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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Alumna Gets Ready for University Transfer and a Career in Broadcast Journalism**

El Camino College alumna Imani Crenshaw knows that everyone has a story to tell. She wants to help get the word out.

Crenshaw plans to transfer to Hampton University this fall to major in broadcast journalism. She has already jumped in the field, gaining valuable experience through internships and serving as a reporter for GlobalGirl Media, a non-profit organization that empowers high school age girls from under-served communities through training in media, leadership and journalism.

Crenshaw's work was recently honored by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) as the 2013 recipient of the Gannett Foundation Award for Innovation in Watchdog Journalism for the webisode series, "Como Amar: How to Love."

Crenshaw's webisode on body image explores media interpretations of women, providing personal accounts from teen girls and featuring interviews with scholars about how societal views on beauty promote competition between women and poor self-image in young girls.

The \$5,000 award, funded by a grant from the Gannett Foundation, recognizes groundbreaking journalists who help communities understand important issues through creativity and the use of digital media. The award will be presented to Crenshaw at the 38th Annual NABJ Convention and Career Fair in Orlando, Florida on July 31.

Crenshaw also earned several scholarships for her outstanding achievement at El Camino College, including the Vincent and Cloteal Thomas Scholarship, awarded

by ECC's Project Success, a retention and graduation support program for highly motivated students, and a recognition grant from the EOP&S Program.

“Project Success provides a huge support system – our counselors are not just counselors, they are important people in our lives,” said Crenshaw, a 2011 graduate of West High School and Torrance resident, whose grandfather is an original Tuskegee Airman and Torrance resident as well.

“My counselors were always there to help. When I got into the program, I didn't know anyone, but that didn't last long. I made great friends – best friends through Project Success. I had the opportunity to go on college tours, conferences, and even speak at conferences. I recommend everyone to go, go, go to Project Success! I'm so grateful for those opportunities.”

Crenshaw was part of a transfer agreement set up between El Camino College and Hampton University. This agreement is one of 13 ECC has with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Through this program, developed by counselor Elaine Moore and modeled after the agreements that have been successfully created between ECC and the University of California and California State University systems, students benefit from a streamlined transfer process.

HBCU transfer agreements specify the number of transfer units and specific grade point averages required for admission. Some of the institutions also offer priority consideration for housing and transfer scholarships. The program continues to grow – two transfer agreements were added this past spring, Wilberforce University in Ohio and Cheyney University in Pennsylvania.

After graduating from high school, Crenshaw was looking forward to going away to college, perhaps even moving out of state. Her plans changed and she decided to stay close to home while working on transferring to a university.

“It was a great decision to go to El Camino College,” she said. “I had a wonderful experience. I was able to build a solid platform to help move along to the university level. Everything they gave me is a tool I can use to be successful. I have connections with great professors, and I learned how to be involved in college, which is really important to me.”

In the community, Crenshaw served as a Girl Scout Ambassador, and was a mentee in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. GEMS and with WriteGirl. She also volunteered for Ride-to-Fly, the Round House Aquarium, and PACE Head Start, along with other organizations. Crenshaw moderated the “I Have A Dream” Panel

Presentation for the ECC 2013 Black History Celebration, and was a featured speaker at conferences and career fairs.

“Imani has been very active at school and in the community; she’ll transfer to a university soon – this is what she wanted to do and it is wonderful to see her reach her goals,” said Delilah Crenshaw, Imani’s mother, who is a member of the Project Success Steering Committee. “She had so many leadership opportunities through El Camino College and Project Success, both inside and outside of the classroom. We have been so supportive of her and we wanted that same experience when she went to college. You hear that it takes a village – well, El Camino College has that been that village for Imani.”

At El Camino College, Crenshaw was a two-year member of the cheer team, the cheer team’s student representative to the Inter-Club Council, a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma (the college’s honor society), and a member of the EOP&S Program.

“I’m so glad I chose El Camino College; I made so many friends, and had so many amazing opportunities,” she said. “It was a great place to learn and grow.”

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*Imani Crenshaw’s award-winning webisode can be viewed at <http://globalgirlmedia.org/world-premiere-como-amarhow-to-love-webisode-series/>.*