



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

**April 16, 2007**

**El Camino College to Sponsor Faculty Conference Featuring  
Renowned UCLA researchers Alexander and Helen Astin**

El Camino College will sponsor a conference geared toward faculty set for 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 4 on campus in the East Dining Room. El Camino College faculty and colleagues from other institutions plan to attend.

This year's conference theme is "Holistic Approaches to Teaching and Learning – Academics and Beyond: Models for Success."

Keynote speakers include renowned UCLA researchers Alexander and Helen Astin. Their latest research is on "Spirituality in Higher Education: A National Study of College Students' Search for Meaning and Purpose." The Astins will discuss their findings regarding the level and intensity of spiritual experiences among today's college students and how spiritual searching and behavior is changing on campus.

The conference will also serve to showcase successful teaching and learning models based on a holistic approach to academics. Breakout workshops will highlight the foundation of successful retention efforts, such as service learning, first year experience & learning communities, cohort collaborations, careers in technology education strategies, supplemental instruction and more.

This event is part of the "Celebrating Diversity: A Key to the 21st Century" conference series inspired by the Title V – Hispanic Serving Institution grant secured in 2002 by the El Camino College First Year Experience Program.

The conference series has addressed innovative teaching and learning strategies over the years. In addition, these events have provided academic and student affairs faculty and staff a forum in which to discuss and exchange ideas on current issues and practical solutions to improving educational opportunities for students. This joint effort between academic and student affairs creates a culture of sharing, partnership, and student success for the El Camino College community.

Sponsors include: El Camino College's First Year Experience/Learning Communities Program, Humanities Department, Workforce Education and Careers in Technology Program, El Camino College Staff Development Office, and the Staff Diversity Office.

For more information about this event, contact First Year Experience at 310-660- 6936. Reservations are required to attend.

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