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El Camino College to Participate in SCE “Green Jobs Education Initiative”

El Camino College is one of 10 California community colleges participating in the newly launched Green Jobs Education Initiative sponsored by Southern California Edison (SCE).

The \$1 million Green Jobs Education Initiative is designed to fund sustainable or "green" education and job training for college students. SCE will provide \$100,000 to El Camino College, which will then invest the funds in the California Community College Scholarship Endowment to receive an additional \$50,000 match from the endowment's lead benefactor, the Bernard Osher Foundation.

“Working with Southern California Edison on this program that promotes student success and provides education and training for environmentally friendly careers will benefit our students in so many ways,” said El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo. “This is the kind of support system students need to achieve their goals.”

Green Jobs Education Initiative funding will provide scholarships for dozens of students, each of whom will be awarded \$1,000 each year for a minimum of two years. The funding will support students with financial need who are enrolled in green job workforce preparation. This includes training programs or study of solar panel installation, water and wastewater management, transportation and alternative fuels, biofuels production and farming, environmental compliance or sustainability planning.

At El Camino College, support for the Osher initiative has been mounting since its launch this past summer, with contributions now totaling \$700,000 toward the college's overall \$1 million goal. The Bernard Osher Foundation in May 2008 made a generous gift in the amount of \$25 million to the California Community College system to fund scholarships throughout the state. California's 110 community colleges were challenged to raise \$50 million in matching funds by June 2011.

Pledges have come from individuals and corporations – all dedicated to help serve the neediest El Camino College students. The program has already received almost 100 percent support from the managers at El Camino College and Compton Center, for a total pledge of \$79,000.

“The dedicated support of this scholarship program is remarkable,” Fallo added. “It is gratifying to see so many people willing to step up and make a direct impact on our students' success.”

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