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Third in a series - from El Camino College's 65 years of student success.

El Camino College Celebrates 65 Years of Serving the South Bay; Alumni Success: 1970s

For 65 years, El Camino College has served the South Bay, providing education and support services for students working to reach their goals. Through the years, numerous El Camino College alumni have found success in higher education and their careers, and continue to make an impact on their communities.

By the time Michael B. Donley became an ECC student in 1970-72, the college was well established as a high-performing academic institution with outstanding athletics, clubs, and programs. He is now Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, appointed in 2008 after serving for 26 years in the national security community in variety of positions. He attended El Camino College for two years before serving in the U.S. Army. When he returned home, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from USC.

Secretary Donley recently came home to participate in Torrance's 53rd Annual Armed Forces Day Celebration and Parade as grand marshal.

Another El Camino College student in the 1970s is Dr. Cinna Toy-Wohlmuth, who participated in many activities, from dances to clubs. By the time she graduated in 1979, the college had grown to serving thousands of students each year.

"I grew so much as a person; this is that important transition time between high school and college and El Camino College was the perfect environment for that," she said. "It was phenomenal how I grew as an individual and with group leadership. I was born and raised in Gardena, but I grew up at El Camino College."

Secretary Donley and Dr. Toy-Wohlmuth are among of thousands of students who started their higher education endeavors at El Camino College, leading the way to successful careers in the South Bay and beyond. Students have access to a high-quality, affordable education to transfer to a university or gain employment in areas such as nursing, firefighting and other first-responder and health care positions.

For more information about El Camino College's academic programs and support services, please contact 1-800-ELCAMINO or go to www.elcamino.edu.

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