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*Sixth 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: 2000s**

For the past 65 years, El Camino College has helped thousands of students transfer to the university of their dreams, while also providing training programs for high-paying jobs. Through the years, outstanding faculty and staff have supported ECC students in achieving their goals, and alumni continue to be successful in their careers and community endeavors.

By the start of the 21st century, it was clear that while the college had served the South Bay well through its first five decades, campus facilities needed extensive safety and technology upgrades.

In 2002, the El Camino Community College District sought and obtained voter approval for a \$394 million facilities bond. At the time, it was the largest successful bond for a single-campus community college district. In addition, it was the first-ever bond in the college's history.

In the past 10 years, Measure E funding has supported classroom upgrades, instructional equipment modernization, and necessary health and safety repairs in many of the buildings – some nearly 65 years old.

Community support of Measure E echoed the positive sentiment of the original vote to create the college in 1947, as the bond passed with a 61 percent vote. Soon after, a nine-person Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee was formed to oversee the expenditures of the bond.

Bond funds supported the new Humanities Building, the first new academic building on campus in four decades, which opened in early 2008 and serves as part of a revitalized entrance to the campus. Other completed projects include the Science Complex, Bookstore and Social Science Building renovations; electrical/fire alarm upgrades; as well as a brand new Central Plant, Learning Resources Center and parking structure.

The second completely new instructional building will be the Math, Business and Allied Health Building, scheduled to open in spring 2013.

David Portillo enjoyed the new and updated facilities by the time he graduated from El Camino College in 2010. He will graduate from UCLA in spring 2013 with a bachelor's degree in international development studies. Portillo still visits ECC once a week, working with the UCLA Center for Community College Partnerships.

"I help students with everything they need to transfer, from personal life issues and study skills to getting all their classes lined up so they are ready," he said. "It is very rewarding to help others, especially since I know what it takes to get there. I just want them to know that they are capable of attending a four-year institution.

"I think El Camino College gave something amazing to me. It was a salvation to me, and I really love it. It prepared me for UCLA and now I know how to look for the opportunities I need."

Juwarat Kadiri is another outstanding graduate from the 2000s. The 2006 ECC grad is in her fourth year at Harvard University Medical School. While at ECC, Juwarat was a MESA tutor, participated in student government, and volunteered for other programs. She credits El Camino College with giving her the solid academic foundation she needed to excel at the University of California at Berkeley, then Harvard.

"After I transferred to Berkeley, I noticed that there is a difference when you take those fundamental science courses at a community college," she said. "At El Camino College, teachers are focused on making sure everyone knows the material – there isn't this sense of competition among all the other students – we were there to learn, and professors were there to help."

Projects completed under the 2002 facilities bond include many energy-saving features, including high-efficiency campuswide heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), and irrigation systems. These new systems monitor the temperature and water needs of the campus to provide maximum efficiency. Currently, the new Central Plant saves the college nearly \$100,000 in energy costs annually.

All new buildings at El Camino College incorporate features within their design and site preparation that meet CALGreen Building Standards. Some examples include: thermal dual pane windows and insulated doors, as well as white-painted roofs that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and solar gain. New HVAC systems reduce energy and water consumption. The overall cost-savings and energy efficiency of the improvements are projected to save the college \$360,000 each year.

Projects on schedule for completion in the next two to three years from the 2002 facilities bond include parking lot lighting & security upgrades, new Kinesiology & Fitness Complex (Phase One), new STEM Center, Industry & Technology Building modernization, new Shops Building, Kinesiology and Fitness Complex (Phase Two), and a Parking Lot F retrofitting project that includes an addition.

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