



NEWS

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El Camino College Vice President Francisco Arce to Retire

Dr. Francisco Arce recently announced his retirement as vice president, academic affairs at El Camino College. Arce served the college in this position for nearly 10 years. April 30 will be his last day at El Camino College.

For the past decade, Arce was the college's chief instructional officer, providing leadership in the planning, development and implementation of the college's academic offerings and support services.

He was instrumental in the partnership with the Compton Community College District in August 2006 when the former Compton College had its accreditation revoked. Arce ensured El Camino College's academic and accreditation standards were implemented at ECC Compton Center when the partnership began. He has since served as the ECC Compton Center accreditation liaison officer and has collaborated with many individuals and groups via the Accreditation Steering Committee.

"Throughout his tenure at El Camino College, I have respected Dr. Arce for his commitment to ensure the academic integrity of the programs and services we offer," said Thomas Fallo, El Camino College superintendent/president. "His work relative to academics at the El Camino College Compton Center was essential to a successful partnership. He was a guiding force in assisting the newly established ECC Compton Center."

Arce is also widely known for his efforts in promoting student success. He is a dedicated supporter of programs such as the First Year Experience (FYE) and Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA). He also supports the Honors Transfer Program (HTP) and often attends the annual Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research Conference for California Community Colleges, where a large ECC contingent regularly presents research reports.

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Under Arce's direction, the college increased basic skills offerings, technology designed for teaching and learning was added to classrooms, and the Faculty Inquiry Partnership, a learning-teaching community, was established and expanded to include ECC Compton Center. He was also the El Camino College accreditation liaison officer for the 2008 Institutional Self-Study.

Prior to joining El Camino College in 2005, Arce served as the interim assistant superintendent, vice president for instructional services at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton. In this position, his supervision resulted in many positive advances for students, including the implementation of programs that led to increased student services, communication, and access at the 19,000-student campus in the California Central Valley.

Previous administrative experience also includes serving as vice president of academic affairs for Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, where he was responsible for all aspects of instructional services and programs. In this position, he worked on the college's first strategic plan; helped improve course scheduling to offer more options to students; and strengthened services that help students transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Arce was also dean of behavioral and social sciences at American River College in Sacramento and was an instructor in political science and history departments at various community colleges throughout his career.

Arce also serves in leadership positions on a number of committees and associations. He was a member of the legislative and finance commission, Association of California Community College Administrators; a representative for the Chief Instructional Officers Association to the California Community College Chancellor's Office Human Resources and Staff Development Advisory Committee; and he has served on many accreditation teams.

Arce has a doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco, a master's degree in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a bachelor's degree in political science from California State University, Los Angeles. A strong supporter of community colleges his entire career, Arce is alum of Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut.

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