

SSTARS Chronicle

Student Success Transfer & Retention Services

THE PURPOSE OF SSTARS

The Student Success Transfer and Retention Services (SSTARS) committee evolved from the Counseling and Student Services Division in Spring 2003. A focus group formed a committee that would support the collaboration, communication, and development of services for student success, transfer and retention. SSTARS was created and continues to support the mission of El Camino College.



SIXTH ANNUAL GALAXY OF THE STARS BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

The Sixth Annual Galaxy of the Stars Breakfast Fundraiser took place March 2 at El Camino College. This year's event was a huge success and raised \$6,961 for SSTARS grants and other student support needs. SSTARS would like to thank those programs and individuals whose generosity and support helped to make this event a success.

This year we were excited to honor E. Elaine Moore. Moore is one of the founders of the Project Success program at El Camino College and has served as the program coordinator for 20 years. Project Success is a recruitment, retention and graduation support program, which targets African American students but is open to all. Currently she teaches in the program, and serves as a mentor and as an adviser on the Steering Committee. Moore has been an academic and career counselor for nearly 31 years at El Camino College.

Moore also holds the position of Vice Chair for Educational Partnerships on the Umoja Community Executive Board. The Umoja Community is a collaboration of 25 community colleges that support underrepresented students, similar to Project Success.



Moore recently developed Transfer Admissions Guarantee Agreements between El Camino College and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). These agreements, the first ever created between HBCUs and California Community Colleges, will allow for the easy and seamless transfer of community college students.

Last spring, Moore was honored with the John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award for her work at El Camino College. This award, named after Condoleezza Rice's father, was presented at the Board of Governors meeting in Sacramento.

2012 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

In addition to serving as a fundraiser, the SSTARS Breakfast also recognizes students who were involved with a SSTARS program during their studies at El Camino College. These students are forever inducted into the SSTARS Hall of Fame as recognition of their academic dedication and success.

DAVID PORTILLO

David Portillo is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in international development studies at UCLA. David serves as a peer mentor, motivating students to pursue their dreams of transferring to a competitive university like UCLA. He works for the Center for Community College Partnerships at UCLA and comes to El Camino College once a week to meet with students. He has connected with many special programs and instructors in his efforts to reach out to students. David is the perfect role model, showing students that they can make it to competitive universities.

MARIA GUTIERREZ

Maria Gutierrez is a first-generation, adult reentry student who has encountered many challenges throughout her academic journey. Despite her many challenges, Maria maintained a GPA above a 3.0. She received an associate of arts degree in general studies, an associate of science degree in transfer studies, and transferred to CSU Dominguez Hills. While attending El Camino College, Maria participated in the Puente Program, EOP&S, and New Student Welcome Day.

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.elcamino.edu/studentservices/co/sstars.asp

SSTARS 2012 RECOGNITION GRANT WINNERS

Each year SSTARS is able to award grants to students who have been nominated based on their academic achievement and dedication, and financial need. Students must submit the completed Recognition Grant application by the deadline. All applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of SSTARS members. Six students are selected to receive awards. Two \$500 awards are given to students who will transfer to a university in fall 2012. Four \$250 awards are given to students who will continue their education at El Camino College in fall 2012.

Eligibility for the grant requires that the applicant has completed 12 or more units at El Camino College; have a minimum 2.4 grade point average; be currently enrolled at least half-time at El Camino College; and have benefited from at least one of the SSTARS programs. Forty-six students applied for the grant. SSTARS is pleased to announce the 2012 Recognition Grant winners.

CONTINUING STUDENTS - \$250 GRANT

Karin Baluyot
Chinaza Ezeani
Annie Gonzalez
Srey-Leth Vuth

TRANSFER STUDENTS - \$500 GRANT

Aminah Jackson
Tasha Harris

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rutina Taylor
310-660-3593 x 3257
rataylor@elcamino.edu
Toll Free: 1-866-ELCAMINO
www.elcamino.edu

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

ROSE GLADSON

SSTARS would like to recognize ECC student Rose Gladson for her hard work and dedication to the SSTARS program. Rose is an active member in the SSTARS program and single handedly raised more than \$500 for the Sixth Annual SSTARS Breakfast. Rose's educational goal is to major in communications and transfer to CSU Long Beach, CSU Dominguez Hills, Arizona State University, or Northern Arizona University. The SSTARS program would like to extend our appreciation to Rose for all of her efforts. Thank you Rose, you are a shining SSTAR.

SSTARS HALL OF FAME HONORABLE MENTION

KIMBERLY HARRY

While a student at El Camino College, Kimberly was very active in MESA, Transfer Club, Alpha Gamma Sigma, STEM, and the Women in Technology Program (WIT). Kimberly transferred to Cal Poly Pomona where she is completing her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Her future plans include continuing her education to attain a master's degree and doctorate. As an El Camino College alumna, Kimberly continues to serve as a WIT mentor.

JOE UDEOCHU

While attending El Camino College, Joe took advantage of programs such as Project Success, MESA, Honors Transfer Program, as well as served as president of the African Club. Joe also volunteered as a math tutor. He earned an associate degree in general studies and another in biology from El Camino College. Joe is currently a senior at UCLA where he has maintained a 3.7 grade point average. His goal is to work in AIDS research.