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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Counselor Presented with State Diversity Award**

El Camino College counselor Elaine Moore was recently named a recipient of the annual John W. Rice Diversity Award by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

Joining California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott and members of the Board of Governors, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gathered with education leaders, industry chiefs and students in Sacramento to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the award, which promotes diversity at the community colleges and is named for Rice's late father, a former member of the Board of Governors. Another winner was the Taft College Transition to Independent Living Program that helps integrate disabled students into campus life.

"I would like to congratulate the winners from Taft and El Camino College. These wonderful programs foster what my father stood for," said Condoleezza Rice. "My father taught me that you can come from humble beginnings and do great things if you have an education. Nothing captured his imagination, passion and attention more than the California Community Colleges and the time he served as a member of the Board of Governors."

Moore is the second El Camino College leader to win the John W. Rice Diversity Award – the late Nadine Hata, a former vice president who served the college as a faculty member and administrator for 34 years, won the award in 2004.

"Receiving the John W. Rice Diversity Award was one of the highlights of my fine life," Moore said. "It was an honor to be recognized by such a distinguished man who was the father of Condoleezza Rice."

Moore is one of the founders of El Camino College's Project Success, a program designed to increase the retention, persistence, academic performance, and graduation success rates of inner city students transitioning to college. These goals are achieved by promoting student-centered learning and assisting in the development of diverse learning communities. Project Success also provides multicultural faculty, staff and peer mentoring, university and cultural heritage field trips, intrusive counseling, early alert mid-semester grade reports, math tutoring, student fundraising activities and scholarships, and required cultural and student success classes.

"When I was still in high school, Ms. Moore gave a presentation at an afterschool program where I was a student and she helped me enroll at El Camino College," said ECC graduate Angie Eke, who went on to earn a bachelor's degree from California State University,

Dominguez Hills and now works in the college's Counseling Division office. Angie spoke at the event in Sacramento.

"I knew what I wanted; I just didn't know how to get there. Ms. Moore showed me and was my counselor at ECC. She is a true advocate of education. Her hard work and dedication to student success is insurmountable. She genuinely cares for her students and really wants them to succeed. She works really hard to make sure that happens."

As faculty coordinator and counselor, Moore has provided exemplary leadership to Project Success for 23 years and her work has resulted in the development of a state model for other educational institutions' multicultural support programs.

As a result of the support provided by Project Success, students persist at a rate of over 96 percent; retention rates in Basic Skills courses have been as high as 88 percent. ECC is also ranked number six among California Community Colleges that graduate African Americans with AA degrees.

A campus and community leader, Moore is vice chairwoman of the Statewide Executive Committee for Umoja. She has successfully lobbied local, state and congressional leaders to secure federal monies to support Umoja. She is a member of the Howard University Alumni Association of Greater Los Angeles and the Inter-Alumni Council of HBCU's; she chairs Project Success Community Advisory Board, is a former Chairperson for Higher Education and SSTARS (Student Success Transfer and Retention Services), and is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

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