



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 Providing Leading-Edge Training Program to TSA Employees at Los Angeles International Airport

In response to the increasing need for additional security at airports around the country, El Camino College launched a new program this fall to provide training for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) personnel working at Los Angeles International (LAX) Airport. LAX is one of a number of airports in the nation where TSA offers this kind of training, and runs the largest training program for TSA officers in the nation.

Under a contract funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, El Camino College is providing specifically designed courses in homeland security to TSA employees at LAX. Trainees are also offered career guidance and opportunities to continue their education to complete a certificate of achievement and/or an associate degree in the El Camino College's Administration of Justice program.

The innovative training program is specifically designed for Transportation Security Officers. These are the officers a traveler interacts with when going through security at the airport.

"The focus of the program is to provide additional training for TSA employees by introducing concepts of homeland security, intelligence and security management, and border security concerns, just to name a few of the issues covered by these courses," said El Camino College instructor Craig Neumann, faculty coordinator for the TSA project. "Each course is a three-unit, semester-long class taught by law enforcement professionals with expertise in these areas."

El Camino College's Workplace Learning Resource Center is coordinating the new partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration to train TSA officers at LAX. The partnership is part of an overall effort to closely link the college's workforce development partnerships with the needs of businesses in the community, through the college's Career and Technical Education courses. The partnership with TSA will train more than 2,000 security officers at LAX, making El Camino College the largest provider in the nation for this particular training.

"We are excited about this opportunity to be working with TSA at the local level to help develop their workforce and connect students to learning opportunities," said Jose Anaya, ECC Dean of Community Advancement.

The first classes began in late August, and are taught at the LAX training center near the airport. TSA pays each student's registration fees and book charges; students must attend on their own time.

The first course, "Introduction to Homeland Security," includes four sections with approximately 20 students in each class. Class instructors conducted a recent poll and determined that about 90 percent of the students plan to proceed to the next course during the Spring 2012 semester, titled "Intelligence and Security Management."

"I view the high retention rate in the program to be directly related to two facts: one is the high quality of our instructors, and two is the interest of the TSA employees in these subjects," Neumann added.

Students who complete the last course, which will be offered at the conclusion of the Fall 2013 semester, will be awarded official certification in the program from El Camino College.

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