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For Immediate Release

January 27, 2011

## **El Camino College Biology Professor Wins Northrop Grumman Award for Teaching Excellence**

El Camino College Biology Professor Nancy Freeman was recently honored with the 2010 Northrop Grumman Award for Teaching Excellence.

Generally given to faculty members in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields at four-year universities, Freeman is the first community college professor to receive this prestigious honor, which comes with a \$1,000 award. In addition, the university relations division of Northrop Grumman recently funded an additional \$2,500 for additional awards to science and math faculty.

Freeman is known for making biology interesting for her students through lectures, demonstrations, current events, computer interaction, and discussions.

“I consider myself very lucky to be doing what I am doing,” said Freeman, who taught middle school science and high school biology for 23 years before joining the ECC faculty in 2005. “I have been teaching for a long time and community college teaching is the best there is. I like being on a college campus; I like adult learning. Students are mature and ready to learn; they are here because they want to be here and they step up to any challenge I give them.”

Outside of her work in the classroom, Freeman participates in biology teaching and learning activities at California State University, Dominguez Hills, specifically the QEM Forum – a program that provides quality science education to minority students.

She is also active in recruiting future teachers into the field of biology through MSTI (Math and Science Teaching Initiative) and contributes to ECC’s annual Onizuka Space Science Day, where area youth come to the college to learn about the science of space.

Freeman has two master’s degrees from San Diego State University, one in curriculum and instruction and one in biology, in addition to a bachelor’s degree in biology from Oklahoma State University.

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