



NEWS

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El Camino College Awards \$800,000 in Student Scholarships for 2017-18

Scholarships from the El Camino College Foundation will play a part in helping hundreds of students reach their academic goals.

The El Camino College Foundation Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$800,000 in scholarships to 650 El Camino College students for the 2017-2018 academic year. Recipients had the opportunity to meet donors at the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 11.

The diverse scholarship program at El Camino College provides critical support to students in a variety of academic disciplines. Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, financial need, leadership and community service, organizational, and campus club affiliations, among other criteria.

Juan Venerio, a chemistry major, earned a \$1,000 Edison Scholars scholarship. He said he hopes to pursue research in a laboratory working in pharmaceuticals. Juan graduated from high school in Nicaragua in 2013, and started attending El Camino College the next year after a recommendation from his father. He said he's always had an affinity for science, but discovered his love for chemistry in his college courses.

He also joined the ECC Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program, which offers rigorous coursework, leadership preparation and problem-solving workshops, in addition to access to the MESA/STEM Center to meet with study groups. MESA became an important part of the college experience to Juan.

"Usually if I'm not at the MESA Center, it's because it is closed," said Juan, who plans to transfer to UCLA next year. "I'm there all the time. I didn't expect to find a community like MESA in a community college."

Another outstanding scholarship recipient is Yoon (Eunice) Cho, an ECC liberal studies major who earned a \$1,000 Barth Family Scholarship. She plans to transfer to California State University, Long Beach this fall, where she'll earn a bachelor's degree and teaching credential.

"I didn't expect the scholarship; it's an honor," said Eunice, a 2015 Narbonne High School grad, who was inspired by her own elementary school teachers to pursue a teaching career. "They always believed in me and they always pushed me to do better."

For more information about the El Camino College Foundation Scholarship Program, contact the El Camino College Foundation at www.elcamino.edu/foundation or call 310-660-3683.

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