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El Camino College Nursing Program Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The faculty and staff of the El Camino College Nursing Program have scheduled a 50th Anniversary Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. June 1 in the college's East Dining Room, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance. Tours of the Nursing Department and simulation lab, located in the new Math Business Allied Health Building, are also available at 11 a.m.

For 50 years, the El Camino College Nursing Program has offered a rigorous education curriculum and has graduated more than 2,500 registered nurses to meet the health care needs of the community. The majority of those graduates went on to obtain registered nurse jobs in the South Bay.

The Nursing Program first admitted 30 students in 1962. Student rotations were conducted at Little Company of Mary Medical Center in Torrance in those early days, as well as Harbor General, now called Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Centinela Hospital, San Pedro Hospital (now Little Company of Mary in San Pedro), Torrance Memorial, Del Amo, Kaiser Harbor City, St. Francis Medical Center, and Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital were also involved in student rotations.

One of the largest associate degree programs in California, the ECC Nursing Program now graduates about 120 students each year and partners with about 15 area hospitals and medical centers.

The program regularly boasts high pass rates on the national licensing examination. Graduates earn an associate degree and are prepared for entry into the healthcare field as a registered nurse, ready to work in many specialty areas that

include intensive care, pediatrics, obstetrics, geriatrics, rehabilitation, oncology, cardiology, and occupational health.

Today's ECC student nurses are supported by counseling, opportunities to further education, and referrals to area jobs. Students are also invited to join the local chapter of the Student Nurses' Association, Iota Kappa Chi. This organization conducts service projects and blood donation drives, among other activities

Scholarships are also an important part of the program. New to the scholarship program this year is a \$2.6 million federal grant supporting student nurses. Students at ECC and ECC Compton Center may receive up to \$15,000 (based upon unmet need) per year, which enables them to reduce their work schedules, or in some cases, quit working and focus on coursework.

A new Math Business Allied Health (MBA) Building opened on campus earlier this spring, offering students in the nursing program access to a state-of-the-art skills lab and a simulation lab featuring high-fidelity mannequins that mimic the human body. The Radiologic Technology and the Respiratory Care programs also have new lab areas. These four labs are all located on the fourth floor, adjacent to each other, to replicate a hospital environment.

In the "sim" lab, students can mimic just about any medical situation, from a code blue to delivering a baby. This lab also allows students to record their work with both sound and video so they can review and learn from each situation.

Approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), the El Camino College nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), formerly National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC).

El Camino College is located at 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance. The Nursing Department is in the Math Business Allied Health (MBA) Building. For more information, call 310-660-3281.

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