



El Camino College

FALL ISSUE 2017 | VOLUME XIV, NO. 1

# COMMUNITY NEWS





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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

El Camino College is an innovative educational institution dedicated to student achievement.

It is our mission to provide excellent comprehensive educational programs and services and make a positive difference in people's lives. We strive to engage each student from the moment they begin the enrollment process. Continuous improvement in our process is our goal.

The recently established Guided Pathways Initiative is one of the many ways El Camino College engages students on an ongoing basis, helping to reduce the time it takes to complete academic goals. The goal of this student-centric approach is to dramatically increase the number of students earning college degrees and certificates, while closing equity gaps.

El Camino College is focused on increasing access to higher education in our communities through the South Bay Promise. This year, students from the Torrance Unified School District enrolled in the South Bay Promise program, joining Centinela Valley and Inglewood Unified. Through the South Bay Promise, high school graduates who attend ECC full time after graduation will have enrollment fees waived for the first year. In fall 2018, enrollment fees for South Bay Promise participants will be paid for up to 500 public high school graduates in the El Camino Community College District.

El Camino College continues to build strong partnerships with area businesses and industries, helping us ensure that we are offering the education and training needed to prepare the workforce for the future.

Our outstanding faculty members are the driving force in student success. Data from a recent Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) shows an upward trend, with significant improvement noted in feedback from students who say they have access to advisers who help in developing academic goals and creating a plan to achieve them.

Education changes lives. Every day I meet students who are focused on reaching their goals. In this edition of Community News, you will read about some of our dedicated students and the programs and services that are available to help them on their academic journey.

By creating pathways and providing learning support to help students achieve success, completion and transfer, we are bridging gaps and guiding students toward their future.



Dena P. Maloney, Ed.D.  
Superintendent/President



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Superintendent/President

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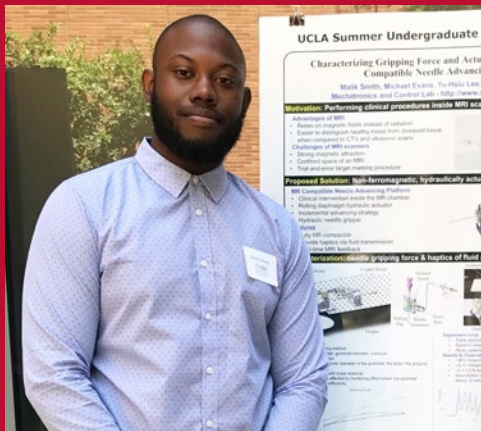


## Summer STEM Program at UCLA

Malik Smith was one of eight ECC students who attended an eight-week UCLA student summer research program this past June. He joined other engineering students from Los Angeles-area community colleges to assist researchers in the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science Transfer Student Summer Research Program. Students also attended professional development and networking activities while working and living on campus.

"Working in the lab can be inspiring because we get to see the effort our mentors put into making their ideas tangible," said Malik, an aerospace engineering major and a member of ECC's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement | Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (MESA|STEM) program. "Also, my mentor showed me when you're creating something you're passionate about, then it's more fun than it is work."

Each scholar was challenged with extensive hands-on research activities and will have his or her work published in the annual Summer Undergraduate Scholars Program journal. ECC students were supported by an NSF REU UCLA Wireless Health Research Education grant, the Washington Baltimore Hampton Roads-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation grant and the El Camino College Foundation.



## ECC Facilities: A New Look

Facilities upgrades continue across campus, transforming the look of El Camino College in many areas. All projects are funded by the 2002 and 2012 Measure E facilities bonds. Here are some current projects under construction:



The new Student Services Center will serve as a "front door" to campus along Manhattan Beach Boulevard. All student services will be centralized, making it easier for students and first-time visitors to access information and services. A new entry drive and main drop-off to the campus will be developed as part of this project, along with a new parking lot. This comprehensive facility will replace the existing Student Services Center, built in the 1940s.



A new gymnasium facility will house two instructional and athletic competition areas for basketball, volleyball and badminton. A multi-purpose fitness facility, team locker rooms, faculty offices and other essential support spaces are also part of the plan. This project will replace both the North and South Gyms with updated facilities, featuring seating for 1,241 in one area and 654 in the second area.



This fall, the brand-new Lot C opened for student and employee use, providing 1,443 additional parking spaces on campus.



## Journalism Students Bring Home Awards

ECC student journalism publications continued a tradition of excellence, bringing home several awards for 2016-17. Five ECC journalism students from *The Union* newspaper were honored in the California Newspaper Publishers Association's annual Better Newspapers Contest. In addition, *The Union* was named a finalist for Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper in a regional competition and the spring 2016 edition of student magazine *Warrior Life* won a general excellence award at the California Journalism Association of Community Colleges convention.



## ECC Grad Interns at New York Times

ECC and New York University alumna Jessica Martinez landed a 10-week copy desk internship at the *New York Times* this past summer. She began the internship after her June graduation from NYU, where she majored in journalism and social and cultural analysis.

"As a student journalist at El Camino College, I had said that I wanted to come to New York for school, and my dream job would be any position at *The Times*," said Jessica, who was editor-in-chief of the student newspaper and magazine while at ECC. "My first day at my internship was less than three weeks after I graduated from NYU, something I'm incredibly proud of. I truly don't think this would have been possible without the guidance I received at El Camino College."



## New Cybersecurity Certificate to Prepare Students for Jobs

ECC will offer a new cybersecurity certificate program in the near future, providing education and training needed for jobs in this rapidly growing field. The cybersecurity class, "Computer Security and Forensics," is available this fall and includes an overview of online security and threat assessment. A second class, "Ethical Hacking," is in development, along with a certificate program. The new certificate is supported by the Strong Workforce Program, a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office initiative designed to improve the quantity and quality of career and technical education programs that lead to jobs and/or wage increases for students.

For more information on ECC's Computer Information Systems program, visit: [www.elcamino.edu/academics/business/cis/](http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/business/cis/).



# ECC STUDENT STATS

El Camino College has been the premier higher education institution of choice in the South Bay for the past 70 years.



## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

**24,092**

Fall 2016 Semester (Census Estimate)  
- ECC Institutional Research  
Student Profile Summary



**99**  
DEGREE  
PROGRAMS  
OFFERED



**83**  
CERTIFICATE  
PROGRAMS  
OFFERED

## MOST POPULAR MAJORS

Business Administration • Nursing • Mathematics  
Psychology • Social and Behavioral Sciences



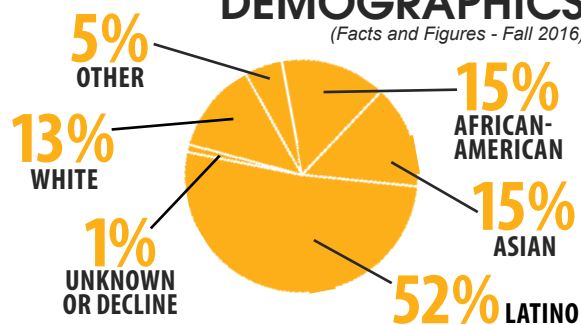
**46**

CTE  
PROGRAMS  
OFFERED



## DEMOGRAPHICS

(Facts and Figures - Fall 2016)



**2,782**  
DEGREES AWARDED  
IN 2016-17



**555**  
CERTIFICATES AWARDED  
IN 2016-17

**250**  
VETERANS  
UTILIZE  
SUPPORT  
SERVICES &  
RESOURCES



Members of the El Camino College Veterans Club gather in the ECC Veterans Resource Center.

The El Camino College Veterans Services Program aids veterans and eligible dependents in planning educational programs and maintaining compliance with Veterans Affairs regulations. A variety of resources are available to veterans on the ECC campus, including a full-time counselor and a Veterans Resource Center, which offers access to computers, computer assistance, a study area, workshops and referrals to resources, both at the college and in the community.



# TRANSFER SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT



## The Hoff Family

When it came time for her three children to attend college, Rhonda Hoff took her friend's advice and enrolled in the First Year Experience (FYE) program at El Camino College. Her son, Austin, now has one semester more to complete his associate degree in economics and plans to transfer to a university in the spring. Twin daughters Jenna and Laina recently graduated from West High School in Torrance and are now ECC freshmen. Hoff, an ECC grad, said she was amazed with the amount of personalized attention her children have access to and told them to ask for help when they had questions about choosing a major and deciding which classes to take.

"Counselors walk students through how to do it all themselves, sharing other information along the way, such as the importance of checking emails and meeting deadlines," Hoff added. "And also, college fees for three children are astronomical – it just made good financial sense to choose El Camino College. I am truly happy with the whole experience."

For more information on the First Year Experience Program, view: [www.elcamino.edu/student/academicsupport/fye/](http://www.elcamino.edu/student/academicsupport/fye/).

## ECC TRANSFER SUCCESS

TOP IN  
**10** TRANSFERS  
TO UC

TOP IN  
**3** TRANSFERS  
TO CSU

### Did You Know?

In 2016-17, about 1,500 ECC students transferred to four-year colleges/universities!

### ECC TOP TRANSFER DESTINATIONS (2015-16)

73 **UCIRVINE**

84 **CAL STATE LA**

103 **UCLA**

233 **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH**

348 **California State University Dominguez Hills**

## Pritzker Family Foundation Supports ECC Foster Care Program

The El Camino College Foundation recently received a \$40,000 grant from the Pritzker Foster Care Initiative to continue programs that support foster care youth. The grant will help fund ECC's Guardian Scholars program to assist with retention and academic persistence among students from foster care. Students receive funds for tuition, books, supplies and campus resources. The Pritzker Foster Care Initiative, part of the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation, made a previous \$40,000 grant in December 2015 to initiate the Guardian Scholars program.

For more information, view [www.elcamino.edu/student/studentservices/fostercare/](http://www.elcamino.edu/student/studentservices/fostercare/)



## Free College Classes for High School Students

Students who are still in high school can get started on their college education at El Camino College – for FREE. Enrollment fees are waived for eligible juniors and seniors who want to earn college credits while still in high school. For more information on how to earn college credits while enrolled in high school, view: [www.elcamino.edu/admissions/student/highschool/](http://www.elcamino.edu/admissions/student/highschool/).

# STUDENT EQUITY, SUCCESS & ACCESS

## Educational Development Program Honored

The ECC Special Resource Center's Educational Development Program recently won an "Exemplary Program Award" honorable mention from the State Academic Senate. The program provides comprehensive services for the college's Disabled Students Programs and Services students. Established in 1991, the first recipient of this annual award was El Camino College's Project Success; the college was honored again in 2009-10, recognizing the First Year Experience program.

For more information on the Special Resource Center, view: [www.elcamino.edu/student/studentservices/src/](http://www.elcamino.edu/student/studentservices/src/).



## South Bay Promise Continues to Expand

In an effort to make a college education accessible and affordable, the El Camino College South Bay Promise program continues to expand. ECC launched the South Bay Promise program in 2014, partnering with Inglewood Unified and Centinela Valley Union High school districts. This fall, the Torrance Unified School District joined the program as well.

Through the South Bay Promise, high school graduates who attend ECC full time after graduation will have enrollment fees waived for the first year. In fall 2018, enrollment fees for South Bay Promise participants will be paid for up to 500 public high school graduates in the El Camino Community College District.

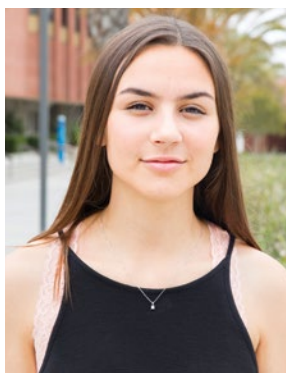
For more information about the South Bay Promise, view: [www.elcamino.edu/foundation/sbpoverview.aspx](http://www.elcamino.edu/foundation/sbpoverview.aspx)





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Nicole Mardesich



Recent ECC grad Nicole Mardesich used the resources at El Camino College to launch herself into the prestigious business program at the University of California, Berkeley. Nicole, a 2015 graduate of Palos Verdes High School, transferred this fall to the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley to major in business administration. She said ECC's Honors Transfer Program and the Transfer Center helped her achieve her goals and the college's small class sizes gave her the focused instruction she needed.

"Being in a small-class environment, I was able to get hands-on help from all my teachers," said Nicole, who served as the ECC student trustee this past year. "Not only did El Camino College offer me a chance to further my academic endeavors but it also helped me grow as a leader."

## TRANSFER

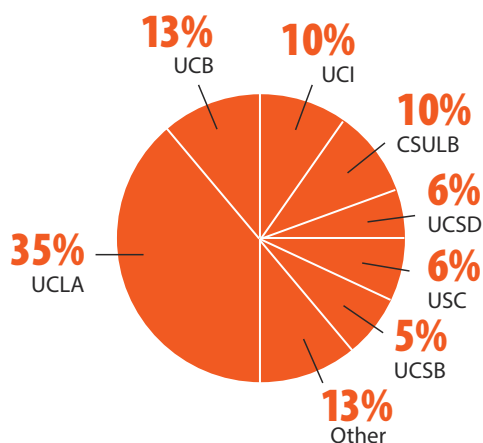
### Honors Students Win Top Awards

Students in ECC's Honors Transfer Program took home more scholarships and awards than any other college at the annual Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research Conference this past spring. The conference at UC Irvine draws hundreds of students from throughout the state to present original research.

### ECC Top HTP Transfer Destinations - 2017

HTP benefits include:

- Priority admission consideration for universities
- Priority registration for ECC classes
- Smaller class sizes
- Permanent notation of honors on ECC transcript
- Opportunities for scholarships and internships



About 200 HTP students transferred to universities in 2016-17, with the second highest percentage – 84 percent – admitted to UCLA last year, as part of the Transfer Alliance Program.

# ECC TRANSFER ALUMNI

### Devon Williams

*"El Camino College was a stepping stone to help me realize my true talents; I say if you see more in yourself, continue your education and see what more you can provide to the world."*

Class of 2017  
Commencement Student Speaker



### Zulema Chavez

*"You have to be 100 percent dedicated; it's really rewarding."*

The only female to  
graduate in  
Fire Academy Class 148



### Marco Solano

*"I'm very grateful I made the decision to attend El Camino College – this is about finding something I am going to carry around with me for the rest of my life. I am going to have a career and not just a job."*

Class of 2017  
Electrical Engineering





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Foundation: Edison Grant & Student Scholarship Recap

The ECC Foundation recently received a \$25,000 grant to support STEM scholarships that will help 16 students advance their education. The donation from Edison International supports science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and is the fifth consecutive annual grant since 2012. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 and \$2,000 were awarded at the annual MESA/STEM Transfer Awards program this past spring.



## Global Innovation Summit

ECC and Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems recently sponsored a day of innovation, science and creativity. The Northrop Grumman Global Innovation Summit featured a demonstration activity similar to a live-action video game in Murdock Stadium. Five teams of ECC/Hawthorne High School students and Northrop Grumman interns battled together to save the world from simulated wildfires ravaging the planet. They accomplished this feat using RC planes, quadcopters and rovers (with Silly String!) they designed and built. One of Northrop Grumman's initiatives that encourages STEM education across the globe, the event is designed to bring student teams together to solve problems.



## SBDC: Helping Businesses Grow

Starting or growing a small business is not an easy task. Los Angeles-based entrepreneur Ellie Montazeri found this out when she was formulating her e-commerce company Balthazar and Rose. Montazeri wanted to import and sell "foutas," a traditional Tunisian cloth that can be used as a throw, tablecloth or shawl. Not knowing where to start, she turned to the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted by El Camino College.

The SBDC, part of ECC's Community Advancement Division, assists businesses with growth and funding strategies, as well as the details of starting a new business. This is accomplished through no-cost one-on-one business consulting/advising with a small business expert in accounting, legal, marketing, social media, international trade, debt/equity funding and more. A variety of free workshops and small business-related events are also available. Sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and local institutions such as ECC, the SBDC fosters local and regional economic development through job creation and retention.

With help from the SBDC, Montazeri was able to get her business off the ground, hiring employees and importing goods. As a result, she successfully launched her business and met her financial projections in the first year of operation.

For more information about the SBDC at El Camino College, call 310-973-3177 or visit [www.southbaysbdc.org](http://www.southbaysbdc.org).





## Debate Team Finishes Record-Breaking Season

The El Camino College debate team won all four national championships in 2016-17, the most successful season in its history and the first time this feat has been accomplished by any team. ECC won the NPDA National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence, finishing with the best record of any community college. The team also won the Phi Rho Pi national championship for debate. A perennial powerhouse, the team was the No. 1 ranked community college in the nation throughout the season and No. 4 among four-year colleges and universities.



## New Hydration Stations Come to Campus

ECC's Associated Students Organization (ASO) brought five new FloWater hydration stations to campus, providing purified, good-tasting, chilled water to refill water bottles. Each refill station purifies water at over 700 milliliters per minute, accommodates any bottle size and is energy efficient. The campus community is encouraged to bring their own refillable containers to utilize this environmentally friendly, complimentary service. Since March 2017, more than 170,600 water bottles have been saved from landfills!



## Center for the Arts Presents 2017-18 Season!

Welcome to the 49th Anniversary Season of the Center for the Arts! Tickets are now on sale for the action-packed Center for the Arts 2017-18 season of high-quality shows, recitals and beloved South Bay traditions such as the "Nutcracker." Be sure to attend our Resident Artist Series, which showcases the talents of our outstanding ECC faculty! Tickets may be purchased online or at the Ticket Office.

Check out the performances list: [www.elcamino.edu/centerforthearts/about/contact.aspx](http://www.elcamino.edu/centerforthearts/about/contact.aspx)



## Lifetime Achievement: Wanda Morris



ECC Director of Nursing Wanda Morris was recently honored with the "Lifetime Achiever" award by the Council of Black Nurses, Los Angeles. Morris became El Camino College's director of nursing in January 2016, bringing more than 20 years of teaching and higher education experience to the position.

## Warrior Pantry

In an effort to assist students struggling with hunger, El Camino College launched its first-ever food pantry this fall.



The Warrior Pantry offers students in need a variety of healthy food items so they can succeed in their classwork without distractions caused by food insecurity. Toiletries, access to a computer, and access to additional resources are also be available. For more information, view: [www.elcamino.edu/student/studentservices/warriorpantry/](http://www.elcamino.edu/student/studentservices/warriorpantry/).

## ECC Offers U-Pass and TAP Cards

ECC partnered with Metro to offer students the U-Pass this fall semester, including significant savings and access to a variety of transportation options. The U-Pass is available for purchase in the Bookstore, where students, employees and the public can also purchase and/or reload TAP cards for public transportation travel throughout Los Angeles County. The ECC Bookstore is now an authorized Metro vendor, open to the college community and the public. More information: [www.elcamino.edu/about/visit/metrouppass.aspx](http://www.elcamino.edu/about/visit/metrouppass.aspx).







# El Camino College

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ORGANIZATION  
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U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT #155

**PLAN AHEAD: Summer and Fall 2018 applications accepted online now!**

## Student Success

Megan Oliveros



*"The resources and tutors at El Camino College were extremely valuable in my success. Because of this, I feel prepared for classes at UCLA."*

West High School, 2015  
El Camino College, 2017  
UCLA Civil Engineering Major

## ECC by the Numbers

**#2** IN TRANSFERS  
TO UCLA

**TOP 10** IN  
TRANSFERS  
TO UC

**TOP 3** IN  
TRANSFERS  
TO CSU

## Steps to Enrollment

### APPLY - PREPARE - TEST - PLAN

Completion of the Steps to Enrollment is required for priority registration.

**APPLY** - New students must complete an application.

**PREPARE** - All new students must participate in an orientation session.

**TEST** - Assessment testing must be completed prior to registering for classes.

**PLAN** - Students must meet with a counselor prior to registration to develop an education plan.

*For more info on the Steps to Enrollment, visit [www.elcamino.edu/4steps](http://www.elcamino.edu/4steps)*

**Winter term begins January 4, 2018**  
**Spring semester begins February 10, 2018**



### Book a tour!

See El Camino College's bustling campus by booking a tour at [www.elcamino.edu/admissions/outreach/](http://www.elcamino.edu/admissions/outreach/)

### Get in Touch!

Office of Outreach  
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**310-660-3487**  
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On Campus!