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El Camino College Names Francis Bernard Rang and Linda Detwiler Burner 2014 Distinguished Faculty and Staff

El Camino College professor Francis Bernard Rang (faculty) and ITS user support technician Linda Detwiler Burner (staff) were recently honored at a reception for their dedication to students, the college, and colleagues.

The honorees for the 2014 El Camino College Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award were recognized at the 17th Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day, a reception designed to thank all members of the campus community for their commitment to the college and its educational mission.

Francis Bernard (Bernie) Rang is a longtime Spanish professor who has taught all levels of language acquisition since he joined ECC full time in 1984. He is known for his commitment to teaching and learning that brings out the best in students through his classroom rapport and high expectations. Outside the classroom, he encourages and guides students to utilize support services on campus.

Rang has a bachelor's degree from Creighton University, as well as a master's degree and doctorate from USC. He is a member of several professional organizations, such as the California (Foreign) Language Teacher's Association (CLTA) and the Modern & Classical Language Association of Southern California – for both organizations he has served as president, board member and conference chair. He has also presented numerous professional workshops and received the CLTA Outstanding Teacher Award.

Rang is dedicated to helping students become involved in service activities: he encourages them to donate blood (he is a dedicated donor), various classes have supported needy children in Columbia, and his students have translated brochures for organizations that could not afford professional translation services. In addition, he has been the co-adviser of the Spanish Club. He also created a conversation class manual available at the ECC Bookstore, which has been used in most ECC Spanish classes for the past 17 years.

At ECC, Rang has served on the Faculty Senate, the Auxiliary Service Board, the Staff Development, Sabbatical Leave, and the Planning and Budget committees, as well as the College Council, among other activities. He served on the El Camino College Federation of Teachers executive board for 10 years, with five years as president.

Linda Detwiler Burner is an ITS user support technician for the Financial Aid (FA) Office who has played an instrumental role in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the FA offices at ECC and ECC Compton Center. Linda is responsible for ensuring that the Ellucian Colleague system is able to accept new financial aid applications in compliance with ever-changing state and federal regulations, in addition to keeping communication lines defined and making sure FA staff have the tech support needed to perform their jobs.

She is known as a very conscientious worker who displays excellent attention to detail. Through Linda's diligence, the Financial Aid Office shortened the response time from 14 weeks to eight weeks at ECC and six weeks at ECC Compton Center to determine eligibility and award financial aid to students. Processing changes also led by Linda resulted in the disbursement of three times the amount of financial aid to more than three times the number of students during the past year. She has served on the ECC Professional Staff Development and the Info Technology committees, and is very active in the Ellucian Colleague 3CDUG group for the California Community Colleges.

Linda is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and El Camino College, where she earned a degree in information management systems with an emphasis in database management. She also takes photography classes at ECC and has become a mentor, in addition to leading photography study groups.

In the community, she has been a longtime volunteer at the YMCA, where she previously worked as a senior program director. She also volunteers at her church, leading various programs and activities.

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