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For Immediate Release

June 1, 2010

El Camino College Names Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio and Mayra Thrush 2010 Distinguished Faculty and Staff

El Camino College instructor Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio and staff member Mayra Thrush were recently honored at a reception for their dedication to our students, college, and colleagues.

Daniel-DiGregorio and Thrush, honorees for the 2010 El Camino College Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award, were recognized at the 13th Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day, an event designed to thank all members of the campus community for their commitment to the college and its educational mission.

Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio is known as an extremely successful teacher in classes that have a positive impact on helping students accomplish their educational and personal goals. She exemplifies the principles of “service” in all aspects of her career, from serving on committees at the college and in the community to helping students with necessary academic and personal skills for success. Daniel-DiGregorio is also an advocate of “service learning,” that is, learning through serving others, and her students often participate in projects such as volunteering at homeless shelters.

Outside of the classroom, Daniel-DiGregorio has coordinated a large number of campus and professional activities. She has coordinated ECC’s On Course training and associated follow-up programs, which have provided faculty with training on incorporating cutting-edge, research-proven techniques to improve student success across the curriculum. She has also presented at several national workshops.

Daniel-DiGregorio graduated from Northwestern University where she earned a doctorate in education and social policy and a master’s degree in education. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Trinity University.

At El Camino College, Daniel-DiGregorio is a member of the Behavioral and Social Science Division Curriculum Committee, and a Human Development Program Review co-author. In addition to her work with On Course, she works with the First Year Experience, Puente and Project Success programs, teaching and developing learning communities. She is also the faculty coordinator for the El Camino College Compton Center Faculty Inquiry Partnership Program.

Mayra Thrush is the senior clerical assistant in the Special Resource Center where she works with students and visitors alike in a caring, approachable, and highly professional manner. She is known for her ability to multi-task in extremely busy situations – always maintaining a calm demeanor while interacting with students. As the first point of contact to visitors of the Special Resource Center, Thrush is the keystone of the office and makes all visitors feel welcome, understood and served.

Thrush is trilingual – fluent in English, Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) – all critical to serving the college’s diverse student body. Her professionalism extends to making a positive impression on visitors to the Special Resource Center, and treating everyone with respect.

Thrush is working toward completing her associate degree at El Camino College; she has one course remaining to complete this goal. She plans to further her education and earn a bachelor’s degree in human services. In addition to her class work, Thrush continues with additional learning, taking campus staff development workshops such as team building, stress management, and communication.

In her community, Thrush is an active member of her church, where she sings, teaches Sunday school, works on Sunday school curriculum for older students, interprets worship songs in ASL, and travels twice per year to San Telmo, Mexico to help needy families. She also served on the church board and regularly collects and distributes food for the less fortunate at a neighboring church.

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