



NEWS

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El Camino College Science Students Complete Research at UCLA *Program offers opportunity for university research, networking and professional activities*

El Camino College graduate Keith Inouye got a first-hand look at the world of scientific research through the UCLA Engineering Transfer Student Summer Research Program this summer.

Keith was one of four ECC Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement/ Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (MESA|STEM) students who attended the eight-week UCLA student summer research program beginning in June. He joined ECC students Sam Lidzbarsi, Nga Nguyen, Barber Chico and other science majors from Los Angeles-area community colleges to assist researchers in the Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science. They also attended numerous professional development and networking activities while working and living on campus.

Keith, a 2012 graduate of North High School in Torrance and a member of ECC's award-winning physics team, said the program offered valuable insight and experience for a community college student interested in research.

"This program really opened my eyes to what my major is about, and all the opportunities I have," said Keith, who plans to transfer to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona this fall to study chemical engineering.

The full-time, eight-week summer undergraduate internship is designed for transfer-track community college students in the following engineering disciplines: mechanical & aerospace engineering, bioengineering, chemical engineering, civil & environmental engineering, computer science, computer science & engineering, electrical engineering, and material science engineering. Each scholar will also have his or her work submitted and published in the annual Summer Undergraduate Scholars Program journal.

Expenses of the summer research program were covered by the ECC Foundation (\$12,200) and \$15,000 from the Hispanic-Serving Institution Mt. Saint Mary's College STEM grant.

Keith said his group was visited weekly by high-level professionals in different industries who were willing to share information about why they chose their field, typical career opportunities, and even information such as salaries and promotional opportunities.

"It all really just felt like genuine advice, and helped us build our pathway toward what we want to do in the future," he added.