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## El Camino College Named As One of Top 150 Community Colleges in the Country *ECC recognized for providing exceptional student success opportunities*

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program recently named El Camino College as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges for providing exceptional student success opportunities. ECC is eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million dollars in prize funds, as well as Siemens Technical Scholars Program student scholarships.

The Aspen Prize, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

"It is an honor to be an Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College," said El Camino College Superintendent/President Dena P. Maloney, Ed.D. "Student success is at the heart of what we strive for as an institution. We are pleased to be recognized for our excellent academic programs and innovative student support services that prepare students for success when they transfer or launch a successful career."

Nearly half of America's college students attend community college, with more than seven million students – youth and adult learners – working toward certificates and degrees.

"This competition is designed to spotlight the excellent work being done in the most effective community colleges, those that best help students obtain meaningful, high-quality education and training for competitive-wage jobs after college," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.. "We hope it will raise the bar and provide a roadmap to better student outcomes for community colleges nationwide."

A full list of the selected colleges and details on the selection process are available at [www.aspenprize.org](http://www.aspenprize.org).

Scholarship opportunities are also available. For the first time, the 150 Prize-eligible institutions are also invited to nominate exceptional students enrolled in their best middle-skill STEM programs for scholarships. Up to 50 Siemens Technical Scholars will be selected from programs that provide outstanding preparation for high-demand jobs in manufacturing, energy, health care, and information technology. A partnership between the Siemens Foundation and the Aspen Institute, the Siemens Technical Scholars Program is designed to help the nation's community colleges and their business partners bridge the gap between projected shortages of skilled workers and the millions of high-demand jobs in these STEM industries. Scholarship winners and the programs that deliver rigorous training enabling their success will be announced in fall 2016. For more information, view: <http://as.pn/stscholars>.

El Camino College was selected from a national pool of more than 1,000 public two-year colleges using publicly available data on student outcomes in three areas:

- **Performance** (retention, graduation rates including transfers, and degrees and certificates per 100 full-time equivalent students)
- **Improvement** (awarded for steady improvement in each performance metric over time)
- **Equity** (evidence of strong completion outcomes for minority and low-income students)

ECC has been invited to submit an application to the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence containing detailed data on degree and certificate completion (including progress and transfer rates), labor market outcomes (employment and earnings), and student learning outcomes.

Ten finalists will be named in fall 2016. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner and a few finalists with distinction in early 2017.

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