



El Camino College

# Community News

Spring 2014  
Volume XVI No. 2

**Hundreds of Classes  
Added for  
Summer and Fall!**

## **"Boundless Spirit"**

*An alumni tribute to the possibilities of education*  
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*Community News is a publication of the El Camino Community College District, Office of Public Relations & Marketing, Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations. For more information about El Camino College, visit our website: [www.elcamino.edu](http://www.elcamino.edu).*



## Message From the President

Spring is a time of celebration at El Camino College. We recently celebrated the Class of 2014 in a festive commencement ceremony highlighting a year of student achievements in academics, arts, and athletics. This spring, El Camino College awarded \$1.4 million in student scholarships; 93 student-athletes were named Scholar-Ballers for outstanding academic performance; the Art Department displayed student work in its annual showcase; and more than 75 students were honored at the annual Presidential Scholar and Academic Awards Presentation.

The community has supported El Camino College through the decades, most recently with facilities bonds that are providing much-needed building and technology upgrades to transform the campus into a state-of-the-art educational facility. We broke ground on two significant projects: a new shops facility and a new stadium complex. We also celebrated the grand opening of a new STEM Center for students in the science, technology, engineering and math disciplines, and the opening of a new Industry & Technology Building is scheduled for December 2014.

This edition of *Community News* showcases facilities projects, as well as grants and partnerships which provide outstanding academics and cutting-edge technology preparing students for a wide range of careers. With opportunities like these, students are ready to meet the dramatic changes characteristic of life in the 21st Century.

El Camino College continues to add hundreds of classes each semester, ensuring even more students have access to quality programs and services in the South Bay.

With an affordable, high-quality education, El Camino College students are ready to transfer to the university of their choice; transition into a rewarding career; or greet the future with no limits.

Your continued support is part of our “common unity” – what brings us together as a “community” college – El Camino College!

Thomas Fallo

## Commencement 2014

As construction continues on El Camino College’s new stadium complex, the May 16, 2014 commencement exercises were relocated to the college’s softball field.

Graduates, family and friends posted photos and congratulations, using the hashtag **#ECCGrad**. View their commencement experience on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



## Mira Costa High School, Class of 2012

When honor student **Jerry Hernandez** first enrolled at El Camino College, he had no idea what he wanted to do, or where to begin. As a first-generation college student, higher education wasn't something he considered. He heard about the ECC Science Club and signed up, which then led to joining the Honors Transfer Program.

Jerry found success by taking charge of his education – he was recently honored with the college's first Inter-Club Council Leadership Award. A geology major with aspirations of becoming a teacher, Jerry plans to transfer to a university next year. He currently volunteers with his high school marching band and also plays in a drum and bugle corps.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### ECC Partners with SBWIB to Launch Manufacturing Careers Program

El Camino College and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (SBWIB) have partnered to offer a welding training program for those with little to no experience in the welding trade. The "Bridge to Manufacturing Careers" program is designed to help people begin a career as a welder and features classroom training, work experience, and job placement assistance.

The training program is open to students 18 to 21 years old who are residents of the SBWIB service area. They also must be able to perform physically demanding work, and possess a basic knowledge of hand tools. All other welding skills and techniques are taught in a hands-on learning environment at ECC.

The new program is modeled after the successful Career Advancement Academy (CAA) at El Camino College, which is part of a statewide initiative designed to increase access to higher education leading to jobs. The CAA program combines career technical education with basic skills in high-demand career areas where new workers are needed immediately. Welding, machine tool technology, and electrical utility technology are available through the CAA.

*For more information on the Bridge to Manufacturing Careers program, call 310-660-3593, ext. 3589.*



## First ECC Homeland Security Class at LAX

The first group of students to complete training in ECC's Homeland Security Education program recently celebrated at a ceremony where 51 employees received a Certificate of Accomplishment at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).



El Camino College Vice President, Academic Affairs, Francisco Arce and Industry & Technology Division Dean Stephanie Rodriguez (both seated) join the first graduating class of ECC's Homeland Security Education program. Photo courtesy of TSA, Los Angeles International Airport

Through this partnership between El Camino College and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at LAX, the inaugural class completed specially designed courses in homeland security. The program includes career guidance and opportunities for participants to complete a certificate of achievement and/or an associate degree in the college's Administration of Justice program.

Each employee completed courses that include "Introduction to Homeland Security," "Intelligence Analysis and Security Management," and "Transportation and Border Security." ECC is one of only six community colleges in California authorized by the TSA to offer this program. The partnership has worked so well that El Camino College has expanded the program. "Introduction to Administration of Justice" was added to the curriculum this spring.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

UC Berkeley, Class of 2013  
ECC, Class of 2011



"The time I spent at El Camino College was a challenging, yet enlightening experience where I frequently reflected on the importance of education. As a first-generation college student, navigating the community college system was difficult but necessary. However, my success would not have been possible without the amazing programs ECC offers at an affordable price!" - **Karla Moreno**, Reading Partners Site Coordinator at Roosevelt Elementary School, Lawndale.

*For more information on Reading Partners, please see page 8.*

## TRANSFER SUCCESS

### UC Berkeley, English major ECC, Class of 2012



"I am truly thankful that I was able to attend El Camino College. My experience in high school caused me to doubt my ability to excel academically. When I enrolled at El Camino College, I decided to set an academic goal to attend the University of California, Berkeley. I purposely set the bar high, expecting myself to fall somewhat short of it. And who knows? Without the incredible amount of support I received from El Camino College, I might have missed the mark and lost sight of my goal. I am proud to be a transfer student. I certainly would not be the person I am today had I decided not to attend El Camino College." - **Erika Gavitt**

## El Camino College and Beyond Transfers

El Camino College is consistently ranked among the top 10 public California two-year community colleges for the number of students who transfer to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems. El Camino College also assists students wishing to transfer to private four-year universities like USC, Loyola Marymount University, and Pepperdine University.

UCLA received a record number of El Camino College transfer applications for fall 2013. The ECC admit rate to UCLA in fall 2013 was significantly higher than the overall transfer rate among all 112 California Community Colleges.

## Cherry Blossom Festival

El Camino College's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual "Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Cherry Blossom Festival" celebrated the start of the spring season with koto and taiko artist performances, inspiring speakers, and a bit of poetry. Under a canopy of cherry trees, Kyle Graves was awarded the Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Scholarship. Students in the nursing, radiological technology or respiratory care programs at El Camino College may apply for the scholarship.

"El Camino College has influenced me the most, by its true community feel and the people who have helped me achieve my educational goals," said Graves. "Looking forward to graduation, I will carry with me, fond memories of my time at El Camino College."



Scholarship recipient Kyle Graves (second from the left), celebrates with Gloria Miranda, Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences; Donald Hata, Superintendent/President Thomas Fallo; and Virginia Rapp, Dean of Business and Interim Dean of Mathematics.

## FACILITIES UPDATE

### Measure E Projects

Campuswide progress continues with upgrades and improvements supported by the Measure E facilities bond. These projects will provide modern resources for students to compete in today's world of learning and technology. In addition, a brand new Shops Building and a renovated Industry & Technology Building are scheduled to open next spring.

*For more information on Measure E progress, go to: [elcamino.edu/administration/bond/](http://elcamino.edu/administration/bond/).*

### Multi-Purpose Stadium Complex Groundbreaking

A groundbreaking on March 17 marked the start of construction of a new stadium complex. This \$37.2 million project includes a brand new, modern stadium to support the college's outstanding athletic programs and kinesiology classes. The state-of-the-art complex will also include an athletic training and sports medicine facility. The new stadium replaces the original structure, which was built in 1949. Design features include a modern locker facility and a press box for both teams, as well as football and soccer fields, and a 10-lane running track and field facility for college competitions and instruction. Also included in the plans are elevated viewing areas and a roof-top filming deck. The two sides of the stadium will connect along an elevated walkway around the north side that culminates into a small plaza.



El Camino College celebrates the Stadium Complex groundbreaking.



### STEM Center Grand Opening



A grand opening for the new El Camino College STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Center was held May 8. This new facility, located on the lower level of the Natural Science Building, will house the MESA program and provide support for students studying STEM disciplines.

The 9,334-square-foot, state-of-the-art learning center will feature study areas, as well as an open area for project work. The space can also change into a large classroom, or be converted into three smaller work areas for tutoring or other academic activities. Computers and a teleconferencing center are also available.

## El Segundo High School, Class of 2013



Active in many activities at her high school, **Anjeannette Aguilar's** love of helping others and interacting with peers led her to ECC to begin her college career as a communications major. She is a member of the First Year Experience, Honors Transfer Program, Student Ambassadors, and the Associated Student Organization.

Anjeannette will also be featured in an upcoming Student Success Initiative video project produced by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

"I'm so impressed with all the things you can do at El Camino College, from clubs to support groups – I like it all!" she said. "Choosing El Camino College is one of the best decisions I've ever made."

## ECC Students and Staff Help with Community Reading Program

One of the first things student Carolina Gonzalez liked about teaching is how much she learned. Gonzalez is one of several ECC students who work with Reading Partners, a national nonprofit dedicated to improving elementary school students' reading skills.



Carolina Gonzalez

"One thing I would never do is read out loud in class – I was shy and this was something I didn't like," said Gonzalez, who works three to four days per week at Anderson Elementary School in Lawndale. "With so much daily practice with the children – not only helping them, but hearing myself out loud – I'm breaking the shyness."

Gonzalez plans to transfer to a university next year and is considering pursuing a degree in teaching. She said the work study position at Anderson Elementary is providing valuable insight into this potential career.

## Onizuka Space Science Day 2014

The annual daylong event marked the 28th anniversary of the Space Shuttle Challenger tragedy where Astronaut Ellison Onizuka perished along with the six other crew members in 1986. Students in grades five through 12 listened to guest speaker, NASA Astronaut Col. Douglas H. Wheelock's presentation and joined in classroom workshops and demonstrations led by ECC professors, students, and guests from JPL and other agencies.



Col. Douglas H. Wheelock.  
Photo courtesy of NASA

## Women's Volleyball Team Earns Top Honors

Sophomore volleyball player SueKalena Tafao recently headlined the Warriors' seven selections to the All-South Coast Conference (SCC) Team, earning the SCC Most Valuable Player honors. Ranked in the top 10 of every major SCC statistical category, Tafao is the fourth Warriors player to earn SCC MVP honors in a row. She led the Warriors with 270 kills in 80 sets played this season, good enough for second in the conference. Along with her conference MVP award, Tafao was also named to the All-State Team and was selected as an American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All American. More "All Conference" students include: Sadie Fraker, Darlene Lee, Kim Haney, Ashley Morimoto, Boonyanudh "BJ" Jiyarom, and Laynie Thompson. Head coach Le Valley Pattison was named the South Coast Conference Coach of the Year for the second straight season.



ECC's Women's Volleyball Team

## Spring Scholar-Ballers

El Camino College scholar-athletes were recently honored as members of the Scholar-Baller organization. Scholar-Baller recognizes academic success of athletes who excel in the classroom by achieving a 3.0 grade point average or higher.

### Men's Track

Blaize Ali-Watkins  
Tyler Caracoza

Austin Nuchols

Ray Nunez  
Antwon Parker

### Women's Track

Tina Farley  
Kiera Griffin  
Amanda Johnson  
Crystal Lizaola  
Liliana Lopez  
Raven Nunez  
Nicole Sroczyński

### Women's Basketball

Malaysia Locklin  
Clarizza Macatugal  
Faith Matsuda  
Brittany McIntyre  
Shontalene Trudeau

### Men's Volleyball

Nicholas DiMatteo  
Johnny Kurihara  
Roy Powell  
Konstantinos Tzavaras  
Casey Wood



ECC's Track and Field Teams

Khalil Flemister  
Alexander Guzman  
Jasper Huang  
Hunter Johnson  
Ali Khan  
Matt Larson  
Ethan Liang  
Brennan Megeff  
Reo Miranda-Lavertu

Dallas Porter  
Chris Rasmussen  
Stephen Sansom  
Tarou Seki  
Tomas Snur  
Chris Street  
Austin Van Biezen  
Chason Watson

### Badminton

Kelsey Brandin  
Bryar Cochran  
Aundrea Ingram  
Jeanne Manansala  
Natalie Medina  
Madison Nishimoto  
Diana Smith

### Men's Basketball

Brett Cooper  
Julian Dakdouk

### Baseball

Kevin Ahir  
Christian Alcala  
Jeremy Barth  
Nicholas Buska  
Jeysen Delgado  
Ted Dilts  
Dylan Hatch  
Brandon Kametani  
Kevin Lopez  
Sean Mounce  
Teodomiro Naranjo  
Alex Navarrete  
Fred Smith  
Alex Turner

### Tennis

Christopher Fisher  
Calvin Hoo  
Jessica De La Torre  
Apurva Sharma  
Chihiro Yamada

# Alumni News

## ECC's "Boundless Spirit"

The latest work from El Camino College alumnus and internationally renowned sculptor James T. Russell is a culmination of more than four decades of education, dedication, and inspiration. A tribute to the possibilities of education, "Boundless Spirit" was recently unveiled in its new permanent home, prominently centered at the main entrance to campus, off Crenshaw Boulevard.

The impressive 8-foot-tall work of polished stainless steel reflects the spirit and power of teaching and learning. With a 48-year career marked by continuous learning, Russell received his first of several degrees at ECC, and has remained close to the college. He attended Hawthorne High School, and has taught classes at El Camino College. The master sculptor said that all stages of his career have been an educational experience – even learning from his students. Three of the four assistants who worked on "Boundless Spirit" in his Lomita studio are ECC alumni.



ECC alumnus and sculptor James Russell (center) with ECCCD Board of Trustees members (left to right) Ken Brown, Cliff Numark, student member Brooke Matson, Mary Combs, President Fallo, John Vargas, and William Beverly.

## Playwright Rickerby Hinds Visits ECC

Alumnus Rickerby Hinds recently brought his award-winning play "Dreamscape" to El Camino College for Black History Month. He also delivered the keynote speech, where he encouraged students to look at each moment as something that can lead to the next successful moment. Hinds, a professor at the University of California, Riverside, is the author of numerous plays, and pioneered the technique of incorporating elements of hip hop as the primary language of the stage when he premiered the ground-breaking "Daze to Come" in 1989.



Rickerby Hinds (center) pictured with John Merchant and Rhaechyl Walker in "Dreamscape."

After a year at ECC, Hinds transferred to UC Riverside, where he earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. He continued his education and earned a master's in playwriting from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, where he was twice awarded the Audrey Skirball-Kenis (ASK) Award for best play. Hinds also created and directed the Califest Hip Hop Theater Festival, now in its seventh year. His work has been supported by the Ford Foundation, the Showtime Television Network, the GeVa Theatre in New York, the Mark Taper Forum, the Cornerstone Theatre, the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and the LATC (Los Angeles Theater Center).

## News & Notes

### Advocate of the Year



ECC counselor Cynthia Mosqueda recently received the National Advocate of the Year Award for her work in helping first-year students transition into college life. The award is given annually by the University of South Carolina's National Resource

Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

### ECC Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the students honored at the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception this spring. A record-breaking \$1.4 million was awarded to approximately 650 students for the 2014-2015 academic year. For more information on the El Camino College scholarship program, go to [www.elcamino.edu/student-services/fao/main\\_scholar.asp](http://www.elcamino.edu/student-services/fao/main_scholar.asp).

### Women of Distinction

Nine successful women were honored at the 2014 ECC Women of Distinction Ceremony. Honorees were selected by the ECC Women's History Month Committee, based on service in the areas of professional accomplishments; leadership and/or mentorship; and social, educational, or health services. Congratulations to the 2014 Women of Distinction!



(Front row, left to right): Terry Castillo, Jacquie Thompson, Anita Avrick, Dorothy Jeszenka. (Back row left to right): Carol Raines-Brown, Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio, Lori Suekawa, Natalie Gouché, Rosalinda Martinez.

### ECC Professor Sets Another International Swim Record



Traci Granger. Photo by Rene Paramour

El Camino College professor and master swimmer Traci Granger set yet another world record in a regional swim meet in January. One of the fastest swimmers in the world, Granger tied the world record in the short course 50-meter butterfly, with a time of 31.13. She also went five for five at the meet, bringing home five first-place medals. The victory caps a tremendous year for Granger, who set several national and international speed records this past spring and summer.

## ECC Joins Project to Train "Plus 50" Workers

ECC recently became the first college in California to join the "Plus 50 Encore Completion Program", a national effort to train 10,000 baby boomers for new jobs in high-demand sectors including health care. El Camino College Community Education will offer free Computer Basics Boot Camp classes for adults age 50 and older who enroll in the Medical Billing and Coding, or Pharmacy Technician training program.



Computer Basics Boot Camp for Plus 50 will be offered once per month beginning in August. The program is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and funded by grant support from the Deerbrook Charitable Trust. For more information or to register, call 310-660-6460.



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#### Summer 2014

- ▶ First six-week summer session begins May 21
- ▶ Eight-week summer session begins June 16
- ▶ Second six-week summer session begins July 7

#### Fall 2014

- ▶ Weekend classes begin Saturday, August 23
- ▶ Weekday classes begin Monday, August 25

Check **MyECC** for Online Registration Appointment Information

### Stay Connected with El Camino College

Make sure to "like" and "follow" El Camino College's various social media channels. Keep up-to-date on your ECC news, info, and all things college.

Be a part of ECC social media - we want to hear from you!



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