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El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

August 25, 2014

El Camino College Students Participate in UC Berkeley Summer Program

After just one weekend in Northern California, Tesla Moran could see herself living in Berkeley. She was one of six El Camino College students invited to attend a weekend program at the University of California, Berkeley this summer, where she had a chance to investigate college life at the Northern California campus.

“I really enjoyed the visit, everyone at UC Berkeley was so helpful and they answered every question,” said Tesla, a 2013 Torrance High School graduate who is majoring in bio chemistry at ECC. “It was a great experience and I gained a lot of good feedback. Being in Berkeley was also fun – I loved being able to walk around the city. There is so much to do.”

Through the Cal Summer Experience program, the ECC students had an introduction to all the academic opportunities and services available at UC Berkeley for transfer students. They also took a campus tour, attended faculty lectures, and participated in workshops covering financial aid, career choices, graduate school, and transfer admission.

Tesla and her fellow students who attended the summer program are part of ECC’s First Year Experience (FYE), a program designed to help students be successful in their first year of college. FYE provides a supportive environment of educational and career services, where students participate in learning communities (programs in which groups of students take multiple classes together), and also receive help from peer and faculty mentors.

The El Camino College students were also assigned a UC Berkeley mentor/counselor. Before leaving, they participated in interviews where they met with counselors for one-on-one advisement.

“Meeting with the counselors was probably the best part of the visit,” Tesla said. “They spent time with us and helped us understand what to expect at the university. They really wanted to help and they have our best interests in mind. I’m not sure where I will transfer to, but I want to be an anesthesiologist and now I know the steps I need to take to make that happen.”

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