



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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El Camino College Awards \$310,000 in Scholarships

For Chris Craig, college is more than just going to classes and doing homework. He is also interested in music, singing, and meeting new people as he works toward a degree in psychology. He said he found everything he was looking for at El Camino College, and as a bonus, he will perform at Carnegie Hall this month.

“I did check out other colleges, but they really weren’t the same as El Camino College. I like the friendly atmosphere, there are so many things going on. And I really like the music program – that is what I do for fun, it’s my outlet. I love to sing. And, Carnegie Hall, what an opportunity! That’s the good thing about it here; you can try so many things.”

Chris is one of about 320 El Camino College students recently honored for their academic achievements at the college’s annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception May 13 at Marsee Auditorium. More than \$310,000 in scholarships were distributed – a \$20,000 increase from last year.

“Our Scholarship Awards Ceremony is one of the best events we have on campus and certainly a favorite among many at the college,” said President Thomas M. Fallo. “This is an excellent forum to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, while also thanking our donors and supporters who made these scholarships possible.”

New this year is a teaching scholarship offered through the Osher Initiative for California Community College Students. In May 2008, the Bernard Osher Foundation made a generous gift in the amount of \$25 million to the California Community Colleges system to fund scholarships throughout the state. Colleges throughout the state are now working to match these funds to create a \$100 million endowment that will provide permanent scholarship support for California’s 2.9 million community college students.

Like Craig, Yamil Flores is a recipient of an Osher Scholarship. Flores is studying bio engineering and plans to transfer to a four-year college or university next year. Medical school is definitely in her plans as well as a career in biomedical research.

Flores said her interest in science began in elementary school at Lomita Magnet where she participated in hands-on science experiments and continued into middle and high school. Those experiences led to volunteering at Harbor UCLA in Carson, which is where she would ultimately like to work.

“I volunteered at Harbor UCLA because I wanted to be sure that was the type of environment I wanted to work in someday,” said Flores, who is a member of the college’s MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program and vice president of SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers).

“I know that this is the right place for me. There have been obstacles along the way to meet this goal, mostly financial, but with this scholarship, I can put my mind into my studies, take more units and get ready to graduate next year. I am the first in my family to attend college, which means a lot to me.”

A major focus of the El Camino College scholarship program this year is increased funding and outreach to incoming high school students. Qualified new high school graduates headed to ECC can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship each year for two years. Other new scholarships specifically support students pursuing careers in nursing and chemistry.

Many scholarship donors pledged their support to create “named scholarships” which reward ambitious, hard-working students who plan to continue with their education, either at El Camino College or a four-year college or university. A new named scholarship is the Rudolph and Viola Charles Scholarship, which honors the longtime residents of Hawthorne and supports re-entry students who are seeking a new career.

Other named awards include: Paula Carabelli Memorial Scholarship, Chuck Turner Theatre Scholarship, Warren E. Ford Chemistry Scholarship, Warren E. Ford High School Nursing Scholarship, Louis and Susan Garcia Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Robert Haag Music Scholarship, Dr. Olive Hall Scholarship, Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Scholarship, Kinecta Federal Credit Union Scholarship, Dr. Stuart and Audrey Marsee Scholarship, Joe Boyd Noble Memorial Scholarship, Margaret and Philip Pelland Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarships, Verizon Scholarship, and the White Family Scholarship for Fine Arts.

For more information, Contact the El Camino College Foundation at www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation or call 310-660-3683.

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