



NEWS

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El Camino College Superintendent/President Thomas M. Fallo Announces Retirement After 21 Years of Service at the South Bay College

El Camino College Superintendent/President Thomas M. Fallo announced at the Board of Trustees' November 20 meeting that he plans to retire June 30, 2013. Fallo's announcement comes after 21 years of service at the South Bay college.

An alumnus of El Camino College, Fallo has been a dedicated supporter of community college education throughout his entire career. Contributing to the success of the college is Fallo's commitment to support student-centered leadership, a management style that affects every decision he makes at the college.

Fallo became El Camino College's fifth president when he took office in July 1995, following a stint as ECC vice president, administrative services, in 1991. His presidency has focused on the college's fiscal future, while guiding the Torrance-area campus through a period of unprecedented growth and progress. As the ECC president with the second-longest tenure, Fallo is also widely credited with keeping the college solvent and successful during challenging economic times.

During his tenure, Fallo has hired 219 full-time faculty members at El Camino College and 24 faculty at El Camino College Compton Center, adding a total of 243 educators to the academic community. As president, he has also celebrated student success with more than 25,000 students earning degrees and certificates through the years.

Under Fallo's leadership, the El Camino Community College District sought and obtained voter approval for two facilities bond measures to fund a much-needed campus modernization program, including classroom upgrades, instructional equipment updates, and critical health and safety repairs.

The college's first-ever bond measure was a \$394 million facility and equipment bond that passed in 2002, still the largest successful bond for a single-campus community college district. A second bond measure for \$350 million was approved by voters last month. At \$744 million, the combined total equals the largest facilities bond program for a single-campus community college district. Voters expressed confidence in the college when asked to support these measures, approving them with an overwhelming 61 percent and 68.2 percent of the vote in 2002 and 2012, respectively.

Extensive renovations to several buildings are already complete, and by his retirement, Fallo will have seen the opening of two completely new instructional buildings, as well as a new entrance to campus off of Redondo Beach Boulevard with a new 1,230-space parking structure; a central plant which saves the college \$100,000 in annual energy costs; and a new Learning Resource Center. This spring, he will participate in the grand opening of the new Math Business Allied Health (MBA) Building, and groundbreakings for a new Shops Building and a new Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Center.

Fallo also led a historic partnership with the Compton Community College District in August 2006 when the former Compton College had its accreditation revoked. The agreement between the El Camino and Compton districts certainly had challenges, but it was the dedication to student achievement that led to the completion of the agreement. Fallo always believed it was El Camino College's responsibility to assist the struggling neighboring college, which aligns precisely with his philosophy of student-centered leadership and the overriding goal of helping students succeed.

Through the partnership, El Camino College Compton Center receives accredited instructional and related support, in addition to administrative services, to meet the needs of ECC Compton Center students. In the past six years, enrollment has more than doubled, and several programs designed to boost student success have been established.

From 2010-12, Fallo led a comprehensive redistricting program that modified trustee area boundaries and changed the college's system from "at-large" to "by-trustee area" elections. The redistricting process included establishing a community-based Boundary Review Committee to guide the effort, which utilized 2010 census data to ensure each area was representative of the District's constituents. Public forums and interactive online maps were also part of the program.

Fallo's presidency also propelled the incredible growth of the El Camino College Foundation, which was just a little more than 10 years old when Fallo became president. He established the President's Circle, a group whose key purpose is to support the college's academic programs; the President's Breakfast, an annual meeting designed to increase communication between the college and area high schools; and the student Book Fund, which offers students assistance with the rising cost of textbooks. Another important component of the ECC Foundation is the newly established annual Scholarship program, where more than \$600,000 in scholarships will be distributed in amounts from \$500 to \$4,000 throughout the current academic year to about 425 outstanding students.

Before becoming president at ECC, Fallo served as vice president, administrative services at El Camino College. He held a similar position at Glendale Community College, and also served as vice chancellor, business services, and as chancellor for the Los Angeles Community College District before joining the El Camino College administrative team.

Fallo holds a doctorate in educational administration from Pepperdine University; an M.B.A. in business management from UCLA; and a bachelor's degree in economics, also from UCLA.

He is president of California Manufacturing Technology Consulting, the Statewide Association of Community Colleges JPA, the Schools Association for Excess Risk, and Intelcom, and is a past president of the Association of California Community College Administrators and the Association of Chief Business Officers.

Among other awards, Fallo has been honored as the prestigious Pacesetter of the Year, awarded by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations, recognizing outstanding leadership of chief executive officers at two-year community, junior or technical colleges.

As CEO of one of the largest single-campus, two-year colleges in the nation, Fallo oversees 1,300 employees, more than 25,000 students, and an annual budget of nearly \$430 million. El Camino College proudly offers 87 degree programs and 89 certificate programs, in addition to a wide variety of activities and support services to nearly 533,000 district residents in nine communities.

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