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El Camino College Radiologic Technology Program Receives Accreditation *Successful program earns eight-year accreditation renewal, the maximum awarded*

When Marissa Wilhelm enrolled in the El Camino College Radiologic Technology Program, she was looking for a total life change. And that's exactly what she found.

She had already earned a bachelor's degree in marketing several years ago, so this new education path in radiology was completely different.

"I was looking for a job where I could help people; that was missing from my life," said Marissa, a Torrance resident. "My mom is a nurse and a friend of mine is a nurse, and they both said I should check out X-ray. So, I enrolled, took my first class and loved it. I am really and truly happy about this decision."

She graduated from the program this past spring and is now waiting for her fluoroscopy license to become finalized so she can begin her job search.

The El Camino College Radiologic Technology Program is known for its success in educating many of the rad tech professionals in the South Bay. The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) recently awarded the ECC program accreditation for a period of eight years, the maximum awarded. This is the third accreditation cycle in a row that the program received the maximum accreditation award.

The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation for the accreditation of educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry.

Established in 1971, the ECC program is a leader in radiologic technology education. Upon successful completion of the program, students earn an Associate of Science degree and are eligible to take state and national licensure exams.

About 24 students are accepted each year. The program's success is clearly seen in the 100 percent pass rate of first-time test takers on state and national exams for the past 15 years.

"All the faculty have been in the industry for a really long time; I feel like they have a really good grasp on the career field, from the clinicals and patient interaction to classroom work – they do everything they can to pass that knowledge on to us," Marissa said. "They won't accept mediocre – they want everything to be the best."

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Radiologic Technology Program Receives Accreditation

The program moved into the college's completely new Math Business Allied Health Building in spring 2013, and features a state-of-the-art lab and radiography equipment. El Camino College is the only community college on the west coast to offer imaging with computer radiography, digital radiography and film-screen systems. Eight area hospitals are partners as clinical education centers for students to practice their skills.

"We are very proud of our program, students and graduates," said Dawn Charman, an ECC rad tech graduate and the second director in the program's 46-year history. "The commitment and dedication of our faculty and staff at each of the clinical sites play an integral part in student success.

"It is a rigorous program – students complete a minimum of 105 units and 2,000 clinical hours. The graduates leave with a high sense of accomplishment knowing they have had a quality education. Graduates have learned how to produce quality imaging and provide excellent patient care to our community and are prepared to join the work force."

Nearly 90 percent of radiology staff at area hospitals are El Camino College graduates and most grads continue their education to earn bachelor's and master's degrees and additional certification in areas such as: nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, ultrasound, MRI, mammography, and interventional radiography.

"A lot of the technologists I work with are graduates of El Camino College and that is nice because they know what students are going through," Marissa said. "I also know they are successful and among the best in the industry."

For more information about the El Camino College Radiologic Technology Program and application process visit: <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/healthsciences/radiologictech/>.

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Photo available online:

Marissa Wilhelm:

<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/publicrelations/photos/2017/MarissaWilhelm2.jpg>