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*Building Partnerships Together*

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SUPPORT

## *2018 Address*

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Superintendent/President*



*Where you belong. Where you succeed.*

It's an exciting and challenging time in higher education, across the country and here in California. Colleges and universities are serving an increasingly diverse population. Dramatic shifts are happening in the way we deliver courses to those students. Curricula must be constantly updated and refined to match the needs of emerging and evolving industries. And, financial resources must be carefully managed to ensure we put student success first.

We experience all of these challenges here at El Camino College. And yet, as we know, challenges are opportunities for an organization to grow, improve, and expand its reach. At El Camino, we choose to seek out and take advantage of every opportunity. For that reason, the State of the College is strong.

## El Camino's Mission

Our mission at El Camino College is to make a positive difference in people's lives. We're dedicated to achieving that mission and to ensuring that everyone who wishes to pursue higher education and earn a degree or certificate can accomplish that goal. Our message to every student is that El Camino is where you belong and where you succeed.

We're also a trusted partner in the South Bay, working hand-in-hand with community and business leaders like you to align our programs with the needs of the workforce, both now and in the

future. Like you, El Camino College is fully invested in the economic vitality of the South Bay, because this region is growing and there are jobs that need to be filled. Data released at last month's South Bay Economic Forecast event at Cal State Dominguez Hills help tell the story.

of career and technical education programs known as "Strong Workforce Stars." I'll also tell you about some of the grants we've been awarded recently to prepare students for future careers in STEM—short for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math—as well as other disciplines. Then we'll explore

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From July 2017 to July of this year, the aerospace sector added 2,000 jobs, an increase of 5.5 percent. The computer and electronics products sector grew 2.4 percent, with an increase of 1,000 jobs. Those who fill these positions can expect to be paid well. Salaries in the professional, scientific, and technical services segment of the South Bay's high-tech sector average \$105,000.

These industries—the industries you represent—require educated, highly qualified employees. At El Camino College, we're helping to fill this talent pipeline. Today, I want to give you an inside look at how we do that.

First, you'll see how El Camino College is performing in a statewide ranking

how El Camino is modernizing its campus facilities to achieve positive learning outcomes for its students. I'll share an exciting example of how El Camino College is working with industry to develop in-demand programs, certificates, and specialized training partnerships. Finally, we'll look at how you can tap into El Camino College's deep reservoir of student talent to address your workforce needs now and in the future.

## Strong Workforce Stars

The Strong Workforce Program is an annual investment of \$200 million to spur career and technical education, or CTE, in the California Community College system. Each year, the program recognizes "Strong Workforce Stars"—colleges that offer CTE programs with three strong post-college outcomes: employment, earnings gains, and regional living wages.

There are three types of recognition: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. In a Bronze star program, graduates meet a high bar in one of those outcomes. Graduates in a Silver star program demonstrate strong outcomes in two of those categories. And in a Gold star program, graduates achieve strong outcomes in all three.





It's important to note: the "Strong Workforce Stars" recognize the academic programs that are preparing students to enter sectors of the economy where the need for a talented workforce is greatest. Fields like healthcare, aerospace, and technology—all industries that are vital to the South Bay economy. In fact, from 2016 through 2021, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation anticipates that healthcare will be one of the most in-demand professions in LA County, with more than 27,000 new jobs expected to be created over that five-year span.

So with that in mind, here's how El Camino College performed in 2018. As you can see, nine of our programs earned Bronze stars, including some of our most popular offerings like Administration of Justice, Fire and Emergency Technology, and Respiratory Care. Six programs received the Silver star designation, including our well-regarded programs in Cosmetology, Fire Academy and Paramedic, and Nursing.

As you may know, El Camino's Nursing program is vitally important to our community. If you've received care at a hospital or medical office in the South Bay, there's a good chance you were

first-time testers from El Camino's nursing program had a 100-percent pass rate.

And finally, our Radiologic Technology program earned the prestigious Gold star rating. In awarding the Gold star, Strong Workforce noted that El Camino's Rad-Tech faculty are focused on student success, visiting their students' clinical sites each week and keeping their eyes open for employment opportunities.

Our Rad-Tech program places students on a direct career path after spending about 2,000 hours in a clinical internship, along with 500 hours of classroom preparation throughout their training. This is just one example of the hands-on, real world learning that students experience at El Camino College. It's the kind of learning that prepares them to enter the workforce ready to make a positive impact.

## Grants & Partnerships

El Camino College actively pursues funding and grant partnership opportunities with local, state, and federal agencies. Several of the grants we've been awarded recently will help us establish programs that prepare



aerospace manufacturing—a critically important industry here in the South Bay. El Camino was one of 11 colleges statewide chosen to participate in this program, which targets priority and emerging industry sectors where apprenticeship training doesn't currently exist.

This award will allow El Camino to develop an aerospace technician apprenticeship program, designed to help employers sponsor apprentices. The goal is to create a long-term apprenticeship program approved by the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards. We'll be working with several local partners, including L-3 Technologies, Northrop Grumman, and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board.

Another of our grant partners is the California Employment Training Panel, a program that employers like you help to fund. Institutions like El Camino can then access these funds to provide you with training at essentially no cost. The Employment Training Panel recognizes the manufacturing and aerospace industries are evolving at a rapid pace.

These industries must recruit and retain highly skilled technical employees and provide them with the continuous skills upgrades essential to maintaining competitiveness. To help close the skill gaps that exist in these companies, El Camino is collaborating with the Employment Training Panel to provide training for a diverse range

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attended to by a nurse trained at El Camino—and you were in good hands. Here's one example why: in a recent round of testing by the National Council Licensure Examination—the nationwide exam for the licensing of nurses—the

students for future employment in STEM fields and other sectors of the economy.

For example, the California Apprenticeship Initiative awarded \$500,000 to El Camino College this summer as part of a project emphasizing

of occupations, including machinists, administrative support, quality control, and developers and programmers. The total grant award for this project: almost \$950,000.

Another area of considerable need in the workforce is computer science, as some of you can probably attest. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that by the year 2024, there will be over 1.3 million jobs in software development, representing a growth of 17-percent—much faster than the average for all occupations. The Bureau also projects that computing will make up 76-percent of STEM jobs.

To address that growing demand, El Camino's computer science program has expanded as well. In the last four years alone, the number of full-time computer science faculty has grown by 400-percent, from one to now five professors. Our class offerings have also greatly increased, from just 15 in 2014 to 50 this year.



And there's even more support on the way. We're excited to announce that El Camino College will be only the second community college in the state and the first in Southern California to partner with the California State University system in creating a computer science degree with a workforce experience component. The National Science Foundation is funding the design of this unique, student-centered program in computer science.

El Camino joins CSU Monterey Bay and Hartnell College in Northern California, along with CSU Dominguez Hills here in the South Bay, to replicate a successful pilot of a cohort model, four-year computer science bachelor's degree pathway from the community college

to the university level. Over the next five years, this program will support 240 high-achieving, financial aid-eligible students who are working toward bachelor's

quality training and education for the most vital and growing sectors of our economy. And as you've seen, much of that education centers on the STEM

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degrees in computer science. For our role in this project, the NSF awarded El Camino College just over \$1 million.

Dr. Jackie Sims is the Dean of El Camino's Mathematical Sciences Division, where our computer science program resides. She's leading this project and describes the new degree program as a “win” for everyone. It's a win for students because they have a clear path to achieving their educational and career goals, before they even arrive on campus. It's a win for all of you in the business community, as this project will develop local talent and provide your future employees with high-quality education and internship experiences.

fields. In fact, our STEM program, with its accompanying MESA program—that's Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement—is one of the largest and most comprehensive in California. Our program went from serving 120 students in 2002 to nearly 800 students last year.

The MESA-STEM Program has grown from helping 20 students transfer per year to 120 per year today. Overall, MESA-STEM has helped over 1,100 students transfer to four-year institutions since the program began. This fall, more than a hundred of El Camino's MESA-STEM students transferred to renowned institutions like UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Irvine, Cal Poly Pomona and Cal State Long Beach.

## STEM Education

Clearly, a primary focus for us at El Camino College is providing top-

We know that where a student learns is integral to what and how they learn. That's why we provide state-of-the-art instructional facilities like those





found in our Math, Business and Health Sciences Building, prominently visible from Crenshaw Boulevard. Walk into one of the skills and simulation labs used by our Rad-Tech, Respiratory Therapy and Nursing students, and you'll feel like you're inside a real hospital. That's by design. El Camino College students leave this campus ready to work because they've been educated in real-world settings that mirror the workforce.

## Campus Transformation

The El Camino campus is in the midst of a major, multi-year physical transformation, thanks to the voters in our community and the bond measures they passed in 2002 and 2012. To address changing needs, aging facilities, and new technologies, several key structures on campus are either being retrofitted or replaced. Here's a quick overview of the work currently underway.

The new **Student Services Center**, just to the north of us on Manhattan Beach



Boulevard, will open in spring 2019. This comprehensive facility will replace the existing Student Services Center, built in the 1940s.



The new **Gymnasium**, south of Murdock Stadium, is set to open in February 2019 and will house two full instructional and athletic competition areas for basketball, volleyball, and badminton. This project replaces the old North and South gyms.



The new **Administration Building**, under construction on the same spot occupied by the previous building on Crenshaw, will open in early 2020. Construction has also started on a new Pool and Classroom Complex, which will feature two fully equipped, spectator-friendly indoor pools for instructional use and athletic competition for our swimming, diving, and water polo teams. Our new Behavioral and Social Science Building and new Arts Complex are in the design phase.

And we're vigorously pursuing a critically important project both for El Camino College and for our local community: the South Bay Public Safety Training Center. This facility, which El Camino is developing in partnership

with our South Bay public safety agencies, will support the education of El Camino's firefighting, paramedic, and law enforcement students while also addressing the ongoing training requirements of local first responders. We're still working through key details, including location, but as you've heard, the project received a significant jump-start this summer thanks to the work of Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi of Torrance. We're deeply grateful for his commitment to El Camino and for his efforts in our behalf.



Just one of these building projects on its own is an immense undertaking—and we have several under construction at once! But this ambitious plan to reimagine the El Camino College campus is ultimately not about groundbreakings, construction timelines, and grand openings. These new facilities are a means to an end. We want El Camino students to pursue their educational goals in modern facilities that are conducive to engaged learning and preparation for the workforce.

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## Preparing the Workforce

One of the most significant ways we're preparing students to successfully enter the workforce is by working with various industry sectors to develop new in-demand programs.

As an example, next fall, El Camino College will launch a new program as part of the California Cloud Workforce Project, which collaborates with Amazon Web Services and its A-W-S Educate program to offer a regionally recognized cloud-computing certificate. El Camino will be one of 19 community colleges in the Los Angeles region to join this program, which offers students access to a 15-credit certificate program that focuses on in-demand cloud computing skills.



As part of this initiative, El Camino College will also partner with area high schools to offer dual enrollment in the certificate program. There are even plans to develop an associate degree program.

Professor Khai Lu of our Computer Information Systems Department is leading this project. As a technology professional for nearly 20 years, he's well acquainted with disruptive technologies—from the commercialization of the Internet to

the rise of the smartphone. Now, cloud computing services are disrupting traditional IT infrastructures, and, in the process, are creating vast opportunities

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to transform the economic landscape across all industries.

The timing of this project couldn't be better. Cloud computing jobs utilizing Amazon Web Services have increased by almost 200 percent since 2014, with over 2,000 annual openings here in Los Angeles County. That kind of demand, Professor Lu says, makes a cloud-computing program a perfect fit for El Camino College. Our existing IT, computer science, business, and web design programs will all be enhanced by integrating cloud-managed services. And our South Bay workforce will be better for it.

After hearing everything I've shared with you, I hope one of the questions you're asking yourself is: "How can I draw from the deep well of talent at El Camino College?" It's a question we're happy to answer!

If you're looking to hire new employees, El Camino is a great place to start. You can post your open positions on our jobs database, which is accessible to El Camino students and alumni. We also

host Career Fairs on campus where you can meet face-to-face with interested students from across a variety of majors, gather resumes, and even interview.

These resources are provided by the fantastic teams in our Career Center and Student Job Placement Center. They're ready to talk with you and get you connected with El Camino students who can make a positive difference in your organization.

## Working with the Community

We've covered a lot of ground in this presentation, and I hope you've been able to catch the vision of El Camino College and the special relationship we enjoy with our partners in the community. Think about that word: community. There's a reason why institutions like El Camino are called community colleges. It's because we exist to serve the needs of the community—a diverse and vibrant community. It's because we can only fulfill our mission when we work side-by-side with our community, and that includes all of you. It's because we offer the community current and vital academic programs where engaged, real-world learning prepares students to enter our workforce.

Our productive and beneficial partnerships with you are one of El Camino's greatest strengths, so let's continue working together. As we do, I'm confident you'll find that our message to students is equally true for you: **El Camino is where you belong and where you succeed.**





**El Camino College**  
*Where you belong. Where you succeed.*

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