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El Camino College Counselor Honored with National Award

El Camino College faculty coordinator/counselor Cynthia Mosqueda was recently named a recipient of the National Advocate of the Year Award for her work in helping first-year students transition into college life. The award is given annually by the University of South Carolina's National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

Mosqueda is one of 10 honorees chosen from a group of 97 educators nationwide who were nominated by college presidents for having a positive impact on first-year students and their institution.

"I am honored to receive this award, and I credit much of the success of the program to the amazing team of teaching faculty, staff, and counselors at El Camino College," said Mosqueda, director of the award-winning El Camino College First Year Experience (FYE) program.

The FYE program has received accolades for exemplary program status through the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and through the California Community College Chancellor's Office for outstanding contributions toward student success, transfer, and retention. The program is scheduled to expand in fall 2014 and is planning on adding 10 additional freshman cohorts, thereby serving more than 700 new El Camino College students.

Mosqueda is an ECC alumna and earned a doctorate in educational leadership from UCLA. She has been a strong advocate for community college issues and is currently serving her second term as board member for the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges representing colleges in Southern California.

In addition, Mosqueda has earned numerous certificates from programs such as: Great Teachers, On-Course, and True Colors. She also provided leadership in developing new technology and activities to improve campus student services, including the online New Student Orientation, Virtual Counseling, the first student portal service (*MyECC*), High School Senior Days, and the El Camino College Transfer Conference.

Mosqueda leads the growing FYE program, which offers an innovative approach to traditional academic offerings by linking courses together through thematic content, by developing skills, and by combining instructional methods. The three important objectives of FYE are to develop essential academic skills, ease the transition and adjustment of new students to the college environment, and provide a comprehensive orientation to campus resources and facilities.

Designed to help students be successful in their first year of college life, the FYE program regularly boasts top graduation and retention rates and provides a supportive environment of academic and career services. Participating students have access to early registration, orientation, counselors, strategies for success in college, FYE faculty, field trips, and peer mentors.

For more information about FYE, go to www.elcamino.edu/student-services/fye/.

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