



NEWS

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El Camino College Awards \$350,000 in Scholarships

After hours of clinical instruction in a hospital, followed by several more hours of reading, writing, and studying, Michael Cahn is usually pretty tired after a typical day as a student nurse.

"It's really brutally hard, but it's worth it," said Cahn, who plans to graduate from the El Camino College nursing program next year. "We need nurses and ECC is a highly successful program. It's tough, but it is an honor to be a part of it. I feel like I'm earning my laurels."

Cahn left a career in film editing to attend the ECC nursing program. His previous job was interesting, but now, he is immersed in his future profession and can see the positive impact of his work.

A recipient of the \$500 Alpha Gamma Sigma Scholarship, Cahn's award will help pay for textbooks. Last year he won a \$2,000 scholarship, which covered most of his enrollment fees.

"For me, this scholarship is essential because it is difficult to work and go through the nursing program at the same time," said Cahn, who also participates in student government, the student honor society, and Iota Kappa Chi, the local chapter of the Student Nurses' Association. "Everyone in the scholarship office is so helpful, from online applications and recommendation letters, to people who can answer questions. They make it really accessible to everyone."

Michael joined about 325 El Camino College students who were honored for their academic achievements at the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception on May 12 at Marsee Auditorium. More than \$350,000 in scholarships, in amounts from \$500 to \$5,000, were distributed to outstanding students.

"Our students make us proud on a daily basis, so we are pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate their success at the Scholarship Awards Ceremony," said President Thomas M. Fallo. "This event is a great way to congratulate our students, while also recognizing our donors and supporters who make these scholarships possible."

One highlight of the scholarship program this year was the addition of 13 new "named" \$1,000 Osher scholarships. Many of these scholarships were awarded to multiple recipients; 24 total students will benefit from this program.

The Osher Initiative for California Community College Students launched in May 2008 when 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 worked to match these funds to create a \$100 million endowment to provide permanent scholarship support for California's 2.9 million community college students.

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

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