



NEWS

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

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El Camino College Completes Historic Scholarship Endowment Campaign; Osher Initiative for California Community College Students Reports a Successful Finish

After three years, a historic fundraising campaign for the largest-ever scholarship endowment for a community college system recently came to a successful end. The final numbers were tallied for funds raised for the Osher Initiative for California Community College Students, with more than \$66.5 million raised for the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment, enough to fund at least 3,325 full scholarships every year, forever.

At El Camino College, Osher funds raised exceeded the original goal of \$973,977, for a total of \$1,630,159. The fundraising, including El Camino College Compton Center, will be matched by the Osher Foundation for a total of \$2,445,338 which will be permanently endowed for scholarships. The endowment will generate \$122,000 annually to fund at least 122 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.

“We are grateful for the generous support of our community and the El Camino College employees who donated time, energy, and finances to make this fundraising campaign a success,” said El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo. “Many students rely on these scholarships to achieve their academic goals, and we appreciate the positive impact this program will have on students well into the future.”

This past May, approximately \$350,000 in scholarships was awarded to about 325 El Camino College students at the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception. Thirteen new “named” \$1,000 Osher scholarships were added; 37 ECC students received Osher scholarships this year.

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. The 112 California Community 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.

Pledges have come from individuals and corporations – all dedicated to help serve the neediest students. Managers at El Camino College and El Camino College Compton Center came together for a total pledge of \$58,000 to create a Manager's Award for Academic Success, which will fund four scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each year. In addition, numerous major corporations, such as Southern California Edison, Sempra Energy, Genentech, and others also supported the cause, giving contributions that benefited a number of colleges within specific regions or areas of study.

Southern California Edison contributed \$200,000 to the Osher Scholarship Endowment Fund, to be shared among El Camino College and four other colleges. This served as the lead gift for ECC and kicked off the campaign. Edison International followed suit with a \$2 million contribution – also eligible for the Osher match – to be shared among 10 colleges, including El Camino College.

Although the Osher campaign has ended, the El Camino College Foundation has an ongoing scholarship program which provides scholarships for El Camino College students. In addition, the Foundation supports other vital programs and services on campus. For more information on the Foundation or scholarships, contact the El Camino College Foundation at 310-660-6040, or go to <http://www.elcamino.edu/foundation/>

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