



NEWS

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El Camino College Names Christina Gold and Blanca Prado 2016 Distinguished Faculty and Staff

El Camino College professor Christina Gold (faculty) and student services adviser Blanca Prado (staff) were recently honored at a reception for their dedication to students, the college, and colleagues.

The honorees for the 2016 El Camino College Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award were recognized at the 20th 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.

“Congratulations to Dr. Christina Gold and Ms. Blanca Prado, two exceptional employees who go the extra mile to fulfill the college’s mission and support student success,” said El Camino College President Dena P. Maloney.

“As the academic year comes to a close, I would also like to thank all El Camino College employees for their contributions to the college. ECC employees are the college’s most direct and most influential link to student achievement.”

Christina Gold has been a U.S. history professor at ECC since 2005. Throughout her 25-year teaching career, she has been known as an outstanding instructor dedicated to student success. Her engaging lecture style includes the use of diverse teaching tools and materials to enhance student learning, while always treating students with respect and compassion.

Gold supports several student success initiatives and serves on a number of college committees such as the Assessment of Learning Committee, Educational Policies Committee, and Program Review. She has also been a program instructor for First Year Experience, Honors Transfer Program, Learning Communities, and the Teacher Education Program. Gold’s leadership is further seen in her role as the Academic Senate Vice President of Educational Policies. She has also served as the Academic Senate president.

In addition, Gold is steadfast in her responsibilities as a historian. She is a published scholar, a regular conference presenter, and holds a leadership position in the Organization of American Historians’ Committee on Community Colleges. She also reviews books for the Journal of American History and Pacific Northwest Quarterly.

Gold received a doctorate and master’s degree in U.S. History from UCLA and a bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley. A 2013 ECC Woman of Distinction, Gold has earned other awards for her work with students, including the Certificate of Excellence from Loyola Marymount University’s Academic Persistence Program.

Blanca Prado has been a student services adviser in the Transfer Center since 2008. She has assisted countless students on their path to the four-year college/university of their dreams. Prado knows the importance of El Camino College transfer services firsthand – she is an alumna herself. She graduated in 1998 and transferred to UCLA where she earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology.

Colleagues know Prado as a compassionate leader who is always willing to help students in all areas, including goal setting, time management and balancing school with work and family obligations. She is an important asset to the Transfer Center and keeps up with changes in transfer requirements, policies and procedures. Prado is instrumental in coordinating university fairs, the Transfer Admit Reception, and the Northern California College Tour.

Prado is a graduate of the ECC Puente program, and volunteers as a Puente mentor. She is also a Project Success mentor, offering ongoing support and encouragement to students as they navigate college and career experiences.

In the community, Prado leads in many ways, including her collaboration with Young Life, a youth outreach program. Her commitment to education and dedication to students can be seen in everything she does.

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