



SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF EL CAMINO COLLEGE

SPRING 2024

## 2024 Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards Dinner was an Emotional Success

On February 23rd, the El Camino College Foundation held its biennial Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards Dinner at The DoubleTree by Hilton, Torrance, honoring four exceptional alumni.



Honorees included Torrance Fire Chief David Dumais, ESPN Senior NFL Analyst Chris Mortensen, West Valley College President Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, and The Aerospace Corporation Communications

Executive Sabrina Steele. Additionally, three gratitude award recipients, including one area philanthropist (The McKellop Wager Family), one community donor (Norris Foundation), and one corporate partner (Chevron) were also recognized. Accomplished leader, Dr. Wanda Austin, addressed the audience as the evening's keynote speaker.

Thanks to our generous sponsors for the support of our event: Chevron, SKECHERS, The Aerospace Corporation, Torrance Refining Company, California State University Dominguez Hills, Keenan, Vectis DC, and West Basin Municipal Water District.



# From Serving his Country to Engineering Student: Foris Huang's Transfer Journey from El Camino to USC



USC Viterbi School of Engineering junior Foris Huang joined the U.S. Marine Corps out of high school and served for five years. He then went to work for two years at SpaceX, where he was surrounded by engineers — including some who had attended USC.

His colleagues inspired him to continue his academic journey with an eye on USC, where his dad is an alumnus. Huang enrolled as a full-time student at El Camino College in his hometown of Torrance and completed enough classes to transfer to USC as a junior.

"Community college is really good for people just coming out of high school or deciding that they want to go back to school," Huang said. "I will always credit El Camino [College]

**"Community college is really good for people just coming out of high school or deciding that they want to go back to school."**

— Foris Huang

for really bringing me back into an educational journey."

Huang is majoring in industrial engineering and is one of 100 new undergraduate and graduate spring transfer students who are military veterans.

While attending El Camino College, Huang spent time at the college's veteran center and said he will be looking to be involved with the Veterans Association at USC, which helps student veterans, active-duty students and ROTC students realize their full academic potential.

## El Camino Opens New Student Health Center



El Camino's new Student Health Center recently celebrated a grand opening in its new location next to the Student Services

Building and the Planetarium. The Student Health Center provides no cost/low cost medical and mental health services that maintain the health and well-being of currently enrolled students. Student Health Services (SHS) at El Camino College is committed to providing excellent, comprehensive outpatient clinical care to promote and maintain the health and well-being of El Camino students.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony (from L to R): VP Dr. Jeff Stephenson, ASO Pres. Jose Merino, Susan Nilles MSN, Trustee Brett Roberts, Trustee Nilo Michelin, Student Trustee Connor Lai, President Dr. Brenda Thames, Trustee Katherine Maschler, Ara An (Rep for LA County Supervisor Mitchell), and Erick Ponce-Furlos (Rep for Assemblymember Muratsuchi).

## ECC Dean of Enrollment Services, Robin Dreizler Retires After 29 Sweet Years



Robin Dreizler joined the ECC Office of Outreach and School Relations staff in 1995, most recently serving as Dean of Enrollment Services. Before ECC, he was a pitching coach at UCLA and UC Irvine, following two years of playing professional baseball. An ECC alumnus, he was a standout baseball player for the Warriors and went on to play at the University of Arizona. He was inducted into the ECC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. Robin also

earned bachelor's and master's degrees from CSU Dominguez Hills.

As Robin reflects on his tenure as a Warrior, these are his Top 10 memories:

1. Handing my three daughters their ECC diplomas at commencement
2. Being inducted into the ECC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007
3. Working on the 50th Anniversary event for the college, then...
4. ...Being honored as one of the Top 75 Athletes during ECC's 75th Anniversary celebration
5. Three people I will miss the most – I consider it a highlight and blessing to have worked with these powerful student allies – Jolene Combs, Dave Snowden, and Ken Brown
6. Seeing so many students I worked with go on to success at ECC as faculty, staff, and more – Josh Casper, Bree Bond, Luis Mancia, David and Rachael Kartsonis, Brooke Matson, Jaime and Jessica Gallegos, and Brittany Hubble
7. Onizuka Space Science Day is always a highlight

8. Each and every commencement – I think I missed two over the years due to family commitments

9. Helping and coaching many part-time staff move to full-time positions with the college

10. All the people, staff, managers, and student workers who worked by my side making supporting students a priority



Photo by Ma. Gisela Ordenes | ECC The Union

Robin's genuine love of El Camino is evident every day he comes to work. He is always smiling, cordial, happy and kind to everyone he meets. He always puts students first and works tirelessly to make sure each student succeeds and receives all the services available to them. Robin will be sorely missed by all of us at the ECC Foundation, and the El Camino College Warrior family! We wish him all the best in his retirement.

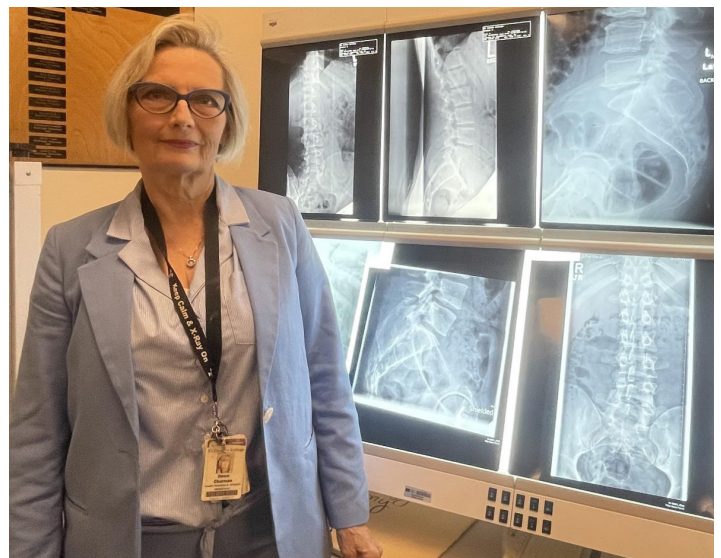
## Rad Tech Director, Dawn Charman Retires from ECC After 23 Years

In the fall of 2000, Dawn Charman started her long career at El Camino College as part-time faculty as a clinical educator in the radiology program. In 2001, she accepted a full-time faculty position along with a special assignment as Clinical Coordinator.

Some of Dawn's proudest El Camino accomplishments include:

- Maintaining a 100% pass rate on first-time national and state exams; growing ECC's program from an average of 15 to 24 students per cohort; and increasing its clinical sites from 4 to 8 during her tenure.
- ECC was the first college in the country to have a fully computerized and digital imaging radiography system for students.
- ECC has achieved the full 8-year JRCERT accreditation award during each evaluation period.
- Impacted the careers of 600+ Radiologic Technology graduates.

As Dawn reflects on her long-term career, she definitely has mixed emotions. "...I am excited and looking forward to the time and adventures I will be able to have with my family – especially my husband, sons, and now my grandchildren. I



will never forget the many wonderful people who I have encountered along the way, who have helped, inspired and encouraged me throughout this incredible journey. They all hold a very special place in my heart."





## Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards

Congratulations to all honorees!  
We enjoyed celebrating with you  
and hearing how you got your  
start at El Camino. Remember,  
Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior!









# ECC Foundation Awarded Nonprofit of the Year by the SBACC

The El Camino College Foundation was recently honored as this year's Nonprofit of the Year by the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (SBACC) at their Annual Installation and Awards luncheon. The SBACC is comprised of 14 local Chambers of Commerce located throughout the South Bay and Los Angeles, and is an industry leading association, providing legislative advocacy on behalf of local businesses and Fortune 500 companies. The award recognized the Foundation's ongoing support of students at El Camino to help make their educational journeys a success. We are honored and proud of this recognition!



Andrea Sala (R) accepting the award on behalf of the El Camino College Foundation from Mark Waronek (L), outgoing SBACC President.



Accepting the award and representing the El Camino College Foundation (Pictured from L to R): Daniel Shrader, Nancy Tonner, Andrea Sala, Heidi Wang, Laurie Love, Laurie McCarthy, Ann O'Brien and Kerri Webb.

## Free Community Courses: Game Design, Tax Preparation, Real Estate – Oh My!

Coming Spring and Summer 2024, El Camino College is expanding access to education through tuition-free courses to help students of all ages, to achieve personal, academic, and vocational goals. These non-credit courses play an important role in supporting lifelong learning and can help gain or update skills for the workforce. Why wait? Enroll today and kick start a new skillset at El Camino!

# FREE CLASSES

## COMING SOON!

- Personal Care Aid
- Medical Transcription
- Sterile Processing
- IRS Volunteer Income Tax Preparation
- Real Estate Advanced License Exam Prep Review
- GED/HiSet Preparation
- Parenting and Caregiving
- Child Development

Register by phone: 310-660-6460

Looking for more FREE Continuing Ed classes?  
[www.elcamino.edu/academics/community](http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/community)

Adult High School Diploma	Medical Billing and Coding
AWS Cloud Practitioner	Medical Transcription
Basic Computer Literacy	OSHA Certification
Basic Forklift	Parenting
Certified Nursing Assistant	Personal Care Aide
Child Development	Phlebotomy
CompTIA Certification	Real Estate Licensure
Construction	Sign Language for Parents/
Apprenticeship	Caregivers
EMT Refresher Courses	Sign Language for Spanish
Game Design	Speakers
GED/HiSET Prep Courses	Sterile Processing
Human Development	Tax Preparation
Maintenance and Light	Truck Driving
Repair	Wildland Fire Certificate

# Legacy Giving Runs Deep in the Johnson Family



Ruth Abeyta  
Peggy and Wayne Bemis  
Kathy Benz  
Lynne and Rene Bergero  
Raymond Billig  
Eva Brown  
James Campbell  
Rudolph Charles  
Woodward Dunlop  
Englebarts Estate  
Frances Ford  
Robert Guest  
Mary and Robert Haag  
Joe Holliday  
Arturo Irizarry  
Janan Johnson  
Pati Johnson  
Don Kaylor  
Norma Kayser  
Pat and Jerry Kinnan  
Leon Leonardo  
Elizabeth Noble  
A.Y., Joyce, and Jim Olds  
Propp Living Trust  
Ana and Antonio Rangel  
S.S. Russin III Living Trust  
Paris Salido  
John Schmidt  
Terri Schulman  
Mary Semeraro  
Wilson Tressel  
Maxine Trevethen  
Carolee Vakil-Jessop and  
David Vakil  
Kaye and Rich Verry  
Stanley Wilson

It's never too early to begin planning for the future and this begins with preparing and regularly reviewing your estate plan. For mother-daughter duo Pati and Janan Johnson, they never thought twice about leaving Legacy Circle gifts to the El Camino College Foundation. The Legacy Circle program allows their legacies to be honored, while fulfilling their desires and supporting causes they deeply care about.

Both Pati and Janan strongly believe in the educational power of El Camino College and the opportunities the campus provides. Janan is the current President of the El Camino College Foundation Board of Directors. Nils Johnson, Pati's husband and Janan's father, was honored as an ECC Distinguished Alumni in 1997 and also

served as the Foundation's 7th Board President.

**"Contributing to the Foundation now, as well as in the future, demonstrates a real value on our return on investment."**

— Pati and Janan Johnson



"As alumni of El Camino College, The Johnson Family is proud to support the Foundation by providing opportunities to those pursuing their academic goals. Contributing to the Foundation now, as well as in the future, demonstrates a real value on our return on investment." They further stated that they appreciate the college's inclusion and diversity efforts, particularly for first-time students, those returning to pursue a career in the second phase of their lives, and those chasing the American dream.

A planned Legacy Circle gift helps to ensure the continued success of El Camino College students. The Legacy Circle recognizes individuals and families who have designated a gift to the Foundation through their estate plans. We thank Pati and Janan Johnson, as well as all our Legacy Circle donors.

If you are interested in joining the Legacy Circle or learning more, please contact Andrea Sala, Executive Director at [asala@elcamino.edu](mailto:asala@elcamino.edu).

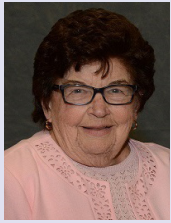
## ECC Soccer Team Honored by LA County Supervisor, Holly J. Mitchell



The El Camino Men's Soccer Team was honored on March 12 by Los Angeles County 2nd District Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell during the regular board meeting at Kenneth Hall of Administration in Downtown LA in recognition of the team's 2023 State and National Championships.



## Remembering Beloved Donor, Mary Haag



Mary Haag, long-time supporter and widow of El Camino College Faculty Robert Haag, whose name lives on at El Camino in the *Robert Haag Recital Hall*, passed away

on February 7. Mary was a fixture on campus and attended many Center for

the Arts events. She was honored in 2022 at El Camino's 75th Anniversary Gala with the Gratitude Award for her generosity and support of El Camino students.

Mary spent her entire 40-year teaching career in the El Segundo Unified School District. She was also active in PEO Chapter H, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and many

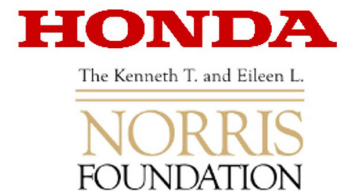
other charitable organizations. However, her deep passion lied in selecting and meeting "her" El Camino scholarship recipients each year, with the Dr. and Mrs. Robert Haag Music Scholarship, as well as The Mary Haag Scholarship Award for Excellence for a high achieving student. She was also active in selecting the recipient of the ECC Marian McCandless Buck PEO Scholarship.

## Thank You to Our Community Partners

### DIAMOND \$100K+



### PLATINUM \$50K+



### SILVER \$10,000+



### BRONZE \$5,000+



### COPPER \$2,500+



[www.ElCaminoCollegeFoundation.org](http://www.ElCaminoCollegeFoundation.org)

For more information, please contact [foundation@elcamino.edu](mailto:foundation@elcamino.edu) · [elcaminocollegefoundation.org](http://elcaminocollegefoundation.org) · 310.660.3683

