, who has five degrees in childhood development and education, Crews has created a curriculum that greatly expands what to teach children during the preschool years.

In her experience, preschoolers are more eager to learn than most people believe, Crews says, and are capable of learning far more than most adults think. Her philosophy is to give each child “hands-on attention and work to develop his or her own unique abilities,” she said.

About El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center is the community’s education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year college or university, or train for a career. Many classes are available and offered at an affordable price—fees are only \$26 per unit. The catalog and class schedule for day, evening, weekend and online courses is available on the website at www.compton.edu or may be picked up at ECC Compton Center located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA. For more information, call 310-900-1600.

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