



N E W S

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

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2015

El Camino College Superintendent/President Thomas Fallo Announces Retirement

The El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees accepted the retirement of Superintendent/President Thomas Fallo at their February 17 meeting. Fallo's retirement is effective on February 1, 2016.

His retirement next year marks 25 years of service to the South Bay college. An alumnus of El Camino College, Fallo has been a dedicated supporter of community college education throughout his career. Fallo's commitment to support student-centered leadership, a management style that affects every decision he makes, contributes to the success of El Camino College.

Fallo became El Camino College's fifth president when he took office in July 1995. His presidency also focused on the college's fiscal future, while guiding the Torrance-area campus through a period of unprecedented growth and progress. Through his leadership, the college established an annual scholarship program, which now provides more than \$1.4 million annually, in scholarships to deserving students.

"Over the past quarter century, Dr. Fallo has created an outstanding academic environment that is conducive to effective teaching and learning. His leadership has kept the college financially sound through a period of campus physical development, as well as during challenging economic times," said Board President Bill Beverly.

Fallo's efforts have been essential in continuing the tradition of providing access to learning and job opportunities for members of the community. He looks forward to meeting new students each fall and enjoys celebrating their success at commencement each spring. He believes that as a community, we are all working together for student success, and that we share a 'common unity'.

Throughout his presidency, Fallo will have hired more than 330 full-time faculty members at El Camino College and ECC Compton Center, in addition to 84 managers and 452 staff members who all contribute to student success.

Under his leadership, the El Camino Community College District sought and obtained voter approval for two facilities bond measures. Funds are now in place to support a campus modernization program that includes classroom upgrades, instructional equipment updates, and critical health and safety repairs.

-MORE-

Fallo Retirement 2-2-2-2

The college's first-ever bond measure was a \$394 million facility and equipment bond that passed in 2002, at the time the largest successful bond for a single-campus community college district. A second bond measure for \$350 million was approved by voters in 2012. Voters expressed confidence in the college when asked to support these measures, with an overwhelming 61 percent and 68.2 percent of the vote in 2002 and 2012, respectively.

Extensive renovations to several buildings are already complete, and by his retirement, Fallo will have seen the opening of three completely new instructional buildings, and a new entrance to campus from Redondo Beach Boulevard. Other improvements include: a new 1,230-space parking structure; a central plant which saves the college \$100,000 in annual energy costs; new athletic facilities; and a new Learning Resource Center and new Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Center. This year, Fallo will participate in the grand opening of the Center for Applied Technology (CAT) Building and a renovated Industry and Technology Education Center (ITEC).

Fallo also led a historic partnership with the Compton Community College District in August 2006 when the former Compton College had its accreditation revoked. The agreement between the El Camino and Compton districts certainly had challenges, but it was the dedication to student achievement and access to an affordable education that led to the solidification of the partnership. Fallo believed it was El Camino College's responsibility to assist the struggling neighboring college, which aligns precisely with his overriding goal of helping students succeed.

In March 2009, Fallo refused a \$36,000 salary increase from the board. The increase was to compensate Fallo for his leadership and responsibilities relative to serving as the chief administrator for El Camino College Compton Center, since the partnership began in 2006. In 2013, the board provided that compensation with a new three-year contract.

In collaboration with the Board of Trustees, Fallo led a comprehensive redistricting program for the El Camino College district that modified trustee area boundaries and changed the college's system from "at-large" to "by-trustee area" elections. The two-year redistricting process included establishing a community-based Boundary Review Committee to guide the effort, which utilized 2010 census data to ensure each area was representative of the district's constituents. Public forums and interactive online maps were also part of the program.

Fallo's presidency also propelled the growth of the El Camino College Foundation, which was just a little more than 10 years old when he became president. He established the President's Circle, a group whose key purpose is to support the college's academic programs; the High School Principals Breakfast, an annual meeting designed to increase communication between the college and area high schools; and the student Book Fund, which offers students assistance with the rising cost of textbooks.

Under Fallo's leadership, the college participated in a campaign for the largest-ever scholarship endowment for a community college system. El Camino College was able to exceed its fundraising goal, raising more than \$1.6 million, which was matched by the Osher Foundation to permanently fund student scholarships.

-MORE-

Fallo Retirement 3-3-3-3

"I have been very blessed to have a wonderful career serving the California community colleges. My tenure at El Camino College is the capstone of my work life. I am grateful to the community, the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff for their contributions to the success of El Camino College, but most importantly, the students, who motivate me every day," Thomas Fallo, Superintendent/President El Camino College.

Before becoming president at El Camino College, Fallo served as vice president, administrative services. He held a similar position at Glendale Community College, and also served as vice chancellor, business services, and as interim chancellor for the Los Angeles Community College District before joining the ECC administrative team.

Fallo holds a doctorate in educational administration from Pepperdine University; an M.B.A. in business management from UCLA; and a bachelor's degree in economics, also from UCLA. He is president of California Manufacturing Technology Consulting, the Statewide Association of Community Colleges JPA, the Schools Association for Excess Risk, and Intelcom, and is a past president of the Association of California Community College Administrators and the Association of Chief Business Officers.

Among other awards, Fallo has been honored as the prestigious Pacesetter of the Year, awarded by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations, recognizing outstanding leadership of chief executive officers at two-year community, junior or technical colleges.

As superintendent/president of one of the largest single-campus, two-year colleges in the nation, Fallo oversees 1,300 employees, more than 25,000 students, and an annual general fund unrestricted budget of \$127.6 million. El Camino College proudly offers 87 degree programs and 89 certificate programs, in addition to a wide variety of activities and support services to nearly 533,000 district residents in nine communities.