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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 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

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El Camino College CACT to Sponsor Aerospace Fastener Program Career Fair

El Camino College's Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) and the Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI) will sponsor an Aerospace Fastener Program Career Fair from 10 a.m. to noon June 1 at El Camino College Compton Center's Vocational Technology Building. Representatives from 3V Fasteners, AAA Plating, Air Industries/PCC, B&B Specialties, Bristol Industries, California Screw Product, Emhart Teknologies, LISI Aerospace, Monogram Aerospace, Morton Manufacturing, Nylok, and The Young Engineers will be on hand to answer questions about job opportunities.

The career fair also offers resume writing assistance and interviewing skills and is supported by industry partners who are looking to hire students for entry-level jobs. The Aerospace Fastener Program has already received requests from about 13 different employers to hire dozens of students this semester.

"In this current economy, there is a growing demand for new aircraft, mostly to replace aging aircraft, which require increasing amounts of fuel and ongoing maintenance costs," said David Gonzales, CACT director. "This is a great opportunity for students to start a career in manufacturing. We've seen a resurgence in manufacturing jobs, but the industry is changing. Employers now want new workers to come in already skilled to begin work right away. New employees have to be able to hit the floor running."

Area employers are extremely interested in hiring skilled students to work in the aerospace fastener industry. Estimates show that industry participants involved in this project will need about 100 to 200 new employees to enter the workforce starting now through the end of the year, with 200 minimum next year. This rate of growth is expected to run through the next five years.

The Aerospace Fastener Program opened its first for-credit courses this past February with 48 students and two full classes at Compton Center. Additional students were placed on a waiting list, a first for many years in the machine tool program. Two instructors and one instructional assistant were trained this past summer with funds donated from industry partners.

In addition, the El Camino College CACT won a \$200,000 IDRC (Industry Driven Regional Collaborative) grant that will fund 50 students this summer in a boot camp-style training program. The funding will also be used for equipment, materials, training, and program/curriculum development.

The CACT at El Camino College helps area manufacturers and aerospace companies compete successfully in changing markets and the global economy. Through technology education, manufacturing training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce development, the CACT has a team of experts in technology deployment and business development. Services include onsite training, low- or no-cost technical assistance, and educational workshops, in addition to information about how to qualify for state funds to assist with retraining employees, and upgrading equipment.

For more information about the Aerospace Fastener Program or the CACT services, contact CACT Director David Gonzales at 310-973-3170 or dgonzales@elcamino.edu.

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