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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Awards \$1.4 Million in Student Scholarships**

Sarah Berthelet is one of the outstanding students who was honored at the annual El Camino College Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception April 16 and 17 at Marsee Auditorium. Approximately \$1.4 million was awarded to approximately 650 students for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Sarah's future career started with one child development class at El Camino College.

This particular class required students to complete a preschool observation. Sarah visited an area school for a day and decided to stay, eventually moving up the ranks and working with children with special needs as an inclusion specialist.

"One child I helped was non-verbal, but his amazing family has been trying to find a voice for him so he can communicate and we can know him more," said Sarah, who was born and raised in Hawthorne. "Through that family I have become aware of how incredible these children are and how there are so many opportunities to help. The best part is, now I'm working at an area elementary school in a kindergarten class as an aide with that same child."

Sarah will continue her studies in childhood education with the help of the El Camino College Supervisor Don Knabe Scholarship – one of five \$1,000 scholarships awarded this year to students majoring in fine arts or humanities.

"For me, when I won this scholarship, I thought, 'wow I'm not alone' – people are cheering me on," she said. "It is encouraging to know that people are there for me. It helps keep my morale up. When I get tired and down I realize that it's not just about me – it is about the community I represent. It is wonderful and a huge, huge honor."

The ECC scholarship program continues to grow each year, providing critical support to students in a variety of academic disciplines.

"We are proud to celebrate student success at the Scholarship Awards Ceremony," said El Camino College President Thomas Fallo. "This is one of the most anticipated events of the academic year and we are honored to share our student success stories. We congratulate our students and thank the donors and supporters who made these scholarships possible."

The high school scholarship program also continues to grow. This year 36 incoming students were awarded scholarships of \$1,000 per year for two years. This amount, coupled with the second year of the two-year awards, brings the high school scholarship program's annual total to about \$69,000. The California Community Colleges Endowment Fund (Osher) also provided more than 140 \$1,000 scholarships this year.

For more information about the El Camino College Scholarship Program, contact the El Camino College Foundation at [www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation](http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation) or call 310-660-3683.

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