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El Camino College Names Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Jean Shankweiler was recently named the Vice President of Academic Affairs at El Camino College, effective May 1. Francisco Arce will retire as VP Academic Affairs on April 30, 2015, after serving in the position since 2005.

Shankweiler joined El Camino College in 1988 as a chemistry professor. In 2007 she was appointed Dean of the Natural Sciences Division. During her time at El Camino College, she has been dedicated to student success, initiating and working on several projects that directly benefit students.

As a professor, Shankweiler worked on several grants to develop lab curriculum, including the Los Angeles Collaborative for Teaching Excellence, NSF instrumentation, and ECC academic technology. She also coordinated opportunities for student growth and development, including Science Club activities and field trips, UCLA Bridge summer research opportunities, and the Onizuka Space Science Day program.

"Dr. Shankweiler has established and supported many student success programs since joining El Camino College," said Thomas Fallo, El Camino College superintendent/president. "We look forward to her continued leadership in her new position as the college's chief instructional officer."

Shankweiler also served as director of the college's highly successful Honors Transfer Program from 1997-2002. In this position, she collaborated with area universities to develop transfer agreements to campuses such as UCLA; USC; University of California, Irvine; and California State University, Long Beach, among others.

As dean, Shankweiler supported the Natural Sciences Division in curriculum development and also led a period of incredible growth with the college's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) offerings. Programs for youth, curriculum and technology improvements for current students, a new campus STEM Center, STEM conferences and robotics are just a few of the programs she oversaw.

After earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the College of Mount Saint Joseph in Cincinnati, Shankweiler completed a doctorate in organic chemistry from New Mexico State University. She is a member of the Association of California Community College Administrators, the National Science Teachers Association, and the American Chemical Society.

Shankweiler also provided leadership to the ECC campus as the 2011 accreditation co-chair for the midterm report and as the 2014 accreditation co-chair for the institutional self-evaluation.

Among other recognition, Shankweiler was honored with the El Camino College Distinguished Faculty Award in 2001 and the Women of Distinction Award in 2006.