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El Camino College to Celebrate Grand Opening of New STEM Center

El Camino College will celebrate the grand opening of a new STEM Center with a ceremony scheduled for 5 p.m. May 8 on the lower level of the Natural Science Building.

The El Camino College STEM Center will support student success, retention and graduation by serving as a hub for tutoring and academic support programs. This new \$3.4 million, 9,334-square-foot learning support center is designed for students studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) disciplines. The center will include four group learning areas, four self-study areas, a large collaboration lounge, three meeting rooms, three classrooms, and four faculty offices.

Students will also have access to Wi-Fi and a computer lab with 21 computer stations. A 2,000-square-foot outdoor patio with drought-tolerant landscaping and design are also part of the new project.

The STEM Center will house the highly-successful Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program and provide STEM enrichment and outreach activities.

"The STEM Center provides support, resources and opportunities for current and future students," said Thomas Fallo, superintendent/president. "The new STEM Center integrates technology into the daily educational experience offered at El Camino College."

El Camino College has enjoyed a highly successful partnership with Chevron Corporation for more than 10 years. Chevron acknowledges El Camino College for its STEM programs that recruit and prepare students academically, provide resources and ultimately prepare them to transfer to competitive colleges.

Through a partnership with the El Camino College STEM Educational Initiatives, Chevron Corporation established the Science, Engineering and Math Pathways program. This program provides high school students a path, via community colleges, to a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics disciplines.

The new STEM Center and numerous other improvements on campus were made possible with funds from the 2002 Measure E facilities bond.