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**For Immediate Release**

**April 16, 2013**

## **El Camino College to Award a Record-Breaking \$1.4 Million in Student Scholarships**

Shelby Bradley joined the El Camino College nursing program this year and is excited to get to the next level of courses. She caught a glimpse of her future studies during a tour of the new simulation lab in action – housed in the brand new, state-of-the-art Math Business Allied Health Building, which opened this spring.

“In the sim lab, third semester students were working with mannequins that breathe and blink and instructors were behind the scenes altering the heart rate and blood pressure so students could respond to each situation,” said Bradley, a graduate of Redondo Union High School. “It was amazing; I can’t wait to do that.”

As a nursing student, Bradley was awarded a \$1,000 Francis Ford Scholarship for Nursing. She is one of the outstanding students who will be honored at the annual El Camino College Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception April 18 at Marsee Auditorium. A record-breaking \$1.4 million will be awarded to approximately 650 students for the 2013-2014 academic year.

“This scholarship comes at a great time – I really need the help,” she said. “All I can do is thank Francis Ford. What a blessing that she would care about students and education in this way. With this scholarship I can pay for my education and focus on school.”

A record number of students applied for scholarships this year using the online system, showing a 33 percent increase from last year.

“It is an honor to celebrate student success at the Scholarship Awards Ceremony,” said El Camino College President Thomas Fallo. “This is one of the most anticipated events of the academic year and we are proud of our student success stories. We congratulate our students and thank the donors and supporters who made these scholarships possible.”

New to the scholarship program this year is a \$2.6 million federal grant supporting nursing scholarships. Nursing students at ECC and ECC Compton Center may receive up to \$15,000 (based upon unmet need) per year, which enables them to reduce their work schedules, or in some cases, quit working and turn their attention to coursework.

In addition, the high school scholarship program continues to grow. This year, 32 incoming students will be awarded scholarships of \$1,000 per year, for two years. This amount, coupled

with the second year of the two-year awards, brings the high school scholarship program's annual total to about \$65,000. The Osher Scholarship Endowment fund will also provide \$139,000, awarding 139 deserving ECC students \$1,000 scholarships this year.

Elijah J. Chandler received the \$1,000 Wallace and Jeanne Jones Scholarship. Though he admits that he wasn't the greatest high school student, he found the inspiration and support at El Camino College to succeed. He is majoring in psychology, with a 3.6 grade point average, and is about ready to transfer and continue his studies at a four-year university.

"I got caught up in the high school life and did not have mentors to show me the way so I did not do so well," said Chandler, who works full time while attending classes. "Once I became an adult I realized I could make my own path. I started getting A's and I liked it. So I decided to keep going.

"This scholarship means another step toward what I need to do. With the extra income, that means I can work less and have more time to study and help others. I would like to change the world and help people find a better future. Eventually I want to get to the point where I am influential in my work – not just pursuing a career."

For more information about the El Camino College Scholarship Program, contact the El Camino College Foundation at [www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation](http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/foundation) or call 310-660-3683.

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