



EL CAMINO  
COLLEGE

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# COMMUNITY NEWS





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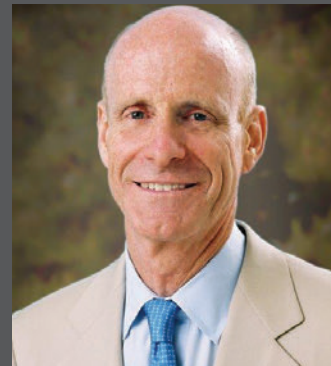
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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



El Camino College continues to be appreciative of the community support we have enjoyed for 68 years!

We are grateful for the generosity and support from community members who recognize El Camino College as an important South Bay resource. Our community supports students via scholarships, now providing more than \$1.4 million annually to deserving students. The community also endorsed El Camino College by voting for two facilities bonds totaling \$744 million. The funds from these facilities bonds are dramatically changing the face of the campus, while improving student support services and academic opportunities for residents throughout the South Bay.

The community support of the historic partnership with the Compton Community College District when the former Compton College had its accreditation revoked is also significant. This partnership's success is a result of the dedication to student access and academic excellence by everyone involved.

Consistently ranked among California's top 10 community colleges in transfer preparation and career education, El Camino College's accomplishments are attributed to the faculty and staff who work on behalf of students every day. Over the past twenty years, 392 full-time faculty members have been hired at ECC and ECC Compton Center, in addition to 134 managers and 490 staff members -- all who contribute daily to student achievements.

El Camino College has made a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals; and we will continue to serve the community for many years to come.

Thank you again for your continued dedication, generosity and support of El Camino College!

Thomas M. Fallo

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# Collegewide Initiatives Help Students Succeed

## *Five Years of Student Success*

El Camino College has made significant progress in helping students reach their academic and career goals in the past five years, with more students succeeding in reading, writing and math courses. Increases were also seen in the number of students earning a degree.

Strengthening student learning and faculty teaching in essential gateway courses were key components of the success seen in the past five years. Tutoring, counseling and preparation programs were also created to help build students' skills and expedite the transition from developmental courses to college-level courses.





The college intensified its efforts to provide support services to help more students earn an associate degree in a reasonable amount of time, recording more first-time/fulltime, degree-seeking freshman students graduating within three years of enrollment.

Since 2010, the number of online student education plans has increased by more than 500 percent. Creating an education plan is an important part of helping students stay on track and meet their academic and/or career goals. Planning also helps students connect to college resources and support services, identify skills/interests, and transition into a career or four-year college or university.

Faculty learning teams added to an increase in faculty participation during the past five years, offering instructors the chance to improve teaching strategies and enhance best practices, resulting in improved student retention and success rates.





# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SYDNIIE MILLS



**Sydnie Mills** is taking on the fashion journalism world while still a student at El Camino College. As news editor of the award-winning student newspaper *The Union* and editor-in-chief of the college's literary magazine, *Warrior Life*, Sydnie is working her way to her main goal: running the country's flagship fashion publication.

"I want to work for *Vogue*, so journalism was the right step for me," she said. "Actually, I would love to have creative control over the entire magazine. I love every aspect of fashion."

In addition to her studies and working in ECC's journalism program, Sydnie runs her own fashion blog, "Heights and Heels," a nod to her 6-foot-1-inch frame. She said her blog, rather than just focusing on trends, teaches readers how to build their own style.

"For me, fashion and style are two completely different things," said Sydnie, who hopes to transfer to either USC or New York University to be close to both *Vogue* and the fashion world. "Fashion is trends, and things can come and go. A person's style is forever."

## Grant Provides Alternative Fuel & Vehicle Training

A \$489,000 grant from the California Employment Training Panel will support education in alternative fuel and vehicle technology. The grant will be coordinated through ECC's Center for Applied Competitive Technologies and is the college's fourth contract under this category. Cerritos College, Long Beach City College, and City College of San Francisco will continue as partners. The overall goal of the program is to support a transition from petroleum-based transportation to alternative and renewable fuels and clean, low-carbon vehicle technologies.

For more information, contact ECC's Center for Customized Training at 310-973-3158 or [businessassist.elcamino.edu/customizedtraining](http://businessassist.elcamino.edu/customizedtraining).



Participants of the ECC Alternative Fuel Training program learn about the higher voltage battery connections of electric cars.

## Open Water Victory

*ECC All-American Swims the English Channel*

El Camino College All-American swimming standout Monica Bender recently swam across the English Channel. Monica finished in 13 hours and 41 minutes and was one of three of an original group of 12 swimmers to complete the swim on Sept. 26. While a student at Mary Star of the Sea High School in San Pedro, Monica swam the Catalina Channel in 2012. At ECC, she competed in water polo (2013-2014) and swimming (2014-2015), and was part of the 800 free relay team that holds the school record. She will transfer in the spring to the University of Montana.





# UC Transfer Success

Sisters transfer to UCLA and UC Berkeley



After graduating from Redondo Union High School, Marimar Arango followed her big sister Kayla to El Camino College where they both earned associate degrees. When it was time to transfer to a university, however, each sister chose a different direction: Kayla transferred to UCLA in 2014 and Marimar entered UC Berkeley this past August. Despite the longtime rivalry between the universities, they are not too concerned about a potential Golden Bears/Bruins conflict.

"I don't think there will be any rivalry between us – we are both advocates for higher education," said Kayla, who is majoring in international development studies at UCLA, with a minor in Latin American studies. "I am happy that we both have the opportunity to be at the two best public universities in the country. Besides, we are both ECC Warriors at heart!"

Kayla and Marimar are among the hundreds of ECC students who transfer to the university of their dreams each year. El Camino College regularly ranks in the top 10 in the state in sending students to the University of California and California State University systems.

"I didn't think I would grow as much as a student and as a person as I did in these years at El Camino College," said Marimar, who is majoring in Latin American studies with a minor in women's studies at UC Berkeley. "El Camino College helped me find my passion of what I want to do for my future."

## Honors Students



The Honors Transfer Program (HTP) at El Camino College offers support and assistance to prepare highly motivated students for transfer to a university. The success of HTP students is seen in their outstanding success stories, with university admit rates above 90 percent and many pursuing advanced degrees. According to recent research involving ECC's Honors Transfer Program alumni, half of the students surveyed said they continued their education and earned graduate/professional degrees. On average, they took only 2.1 years to finish their bachelor's degree at their transfer university.

For more information about the El Camino College Honors Transfer Program, visit [www.elcamino.edu/academics/honorstransfer/](http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/honorstransfer/).

## UCLA STEM Pathways Program

This past summer, 15 El Camino College students participated in engineering and STEM skills training via the UCLA STEM Pathways Program. Through this 10-day program with the UCLA School of Engineering, students immersed themselves in engineering preparation, learned vital research skills, interacted with faculty, visited labs, and were introduced to support programs for engineering majors. In addition, six students participated in an eight-week residential summer research program, where they gained hands-on research experience working in the laboratory with UCLA faculty.



ECC engineering major Jesse Villalobos participated in the UCLA STEM program.





EL CAMINO COLLEGE

# Grand Opening

EL CAMINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION

...Supporting the Mission



GRAND OPENING

GRAND OPENING

*"I have a goal to work in sustainable architecture and I know that learning my craft in such modernized facilities will lead the way to a successful and engaging career. In this building, my future – and the future of many others – will be made." – Lorena Montes, architecture major*





# GRAND OPENING:

## *Two New Academic Buildings at El Camino College*

Recent grand openings celebrated the completion of two new academic buildings at El Camino College. The Center for Applied Technology (CAT) and the Industry Technology Education Center (ITEC) opened for tours and demonstrations to hundreds of students, employees, and visitors.

The CAT building is a 44,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art learning center offering modern learning facilities for students, including exterior-covered areas and vehicle/equipment yards, paint spray booths, and state-of-the-art welding equipment. The new facility houses the college's welding technology, automotive collision repair and painting, automotive technology, and air conditioning and refrigeration programs.

The 105,090-square-foot ITEC is a completely renovated space, featuring 70 classrooms and 24 labs that provide access to 209 new computers, training equipment, and tool rooms for drafting, fashion, and cosmetology programs. Administration of justice, architecture, automation robotics and manufacturing, engineering technology, fire technology, emergency medical technology (EMT), electronics and computer hardware technology, and the observatory are also located in the ITEC building.

The \$29.9 million Center for Applied Technology and \$38.3 million Industry Technology Education Center were made possible with funds from the 2002 Measure E facilities bond.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## High School Students Soar in College Experience

South Bay and Centinela Valley high school students took an in-depth look into STEM fields this past summer during a collaborative four-week STEM Young Scholars Summer Program. ECC and the California State University, Dominguez Hills TRIO Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS) Program organized the program.

The free summer program gave students a chance to discover careers in fields such as biology, engineering, computer science, and math they previously might not have considered. Students participated in activities and hands-on workshops that included classroom competitions and heard from speakers in STEM fields.

This year's collaborative venture with the CSU Dominguez Hills program reached an unprecedented number of students and was extremely successful in showing students the many possibilities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



# ECC Grad Establishes Scholarship for Student Nurses



Russ Noel visits with student nurses Tanisha McLean and Carmen Rubio, recipients of the Noreen Noel Memorial Scholarship he established through the ECC Foundation.

## *Alumni giving is critical to the success of El Camino College students*

Russ Noel visited Manhattan Beach after his time in the service and decided to leave his rural Indiana hometown for good. Best decision of his life, he says.

It was actually one of many great decisions.

The next best decision was enrolling at El Camino College, where he took night classes and earned an associate degree in industrial psychology while working full time as a machinist. Soon after, he met student nurse Noreen Sanders. Another great decision followed, as he married Noreen in the summer of 1967.

"El Camino College has been an important part of our lives for many years," said Russ. "The community college system is one of the best educational values in the state. Especially the nursing program – students can finish their associate degree and then go to work or go on for a bachelor's degree. There are good choices."

In 2013 Russ and his family established the Noreen Noel Memorial Scholarship in honor of his beloved wife, who passed away a few years ago. Each year a deserving student nurse is awarded \$3,000, which is renewable for \$4,000 the second year. The generous scholarship covers all fees, books, uniforms and other supplies.

"My family and I wanted to directly help students who need it," said Russ, whose two children help with selecting the scholarship recipient. "So many people in the South Bay are connected to El Camino College and all donations go a long way to help deserving students who are short on funds."

To help make a difference in the life of an El Camino College student, contact the El Camino College Foundation at [www.elcamino.edu/foundation/](http://www.elcamino.edu/foundation/).



## Chromebooks in the Classroom

The ECC Foundation recently funded a Chromebook computer pilot project for two English classes led by Professor Pete Marcoux. More than 60 students will read and write in the digital world via Chromebooks installed with "Connect," McGraw Hill's digital textbook that students will use in class and at home instead of using a traditional textbook. Chromebook learning technology facilitates collaboration, instant feedback, access to information, and prepares students to read and write for future classwork and careers.



## The Golden Shoe Shortstop

Former ECC shortstop Tori Garcia recently was awarded the National Fastpitch

Coaches Association 2015 NFCA Golden Shoe award for her outstanding base stealing skills. Tori transferred to the University of Hawaii at Hilo on a softball scholarship this past fall.

## ECC Students Perform in Carnegie Hall

ECC students traveled to New York last summer and performed in the renowned Carnegie Hall. Chorale Director Joanna Medawar Nachev made her fifth conducting appearance at the famed music hall and led 55 El Camino College students among 150 singers from California and 100 singers from Lebanon to perform on the main stage.



## Return to Learn! Career Training for "Plus 50" Adults

As the economy continues to recover, enrolling in one of ECC Community Education's job training programs can help students prepare for a new career and increase their earning potential. Through the ECC Plus 50 Encore Completion Program, adults age 50 and older can head back to school to gain additional training, learn new skills, and complete degrees or certificates in health care, education, or social services fields. Go to [eccommunityed.com](http://eccommunityed.com) to enroll.

## Geology Students are Rock Stars!



Several ECC geology students recently gave presentations to the South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society, which funds three Wally Ford Scholarships, awarded every year to geology majors who have exemplary grades in earth science courses. The students shared information about geological travel destinations they have visited in the past year, including the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Devils Postpile.



## Empowering the Next Generation in STEM

Area fifth through ninth-grade students came to ECC for a STEM Conference this fall, where they participated in hands-on activities and seminars, while learning about college and career opportunities in STEM fields. The conference was sponsored by the El Camino College STEM program and Upper Hand to College.

## ECC Professor Tim Muckey Receives 2015 Leadership Award



ECC professor Tim Muckey received the 2015 Leadership Award at the Green California Schools and Colleges conference, honoring his work in inspiring students to pursue environmental studies.





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## Four Steps at El Camino College!

# APPLY - PREPARE - TEST - PLAN

All new students qualify for early registration if you complete  
the four Steps to Enroll by March 31, 2016.

**APPLY** – New students must complete an application.

**PREPARE** – All new students must participate in an orientation session.

**TEST** – Assessment testing must be completed prior to registering for classes.

**PLAN** – Students must meet with a counselor prior to registration to develop an education plan.

For more information on the Steps to Enroll, visit:  
[www.elcamino.edu/starthere](http://www.elcamino.edu/starthere)

Summer and fall 2016  
applications accepted  
online now!

### Contact Us:

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