



NEWS

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El Camino College Geology Major Wins Prestigious National Science Foundation Scholarship; Will Transfer to University of Arizona in the Fall

Sometimes one class can change a life. After a few starts and stops in her education, Heather Conrow came back to El Camino College in 2008 because she enjoyed a geology course she took about 10 years ago. Now she is ready to graduate from El Camino College on June 8, and will transfer to the University of Arizona in Tucson this fall.

"That geology class always stuck with me," she said. "I loved it and when I decided to get serious about my education, I knew I wanted to study geology. It is so fun and I know there are a lot of career opportunities waiting for me."

While pursuing her degree, Heather participated in geology club and science club field trips, and liked that she could meet new people while exploring geology. She is looking forward to studying on the university level, and believes El Camino College has prepared her to meet challenges in the future.

"I think geology will be a fun and rewarding career," she said. "This is a good time for me to explore and figure out what I want to do. I chose geology because I really like it, and I think that people should follow their passion. I'm moving to Arizona soon – what better place is there to study geology than Arizona? I am really excited."

Heather said the academic support of the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program and financial support from scholarships were invaluable during her time at El Camino College. She won the Osher Foundation Scholarship and the prestigious National Science Foundation Achievement Scholarship in Engineering, Mathematics and Sciences, among other awards.

"The scholarships I've received are absolutely awesome," she said. "They have really helped with my books, which for me, can average up to \$600 a semester."

"And I really believe that if I did not join MESA I would not have stayed in school. At MESA, people of a similar mindset can come together for tutoring and workshops, and I discovered internships that I would have never known about. It is just an amazing program. The work is hard; I struggle sometimes, but I like the challenge."

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