



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College to Feature Alumna and Harvard Medical School Student as Keynote Speaker

El Camino College will sponsor a conference for students interested in pursuing healthcare careers, featuring keynote speaker and 2006 ECC graduate Juwarat Kadiri, a second-year student at Harvard University Medical School.

Juwarat will address conference participants via video conferencing. While at ECC, she was a MESA tutor, participated in student government, and volunteered for other programs. She credits El Camino College with giving her the solid academic foundation she needed to excel at UC Berkeley, then Harvard. She is currently dedicated to a new project – working with others to open a medical clinic at Harvard that offers free/low-cost access to those who do not have insurance.

The conference is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. April 1 in the Campus Theatre and will highlight careers in medical, dental, pharmacy, and related fields. It is designed to help future and current students, especially those in racial and ethnic minority groups, find the academic support they need to begin a career in healthcare.

“Studies show that African Americans and Latinos are among the fastest growing segments of the population, yet they are also the most underrepresented minorities in medicine,” said Counselor Ken Gaines, conference coordinator.

“Many communities do not have adequate healthcare provided in their area, furthermore, many individuals do not take advantage of healthcare because they do not believe the healthcare providers understand their language, culture, specific health issues, etc. It is easy to see that there is a significant challenge that needs to be addressed.”

At the conference, students will be able to meet with counselors about choosing the right classes, transferring to a university, and performing well on graduate school admission tests, among other subjects.

In addition, \$100 scholarships will be awarded to 10 health majors who have completed a majority of the math, biology, chemistry, or physics requirements with outstanding achievement.

Another highlight of the conference is a panel of experts who will share their personal journey into the health field, while answering questions from the audience. Panel participants include: Dr. Nelson, dean of the Veterinary Sciences Program, Western College of Health Sciences; Anahita Taraporawalla, USC School of Dentistry graduate; Vladimir Ochoa, University

of California at Irvine School of Medicine Medical Microbiology PhD Program; Luis Gomes, USC School of Medicine candidate; Katherine White, University of California at San Diego Medical School graduate; Rachel Dunham, Biola University, MSN nurse practitioner, and more.

Discussion topics for the conference include: "The Underserved and the Underrepresented," "What You Need to Know to Get Ready for Professional School," and "What it Really Takes to be Successful in the Science Core Prerequisites."

The health career conference is sponsored by the El Camino College Counseling Division, First Year Experience, STEM, and the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies.

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