



NEWS

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El Camino College Receives \$1.5 Million Grant to Help Students Succeed in College

El Camino College recently received a \$1.5 million, three-year grant from the Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to better prepare students for success in college-level courses. Funding will support programs designed to ease the transition from high school to college and shorten the time between basic skills education and college completion.

The California Community Colleges Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Program will provide funds to implement, expand and redesign programs in assessment, student services, and instruction in order to improve the progression from remedial education to college level instruction. El Camino College is one of 43 community colleges across California to receive funding from this \$60 million grant.

"We want every student to know that a college education is an achievable goal," said El Camino College President Dena P. Maloney. "El Camino College has provided academic and support programs for nearly 70 years to help students achieve their educational goals. These grant funds will go a long way to augment our programs so that once students enroll at El Camino College, a path to success can be developed as they work toward earning a degree and transfer to a university, or obtaining a certificate that will lead to a rewarding career."

Statewide, more than three-quarters of incoming community college students who undergo assessment are assigned to one or more basic skills (remedial) courses in mathematics, English writing or English reading. In many cases, students begin math and English courses below their optimal level due to single-measure placement indicators. Other times, students need additional academic support to complete the necessary courses.

At El Camino College, grant funds will be used to implement professional development activities and a "team approach" to meet students' developmental education needs. In the area of assessment, a new process to place students in the optimal academic level will be piloted to ensure that students start college classes at their highest ability. In addition, a new summer program is under development, designed to help students place directly in transfer-level English courses. Existing programs will be augmented, including English tutoring and counseling programs. A redesign of math courses is also planned, and will include specific curriculum for students in Career Technical Education pathways.

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