



El Camino College

Community News

Spring 2015
Volume XVII No. 2

**Classes Available
for Summer and
Fall 2015!**

Renovated ITEC Building
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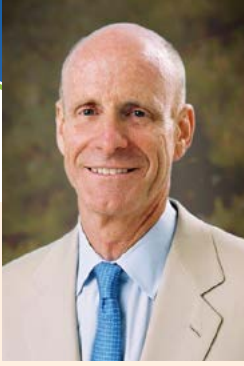
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Message from the President

Spring is a time of celebration at El Camino College. We recently celebrated the class of 2015 with our 68th Annual Commencement Ceremony. This event highlights the academic achievements of students, and is a reflection of El Camino College employees' commitment to student success.

Every year El Camino College transfers hundreds of students to the University of California and California State University systems. Top transfer schools include UCLA, USC, UC Berkeley and CSU Long Beach to name a few.

This edition of *Community News*, showcases student and alumni accomplishments. The myriad of student achievement and support programs are also highlighted, including the Honors Transfer Program, UCLA transfer research program and Space Science day.

Many additional classes have been added to the schedule for summer and fall at El Camino College, including evening and weekend courses. By increasing the number of classes offered, we are able to provide even more South Bay residents access to a quality higher education.

Thank you for continuing to support El Camino College. You are an integral part of our "common unity". That is what brings us together as a "community" college – El Camino College!

Thomas M. Fallo

Commencement 2015

The annual Blue Carpet Event was a huge success at the 2015 Commencement! Graduates, family and friends posted photos and congratulations on social media using #ECCGrad. View their commencement experience on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

There is still time to post "best wishes" to the Class of 2015 online at www.elcamino.edu/events/commencement-2015.



Class of 2014 Blue Carpet Event

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

HEATHER ERHARD



Photo by Tony Zan

Heather Erhard knew from her first day in the ECC Nursing Program that she was in the right place.

"I chose El Camino College knowing that it would be a challenging program, but I would come out of it being the best nurse I could be," said Heather, a graduate of North Torrance High School. "The nursing program and faculty thrive on excellence and the expectations are high, but it only helps drive you to be your best and set your goals higher."

Heather will graduate this spring and plans to continue her education at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Eventually she would like to earn a master's degree and work as a pediatric oncology nurse practitioner.

"The ECC nursing program provides so many great personal and professional growth opportunities," Heather added. "My favorite part of the nursing program is when I leave the hospital after a clinical day and my patient thanks me or tells me I made a difference in his day."

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

ECC Trains Nurses of the Future



Nursing students working on the high-fidelity mannequin in the simulation lab.

For more than 50 years, the El Camino College Nursing Program has offered a rigorous education curriculum and has graduated more than 2,500 registered nurses. The majority of graduates find jobs as registered nurses in the South Bay.

One of the largest associate degree programs in California, the ECC Nursing Program graduates about 120 students each year and partners with about 15 area hospitals and medical centers.

The program regularly boasts high pass rates on the national licensing examination. Graduates earn an associate degree and are prepared for entry into the healthcare field as a registered nurse, ready to work in many specialty areas, including: intensive care, pediatrics, obstetrics, geriatrics, rehabilitation, oncology, cardiology, and occupational health.

A new Math Business Allied Health (MBA) Building opened on campus two years ago, offering student nurses access to a state-of-the-art skills lab and a simulation lab featuring high-fidelity mannequins that mimic the human body.

In the "sim lab," students can mimic just about any medical situation, from a code blue to delivering a baby. This lab also allows students to record their work with both sound and video so they can review and learn from each situation.

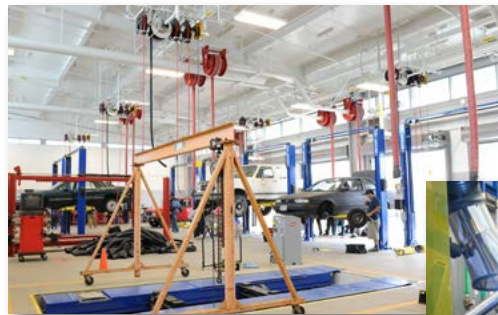
After completing the associate degree in nursing, students are encouraged to further their education by earning a bachelor's degree or master's degree, with employment opportunities as a clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, nurse practitioner, and nurse educator.



FACILITIES UPDATE

Center for Applied Technology (CAT) Building

The new \$31.8 million Center for Applied Technology (CAT) building features a brand new 44,400-square-foot, state-of-the-art learning center. Housing the Welding Technology, Automotive Collision Repair and Painting, Automotive Technology, and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration programs, the building will offer modern learning facilities for students, including exterior covered areas and vehicle/equipment yards, paint spray booths, and state-of-the-art welding equipment. Green technology incorporated into the design and functionality of the new CAT building includes Solatube skylights in some offices and classrooms and use of recycled/reclaimed water for the landscape irrigation.



(Above) Automotive Technology work room. (Right) Welder at work on a custom-designed piece.



Industry Technology Education Center (ITEC)

The former Math & Computer Science Building (built in 1969) is now completely renovated to house industry and technology programs as well as the Information Technology Services office. The \$29.5 million, 105,090-square-foot Industry Technology Education Center offers an interactive learning space for Administration of Justice; Architecture; Computer Aided Design and Drafting; Automation Robotics and Manufacturing; Engineering Technology; Cosmetology; Fashion Design; Fire Technology; Emergency Medical Technology (EMT); Electronics and Computer Hardware Technology; and the observatory. Seventy classrooms and 24 labs provide access to 209 new computers, training equipment, and associated tool rooms for drafting, fashion, and cosmetology programs. Spaces for studying, relaxing and meeting with students are also part of the design.



Students from the Electronics and Computer Hardware Technology and Cosmetology classes.



For details about Measure E projects, go to www.elcamino.edu/bond/.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



JACQUELINE CELY
Hawthorne Math &
Science Academy
Class of 2009

Jacqueline Cely is a Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) student who plans to graduate from ECC this fall and continue her studies in biology at a university. She has participated in conferences and research projects related to her studies, in addition to volunteering in the pathology department of an area hospital.

"My time at El Camino College has been excellent. With small class sizes, I can talk to my professors and really learn the material. It is a great school at an affordable price — and it keeps getting better, with new resources like the STEM Center."

MESA Students Shine at Conference

Three outstanding Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) students recently presented summer research findings at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR). The conference provided a forum for the presentation of the best research, scholarship, and creative activities of undergraduate students in the region. ECC students Gabriela Moreno-Lopez, mechanical engineering major and Hector Flores, computer science major, presented research from an intensive eight-week UCLA Transfer Student Summer Research Program sponsored by Chevron. Mariella Arias conducted research at Cornell University. All three students submitted abstracts to SCCUR and were selected to present.



Gabriela Moreno-Lopez, Hector Flores and Mariella Arias presented research findings at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research.

World's First 3-D-Printed Car Visits ECC

As part of its world tour, the very first 3-D-printed, zero-emission car made a stop at El Camino College. Showcasing the latest in manufacturing technology, the visit from "Strati" also encourages students to discover all the options available with careers in science and engineering.





Space Science Day 2015

Onizuka Space Science Day returned to El Camino College this spring, drawing hundreds of serious-minded science students in grades five through 12 to the free event. AXA Astronaut Koichi Wakata provided a presentation and participated in hands-on workshops. The annual event is sponsored by ECC and American Honda Motor Company and is dedicated to Ellison Onizuka, a Space Shuttle Challenger astronaut who perished along with the six other crew members during the tragic events of 1986.

JAXA Astronaut Koichi Wakata watches as students demonstrate the aerodynamics of their paper airplanes.

Students Excel in Physics Competition

Several ECC students entered the University Physics Competition and won a bronze medal, besting universities such as Duke University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Toronto. The international contest is open to undergraduate students and features teams of three working at their home colleges and universities all over the world. One weekend in November, they spend 48 hours analyzing a real-world scenario using the principles of physics and writing a formal paper describing their work. Winning ECC physics students include: Huy Ho, Kenta Morimoto, and Zach Amrani, with advisement from instructor John Coroneus.

STEM Conference Empowers the “Next Generation”

More than 150 middle and high school students recently participated in an ECC sponsored STEM conference. Sessions offered a variety of hands-on activities and seminars, promoting STEM-oriented careers. During the “Empowering the Next Generation in STEM” conference, students interacted with STEM professionals.



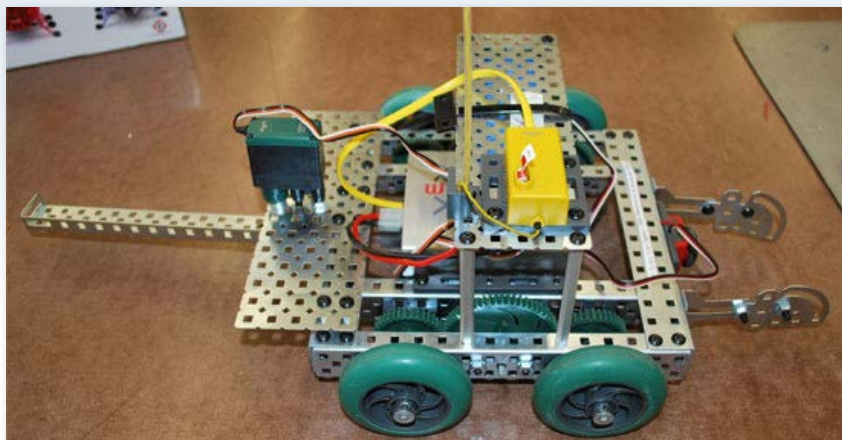
The STEM Conference was sponsored by the El Camino College STEM program and Upper Hand.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Summer Math & Science Programs

El Camino College will offer several free summer education and enrichment opportunities for local high school students.

The **STEM Young Scholars Summer Program** is a free four-week summer program designed for high school students who are interested in learning more about STEM careers and majors. Presentations, field trips, activities, workshops, and guest speakers from science, technology, engineering, and math are part of the program.



'The Dogbot Robot' built by students for classroom competition.

The **START (STEM Training and Robotics Technology) Program** is a four-week program that develops creative and innovative reasoning skills through hands-on projects. Students will build a VEX robot for classroom competition, participate in three electric building projects, and join college and industry tours, in addition to other activities.

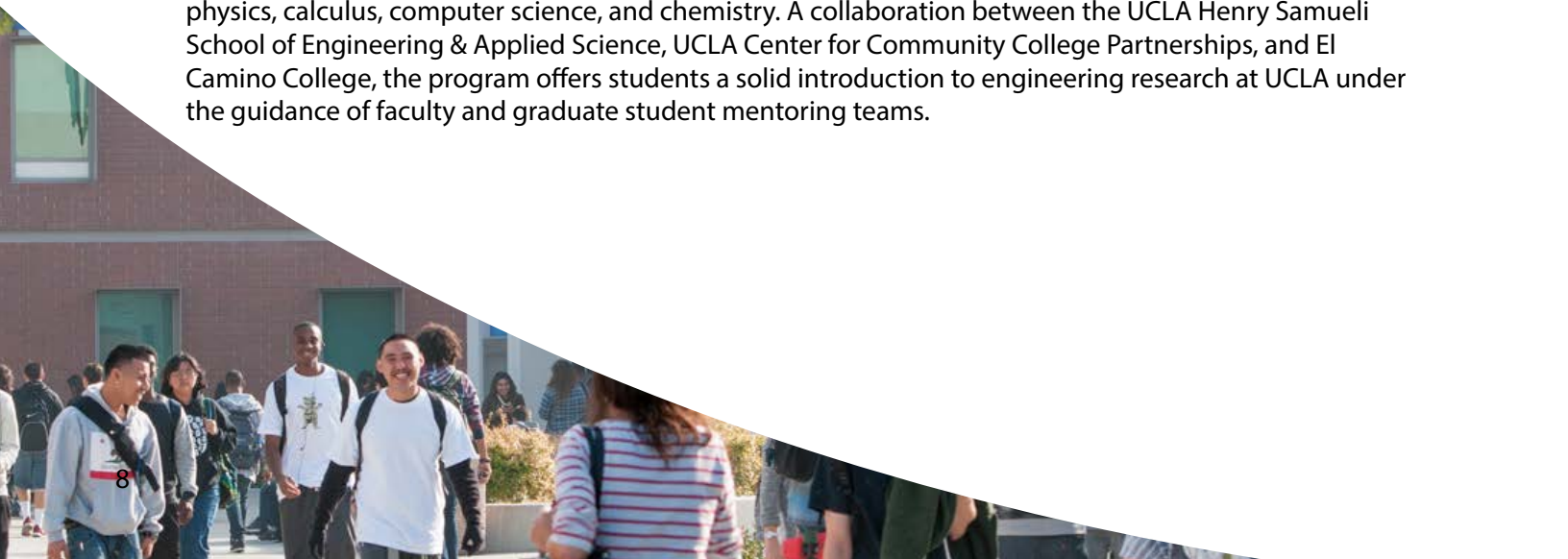
Summer Math Academy is geared toward current or incoming ECC students, offering an opportunity to study math for three weeks in a

friendly, stress-free environment. Students will learn how to study efficiently and become prepared for college placement testing. Math courses cover basic skills, algebra and precalculus. Students must be enrolled in an ECC math course for fall 2015.

For more information on these programs: www.elcamino.edu/academics/stem or www.elcamino.edu/academics/mathsciences/mathacademy.

UCLA Summer STEM Program

El Camino College students will participate in an intensive eight-week UCLA Transfer Student Summer Research Program for the second consecutive year. The summer program brings together high-achieving students who have completed at least 60 percent of their major course work, including engineering, physics, calculus, computer science, and chemistry. A collaboration between the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering & Applied Science, UCLA Center for Community College Partnerships, and El Camino College, the program offers students a solid introduction to engineering research at UCLA under the guidance of faculty and graduate student mentoring teams.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Adrian Menendez

Adrian Menendez is a straight-A El Camino College student who is on his way to a four-year university and a promising career in dentistry. He recently finished a prestigious program at UCLA for pre-med students. Adrian's academic success is the result of many years of hard work, yet he is quick to say that he didn't do it alone.

Adrian moved to Torrance from Cuba five years ago, knowing very little English. Despite his struggles with learning a new language while taking challenging coursework, he graduated from Torrance High School in 2012 and enrolled at ECC right away. He soon joined the college's Honors Transfer, First Year Experience, and MESA support programs.



Adrian Menendez

"El Camino College set the foundation for my educational career now and into the future," said Adrian, a biology major. "I took advantage of every resource possible. I'm a first-generation college student – my parents didn't go to college, so definitely being in those programs gave me the tools I needed to succeed. They all made a positive impact on my education. I know I can go into my field of study and be a successful and competent student. I feel like I was educated the right way and with help from mentors and support services, I am now ready to move into my future."

Earlier this spring, Adrian was accepted to UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Davis, UCLA, and USC – many with scholarship awards.



ECC Top In UC Transfers

ECC transfers hundreds of students to the University of California and California State University systems each year, including UCLA, USC and UC Berkeley. Last year, El Camino College was among the top three community colleges in Southern California for students admitted to UCLA via the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP).

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT Honors Transfer Program

El Camino College sent a record number of 30 Honors Transfer Program (HTP) students to the California Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research Conference at UC Irvine earlier this spring. The conference allows community college honors students to present their research in a university setting. Students Wyatt Matern and Gabriela Lopez received two of the 22 Exemplary Student Achievement Scholarships awarded at the conference.

ECC Honors Transfer Program students have access to priority registration, academic and social interaction with other highly motivated students, smaller class sizes, designation of HTP on El Camino College transcripts/degrees, and enrichment seminars. The HTP offers a unique learning environment that stresses scholastic excellence. The major objective of the program is to better prepare highly-motivated students for transfer to a university by focusing on enhanced writing, reading and study skills.

For more information about the Honors Transfer Program, visit www.elcamino.edu/academics/honorstransfer/.

Distinguished Alumni Award 2016

El Camino College is seeking nominees for the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award, which honors outstanding alumni for their contributions to the community. Presented biennially by the ECC Foundation, honorees are selected by a committee.

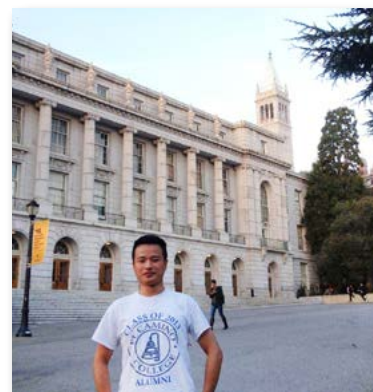
Those nominated must have a proven track record of achievement in their chosen career, service to the community or area of endeavor, and have gained local, state, or national recognition for their involvement. In addition, 10 years must have elapsed since candidates attended El Camino College. To nominate a former student for the El Camino College Distinguished Alumni Award, visit www.elcamino.edu/foundation/docs/alumni-nomination-form-2015.pdf for a form and more information.



James Lo

Palos Verdes Peninsula High, Class of 2010
El Camino College, Class of 2013

James Lo transferred to UC Berkeley after graduating from El Camino College to continue his studies in molecular and cell biology. James enjoyed his classwork at El Camino College, but was truly inspired by his experiences as a Student Enhancement Team (SET) tutor, a free program that places ECC students as math and science leaders at area high schools. He now uses the teaching and learning methods he learned from the SET program in his own studies. He credits ECC for giving him a great start in higher education.



"When I came to El Camino College, right away I met so many great friends and great faculty, that I immediately felt like I belonged to the college. I am so proud to be from El Camino College – I wear my ECC T-shirt at Berkeley with pride!"

Natalie Stumph

South High School, Class of 2010
El Camino College, Class of 2013

After graduating from El Camino College as a physiological science major, Natalie Stumph transferred to UCLA where she plans to complete her bachelor's degree and continue on to earn a master's degree to become a physician assistant.

While at ECC, Natalie was a member of MESA and the Honors Transfer Program (HTP), in addition to serving as president of the Honors Transfer Club. Through the HTP, she was able to present her research at a conference of HTP students, a highlight of her ECC career.



"ECC was a good choice for me because I grew academically and individually. School was challenging, but it wasn't overwhelming. The counseling and tutoring services through HTP and MESA were major contributions to my academic success. I utilized the resources that were offered and I had a great experience!"

ECC Competes in Sand Volleyball



El Camino College added women's sand volleyball as a sanctioned California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) championship sport for the spring

semester. Indoor women's volleyball coach Le Valley Pattison also coaches the women's sand team. The new sport features three conferences (four divisions) with 18 teams split between Northern and Southern California. The Warriors compete in the Orange Empire – Kerry Walsh Jennings Division with Antelope Valley, Fullerton and Golden West.

Educational Excellence

Sociology instructor Mediha Din recently received the 2015 Hayward Award for excellence in education from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. Named for former California Community Colleges Chancellor Gerald C. Hayward, the award honors outstanding community college faculty who show excellence both in teaching and in professional activities. Mediha was selected from a pool of applicants from across the state for her commitment to excellence in her field, as well as her contributions to the community.



ECC: Smoke Free

At their February 17 meeting, the District Board of Trustees approved a smoking policy that prohibits the use of tobacco or nicotine on campus. Board Policy 3570 applies to all students, employees and visitors in all ECC facilities and vehicles. Smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products and the use of unregulated nicotine products such as "e-cigarettes" are prohibited in buildings and all outdoor spaces, including parking lots. By creating a smoke-free campus, El Camino College is committed to providing a healthy, comfortable and productive environment, free from the effects of second-hand smoke.



Chris Mello Memorial Jazz Festival

The Chris Mello Memorial Jazz Festival was a success this spring, raising funds for student scholarships. Associate Professor Chris Mello passed away last year and left a legacy of important contributions at El Camino College that directly benefit students. As director of the Guitar and Jazz Studies programs, he provided leadership that resulted in building an elite music program in an amazingly short period of time. Mello also provided leadership for his department, division, campus, and community.



You Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Student

The **El Camino College Foundation** is a non-profit corporation whose sole mission is to support student success at ECC by raising funds and developing community relationships. The Foundation provides more than \$1.4 million annually in scholarships. Without this support, many recipients could not otherwise afford tuition and books. A scholarship is often the encouragement a student needs to keep working toward earning a college degree or certificate.

The ECC Foundation also enhances programs and projects to help students receive the best possible education. Help make a difference in students' lives by donating to programs like scholarships and textbooks;

STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) initiatives; fine arts; or allied health programs such as nursing, radiological technology and respiratory care. Join the President's Circle or become a Community Partner. The El Camino College Foundation accepts gifts of cash, property or securities.

Making a donation is as easy as visiting **www.elcaminocollegefoundation.org** and clicking the DONATE NOW button. You may donate online and designate your gift to your choice of program through a simple and easy online form. Or, mail your donation to ECC Foundation; 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance 90506. Questions? Call 310-660-3683.



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100s of Classes Added for Summer and Fall!

Get a jump-start on college this summer at El Camino College!

- Earn a degree or certificate
- Transfer to a four-year college or university
- Train for a career

ECC has two summer sessions:

Eight-week session begins
Monday, June 22

Six-week session begins
Tuesday, July 27

Fall semester begins August 22

Classes are only \$46 per unit!

FREE Summer Classes! to Eligible High School Students*

Free college classes are available to eligible high school juniors and seniors who wish to enroll in college courses to earn high school credits, college credits or dual credit. High school students must apply online and submit a Concurrent Enrollment Application.

For more information on how you can earn college credits while still enrolled in high school, visit **www.elcamino.edu/studentservices/highschool/**.

Don't wait - apply online today!

**Enrollment fees are waived for California residents.*

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