



# NEWS

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El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department  
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506  
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations  
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | Email: [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu)

**For Immediate Release**

**August 30, 2011**

## **Fourteen-Year-Old El Camino College Student Makes the Grade**

Avery Marshall spent the summer the same way as many other 14-year-olds – playing basketball, swimming at the YMCA, and participating in a golf camp.

But unlike most youngsters his age, Avery also took a summer course at El Camino College.

At age 14, Avery is among the youngest students to enroll at the Torrance-area college. His first classes were English and elementary geometry this past spring, followed by a classical literature course during the summer. Avery is a Torrance homeschooled student who decided to enroll at El Camino College to get an early start on college.

So far, he has been enjoying his time at ECC and feels comfortable in the classroom and overall campus environment. He said that although professors and students might be surprised to see someone his age in class, no one has really asked him about it.

“I think teachers like having me in class, I participate and I do the work,” he said. “I think the concern is not with my age. It is all about my performance; they want to be sure I can do the work. I do interact with my classmates, and for the first couple of days they probably see my age. By the end of the semester, the age goes away and they see what I can do.”

Avery has no problem proving he can handle college-level academics – he has a 4.0 and has been described not only as an exceptional student, but also a polite, energetic, and kind person.

“Avery loves studying math but also is quick to share information about books he may be reading, or science concepts he has learned,” said Professor Susie Tummers, who taught Avery’s geometry course this past spring. “He attaches cross-curricular concepts together at a level that far surpasses his age. His ability to make these connections clearly illustrates the depth of his knowledge.

“He is also willing to help and work with fellow classmates; numerous times in class, he would reach out to those who sat nearby to confer and discuss concepts being taught. He has a true sense of the idea of ‘giving back’ and has suggested to me that he might want to tutor geometry so that he could help some of the students who struggle with the topics.”

Avery plans to earn an associate degree in economics and math by the time he is 16 and then transfer to the University of California at Berkeley to study political science.

“My interests are really eclectic, eventually I would like to earn a law degree,” he said. “I especially like Constitutional law because the Constitution affects our everyday life and studying that is exciting.”

Avery is a longtime library volunteer, is dedicated to his family, and also enjoys soccer, basketball, and golf.

“My husband and I are proud of all our kids,” said Avery’s mother, Sage Marshall. “We are not surprised to see him doing well in school. We just assume everyone is capable of excellence. And to us, that simply means doing your best.”

Avery is looking forward to the fall semester at El Camino College and is well acclimated to college life, even as he works on his class schedule and finds frustrating moments with the drop/add system. He would also like to join some clubs this fall and get more involved with campus life.

“I am really enjoying my experience at El Camino College,” he said. “When I go to classes, I don’t feel young, I just feel like I’m part of the class. I have great teachers and the students seem really nice. I just love going to class every morning.”

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