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Honors Transfer Program Offers Unique and Challenging Academic Opportunities *ECC student finds inspiration, energy among his peers; will transfer to UCLA*

Joseph Luck, this past year's president of the Honors Transfer Club at El Camino College, said he wasn't the most motivated student in high school. But after joining the Honors Transfer Program (HTP), he met a group of students who helped him kick his studies into high gear.

Joseph recently graduated from El Camino College and is headed to UCLA this fall to continue his studies as a business economics major. He said he is looking forward to transferring and was energized by the rigor of his ECC honors classes and the achievements of his peers.

"HTP made me want to try harder in school," said Joseph, who also spent 20 hours a week with the El Camino College swim team. "I liked being with all those motivated people."

This year, El Camino College's HTP had 150 students transfer to universities like UCLA or UC Berkeley. Another 200 students are expected to join the program this fall.

"The El Camino College Honors Transfer Program is one of the best in the state and is a role model for other community colleges," said El Camino College President Dena P. Maloney.

"The Honors Transfer Program had the highest percentage - 93% - of honors students admitted to UCLA last year, as part of the Transfer Alliance Program agreement with UCLA. HTP offers a range of opportunities for students to present research and learn leadership skills, which prepares students for future academic and career challenges."

The Honors Transfer Program stresses scholastic excellence, and aims to better prepare students for transfer to a university by focusing on enhanced reading, writing and studying skills. HTP students have access to priority registration, smaller class sizes, enrichment seminars and interaction with other highly-motivated students.

Joseph presented his own original research at the Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research conference at UC Irvine in March, where he received the Exemplary Student Award. He was one of only 20 students in the state to win the award, along with El Camino College student Olivia Solis. The Outstanding Abstract Award went to ECC student Josh DuFault, who was recently awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, and will attend Stanford University in the fall.

Joseph also joined HTP students Youree Choi and Bavly Ibrahim at the Bay Honors Consortium Student Research Conference this past spring, and another six HTP students attended the

Western Regional Honors Council Student Research Conference. The El Camino College HTP was the only program in the state to attend all three honors student research conferences.

A 2014 Mira Costa High School graduate, Joseph said he's interested in how social issues are influenced in the economic sphere. He hopes to study sustainable development in business and economic fields.

He said the HTP helped him branch out and discover new subjects. One research project stands out – a philosophy instructor encouraged him to do an economic study of the country of Bhutan. Forget money – the Bhutanese deal in “Gross National Happiness.” The research looked into the impact of using the system of Gross National Happiness in Bhutan, compared to just focusing on profits alone as it is done in the Western world.

He has also conducted research on corporate responsibility in society and has presented his work at Stanford, UC Irvine and UC Berkeley with the Honors Transfer Program.

“It gave me a chance to do my own research, things I'd never really thought about before,” Joseph said. “The HTP's ability to let students research what they want to research and choose their own path, I think that was one of my favorite things about the honors program.”

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