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## El Camino College Names Maria Brown and Cheryl Shenefield 2012 Distinguished Faculty and Staff

El Camino College history professor Maria Brown and business systems analyst Cheryl Shenefield were recently honored at a reception for their dedication to students, college, and colleagues.

Brown and Shenefield, honorees for the 2012 El Camino College Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award, were recognized at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day, an event designed to thank all members of the campus community for their commitment to the college and its educational mission.

**Maria Brown** is a longtime history professor, dedicating nearly her entire career to El Camino College. Since she joined the college 37 years ago, she has taught courses from American history to women's studies.

Brown is known for innovative teaching practices that promote active learning, while blending classroom lecture with extensive multimedia lessons. She looks for opportunities for students to combine their traditional classroom and online course environments.

A pioneer on a number of educational fronts, Brown took the lead when online teaching first debuted at El Camino College. She took the initiative to study Web design and created her own Web-based courses before current course delivery systems were widely available. In the 1990s, she was instrumental in the creation of the ECC women studies program. More recently, she introduced a course on popular culture.

Brown has a master's degree in history from Syracuse University, a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and an associate degree from Riverside City College. She is a member of several professional organizations, serving as the Pacific Western Division president of the Community College Humanities Association. She is also a member of the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians.

Brown is a member of the ECC Black History Month Committee, and is a co-founder of the Women's Hall of Fame. She is a member of the Women's History Month Committee and established the popular ECC Hat Fashion Show. She was also the faculty adviser to the African American Student Society, in addition to serving on the college's Academic Senate and the Curriculum Committee.

**Cheryl Shenefield** is an El Camino College alumna who has spent the last 24 years at the college contributing to the Information Technology Services Department as a business systems analyst/ application support coordinator.

Shenefield is an expert when it comes to the Datatel Colleague financial and student systems used by the college, as well as internal business work processes and data extraction issues. When a project arises, whether internally or from an outside agency, Shenefield is the one who volunteers to head the workforce needed to resolve the matter.

One of Shenefield's greatest accomplishments is her work in integrating ECC Compton Center into the Datatel system and ECC business processes. She continues to provide daily support to ECC Compton Center.

Shenefield has served on the Planning and Budgeting Committee for 14 years and always volunteers for subgroups that analyze trends. Through her efforts, the functionality of the system that allows students to receive financial aid, make payments, and register for classes has been greatly improved. She was instrumental in the conversion from local check disbursement to the Sallie Mae third-party disbursement of financial aid for the college's thousands of financial aid students.

She earned an associate degree in computer science from Los Angeles Valley College. In addition to attending classes at El Camino College, she continually upgrades her skills in technology so she is able to apply the latest trends to her work.

Shenefield's dedication to El Camino College is seen in her daily activities – she works well with others, goes above and beyond when given a task, and will not finish a project until she reaches the highest level of excellence.

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