

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Dr. Thomas Fallo, Dr. Francisco Arce, Dr. Jean Shankweiler

From: Darrell Thompson, Honors Transfer Program Co-Director
Joseph Holliday, Honors Transfer Program Co-Director

Date: June 10, 2011

Subject: Annual Report for 2010-2011 Academic Year

General Information

I. Personnel

Administrators: Dr. Jean Shankweiler, Dean of Natural Science
Co-Director: Darrell Thompson, Professor of English
Joseph Holliday, Professor of Science
Secretary: Susan McLeod
Advisory Council: Darrell Thompson (Director), Jean Shankweiler (Dean), Sue Oda-Omori (Counseling), Kelsey Ino (Counseling) Angela Simon and Eduardo Munoz (BSS Div.), Connie Fitzsimons and Lucy Alamillo (Fine Arts), Tom Cody and Sue Bachmann (Humanities), Nancy Freeman (NS Div.)

II. Program Purpose. The Honors Transfer Program is the main program at El Camino College designed to assist the highly motivated students who are preparing to transfer to the most academically rigorous universities. Many of these students are first-generation college students, and a significant portion of them are from minority and disadvantaged populations, which provides the UCs and private universities much of the diversity that they seek. A sampling of 2011 completions forms shows the following:

Ethnicity	Percent of Program
American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	29
African-American	4
Caucasian	25
Chicano/Latino	19
Filipino	7
Other	7
Decline to state	8

III. HTP Requirements. To be eligible for the Honors Transfer Program a student must have a minimum 3.1 GPA, write a two-page essay, and be eligible for English 1A. To continue in HTP a student must maintain the minimum 3.1 GPA, take an HTP-designated course every semester, and attend a seminar every semester. To complete the HTP

program a student must finish with 3.1 GPA or better, complete five HTP-designated courses, attend four HTP seminars, and have two counseling appointments.

IV. Honors Courses. The HTP has a wide variety of courses, all of which are UC-transferable. The courses are in four divisions and are offered during both semesters, as well as summer and winter sessions. The HTP-designated courses offered are Anthropology 1 and 2, Art 6, Astronomy 20, Biology 10, Economics 1, Geography 5, History 101, 102 and 122, Music 12, Oceanography 10, Philosophy 23, Political Science 1, Political Science 10, Psychology 5, Sociology 101, Communication Studies 3, 4 and 12, and English 1A, 1B, and 1C. The courses that get HTP credit are Biology 101 and 12, Chemistry 1A and 1B, Physics 1A and 1B, Math 190 and 191, and Computer Science 1. Health will be added next year, as will another Art class.

CLASS	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
Anthropology 1	X		X	
Anthropology 2			X	
Art 6	X		X	
Astronomy 20			X	
Astronomy 25	X			
Biology 10	X		X	
Comm Studies 4	X	X		X
Comm Studies 12			X	
Contemp Health 1	X			
English 1A	X			
English 1B	X		X	
English 1C	X	X	X	X
Film/Video 1			X	
Geography 5	X		X	
History 101	X		X	
History 102	X		X	X
History 122	X	X		
Music 12	X		X	
Oceanography 10	X		X	
Philosophy 23	X		X	
Political Science 1	X	X	X	
Political Science 10	X		X	
Psychology 3	X		X	
Psychology 5	X		X	X
Sociology 101	X		X	
Spanish 1	X		X	

V. Membership and Completion. While exact numbers are fluid, the Honors Transfer Program currently has about 500 students. We had about 183 completers this year and have welcomed about the same number. About 120 new students from high school have joined, while the remainder is made up of students who have been at El Camino but are just joining HTP. 125 students transfer from the program every year, with at least 50% transferring to UCLA. For example, of the 180 or so transferring in 2011, 113 are going to UCLA. A significant portion will also be transferring to Berkeley as well as the other UCs and private colleges. Some will also be going to the CSU system.

	Admitted	Completed HTP	TAP Certified
2009 - 2010	331	160	130
2010 - 2011	317	159	114

Honors Transfer Program Update and Statistics

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Honors Transfer Program (HTP) maintained most of the growth in both quality and quantity that it achieved the prior year. It is still considered by the Honors Transfer Council of California one of the best honors programs in the state, and a role model for honors programs at other colleges, especially those of similar size and demographics.

I. Growth of the Honors Transfer Program. During the last few years, the HTP has grown from a consistent 300 students to about 500 where it has held steady for two years. This program will more than likely remain this size, if not grow a bit, as more students consider community college a necessary option before going to a four-year school. This level of participation makes our HTP larger and stronger than the average Honors program.

II. Sustaining transfers to universities. We have a special agreement with UCLA called the Transfer Alliance Program. The number of students who applied to UCLA and were TAP certified held steady this year. Thus, despite a significant increase in the number and caliber of students applying from all over the state and country, we maintained our competitive transfer rates. The ever-increasing pool of applicants from the expanding number of participating community colleges explains our dip in transfer rates year over year, but El Camino HTP is still in the top two or three schools of our size and demographics for transfer. This has been the case for many years now.

Year	Applied	Admitted
2008 -2009	121	103
2009 – 2010	127	96
2010-2011	114	86

The high quality of the program is due to several factors. We have a tireless secretary, Susan McLeod, who handles the numerous responsibilities necessary to keep the program moving smoothly. We also are aided by Rene Lozano, Sue Oda-Omori, and Kelsy Ino, three effective transfer counselors who split time to counsel HTP students. Additionally,

workshops throughout the year were held (again, often by the aforementioned) on various topics pertaining to transfer, such as UC application tips, writing personal statements, and the appeals process.

Sample Fall 2010 HTP Seminar Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Place	Speaker/Topic
Thursday Sept. 16	1:00-1:50pm	MCS 100A (math building)	Alpha Gamma Sigma and Campus Clubs Jeannine Barba, Clubs Advisor; and club members
Thursday Sept. 23	1:00-1:50pm	MCS 100A (math building)	Strategies for Admission to UC for students transferring fall 2011 (includes TAP and TAG) Rene Lozano, Transfer Counselor
Wednesday Oct. 6	1:00-1:50pm	SSVC 218A (testing office)	Scholarships: How to Find the Right Ones Abetta McQueen, Financial Aid Advisor
Wednesday Oct. 13	1:00-1:50pm	MCS 100A (math building)	True Colors: Success in College and Career Ken Gaines, Counselor
Thursday Oct. 14	1:00-1:50pm	Distance Education Center, Library	Transferring as a Business Major: Increase your Chances of Admission Lisa Raufman, Counselor
Thursday Oct. 21	1:00-1:50pm	MCS 100A (math building)	Strategies for Admission to CSU Rene Lozano, Transfer Counselor
Friday Oct. 22	8:00-1:30pm	Campus Theatre Attend any workshop(s), get <u>one</u> seminar credit.	Transfer Center Conference: Starting the Transfer Process, Choosing a University, Admissions Panels, Financing, etc.
Thursday Oct. 28	1:00-1:50pm	MCS 100A (math building)	Strategies for Admission to California Private Universities or Out-of-State Institutions Rene Lozano, Transfer Counselor
Tuesday Nov. 2	1:00-1:50pm	MCS 100A (math building)	For Science/Math Majors: Completing the HTP, Using the Benefits of STEM Joe Holliday, HTP co-director Ken Key, counselor
Thursday Nov. 4	1:00-1:50pm	Library 102	Preparing to Use University Library Resources ECC Librarians: Vince Robles, Claudia Striepe, Ed Martinez, and Moon Ichinaga
Thursday Nov. 11	1:00-1:50pm	MCS 100A (math building)	UC Transfer Basics for Freshmen Rene Lozano, Transfer Counselor
Tuesday Nov. 16	1:00-1:50pm	SSVC 218A (testing office)	Applying for Financial Aid Abetta McQueen, Financial Aid Advisor
Friday Nov. 19	7:30am– 5:30pm Must sign up in Transfer Center!	UCLA Get seminar credit <u>only</u> if you ride the ECC bus.	TAP (Transfer Alliance Program) Conference Sign up in the Transfer Center about a month before the event. Phone (310) 660-3593 x 3408 for details.

III: Increased opportunities for Honors Transfer Program students. The quality of the HTP has also increased during the past year by offering students increased opportunities for other aspects of their academic careers. In particular, we have been promoting the student research conferences. This year ECC sent 20 presenters to the statewide Honors Student Research Conference sponsored by the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC), which is held at UC Irvine every spring. Students gave very sophisticated oral presentations and/or poster presentations during this all-day symposium representing El Camino in a professional and academic way. Three students won awards. A poster presentation from science students merited first place and earned them both financial awards, while another received the prestigious Directors' Award which came with a scholarship. Thankfully, the registration fee for the students was paid for by the ASB this year. .

The Honors Transfer Club has continued its activity during the past year. This club gives honors students an opportunity to accomplish goals that enrich their academic lives. For instance, they published the HTP newsletters, sold HTP T-shirts, and organized various service learning opportunities. This year in particular they had a clothing drive which supplied about 30 boxes of clothing to some very needy groups.

Finally, The Honors Transfer Program has transfer agreements, through the Honors Transfer Council of California, with several academically rigorous universities. HTP students are all eligible for the UCLA Transfer Alliance Program. We also have agreements with UC Irvine, UC Riverside, and UC Santa Cruz, as well as admission consideration to UC Berkeley. Other universities include CSULB, CSUF, SDSU, Chapman University, La Sierra University, Pitzer College, Occidental College, Pomona College, Azusa Pacific University, and Whitman College. Cal Poly Pomona, Loyola Marymount University, and Mills College also have agreements with HTCC.

Accomplished Goals of 2010-2011 Academic Year

During the past academic year, the HTP has strived to accomplish everything that the HTP Advisory Council has talked about over the years. We believe that all of the goals not related to inadequate staffing have been accomplished. We have continued successfully with the co-director system established last year. The HTP has been adding and subtracting classes depending on the needs of the students and the teacher evaluations, both of which we carefully track.

The HTP has continued to offer winter-session courses (five in winter of 2011 but anticipating three in 2011 due to budget restrictions). Winter session is particularly important for sophomores who are trying to finish the HTP in one year. This summer session the HTP has again offered several courses. HTP students genuinely appreciate the summer option as they try to finish their five-course requirement before transfer.

The HTP has continued to work closely with Robin Dreizler and Julietta Ortiz in the office of Outreach and School Relations, to have student ambassadors visit high schools for the HTP, since the limited budget (only a few hours per week) of our outreach counselor was also cut. These student ambassadors, the HTP director, and Julietta Ortiz

have been to many of the local high schools to recruit new students to the HTP program. In an effort to continue the expanding diversity of the program, the director again went to Hawthorne High. Moreover, we have increased our exposure with the FYE students. Consequently, an increasing portion of the FYE population is taking part in HTP.

The directors have also continued to regularly attend the Honors Transfer Council of California's meetings and have contributed to many of their efforts: cultivating relationships with a local CSU, working the major student research conferences, and working closely with the UCLA TAP program.

Future Goals and Current Issues

During the coming academic year the HTP will continue to operate for the benefit of the students. The HTP will continue to offer a high-quality environment for the honors students, even with funding challenges. The recent cooperation with the transfer counselor is expected to continue as long as the funding for support staff and director is sustained. The HTP directors will continue to communicate with the HTP Advisory Council as the HTP works with the dean, Dr. Jean Shankweiler of Natural Sciences Division.

We also piloted this year a "Student/Parent Orientation" which was very successful. About 75 incoming freshmen showed up and were privy to important information given by the counselors to help them move through the system and transfer successfully. During a special counseling session the following night, the transfer counselors were inundated with visits from those freshmen wanting to get on track. We will continue this next year and likely improve upon it.

Another challenge erupted this year when HTP designated courses for fall 11 were filling up with non-honors student before freshmen even had a chance to register. We strategized and have a few plans to explore so that this will not happen next year when registration begins for fall 12. Dr. Nishime's idea of "capping" HTP classes for a portion of the registration period is a likely strategy.

As maintaining adequate funding is a perennial issue for us, we have made overtures to the ASB asking them to budget a yearly amount to pay for the students who register for the HTCC conference each spring. This will guarantee that we can continue to be adequately represented at this very prestigious event. We have not heard their ruling yet, but we remain hopeful.

The biggest issue facing the HTP is the lack of permanent funding for clerical help (secretary). Although the program is getting by with part-time secretary Susan McLeod, the 170-day limit on temporary employees is the single worst problem facing the HTP. As a result, we have nobody available for the students during large portions of January and June when students are still taking classes. During the past several years, there has been no progress toward solving this chronic problem. The budget crisis during these tough years is surely exacerbating this problem, with dire consequences of any more reduced funding for clerical help. Starting July of 2011, the secretary will again,

thankfully be allowed to work a limited schedule, but we certainly hope that the future offers a more certain and secure position.

The other budgetary and administrative limitation facing the HTP is the need to increase the HTP director release time back to the 80 percent level it was during the 1990s. Given the 50 percent increase in HTP students during the last few years, the workload has increased proportionally. The current 60 percent release time is inadequate and has made finding a replacement director very difficult. This is particularly noticeable when compared to the other two large honors programs in the state. Santa Monica College has equivalent to 250 percent release time for their director and counselors, whereas Mt. SAC has 150 percent. If El Camino College wants to sustain the quality, quantity, and integrity of the program, it must commit more resources to the program. The mostly-full-time HTP students will stop attending El Camino in such numbers if the program does not remain competitive with nearby Honors programs such as Santa Monica College. Most importantly, it is imperative that the current release time for the director not be reduced this year, even in the face of unprecedented budget cuts.

cc: Dr. Jeanie Nishime
Dr. Regina Smith