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Outstanding El Camino College MESA Students Present Research

Three outstanding El Camino College students recently presented summer research findings at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR).

The conference provides a forum for the presentation of the best research, scholarship, and creative activities of undergraduate students in the region, and encourages communication of innovative achievements across disciplines. The theme of this year's conference was "Illuminating Ideas." Students submit abstracts to SCCUR and are selected to present.

ECC students Gabriela Moreno-Lopez, mechanical engineering major, and Hector Flores, computer science major, conducted research in an intensive eight-week UCLA Transfer Student Summer Research Program (TSSRP) sponsored by Chevron U.S.A., Inc. They were among four ECC Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) students who participated in the inaugural year of this summer program, which brought together high-achieving students who have completed at least 60 percent of their major course work, including engineering, physics, calculus, computer science, and chemistry. Moreno-Lopez's presentation is titled "Hydraulically actuated intervention system for MRI," and Flores' project is titled, "Human Activity Recognition Using Accelerometer and Gyroscope Data on the Wrist."

The Transfer Student Summer Research Program at UCLA is a collaboration between the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering & Applied Science (HS-SEAS), UCLA Center for Community College Partnerships (CCCP), and El Camino College, with the support and sponsorship of Chevron. The program is designed to give students a solid introduction to engineering research at UCLA under the guidance of faculty and graduate student mentoring teams.

In addition, ECC student Mariella Arias conducted research at Cornell University, where she worked on the project, "A Piezoelectric Material P(VDF-TrFE) Thin-Film Process Flow for Ultrasonic Transducers." Mariella participated in the National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network Research Experience for Undergraduates (NNIN REU) Program, designed to give undergraduate students an introductory research experience in nanotechnology. The 10-week program had students working on an independent research project within their area of interest, using the advanced resources of university laboratories.

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