



EL CAMINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Connections

SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF EL CAMINO COLLEGE

FALL 2021

Welcome ECC President: Brenda Thames, PhD



What are your priorities for your first semester?

One of my priorities in the coming year is to actively promote the radiance and resilience of El Camino College. We have the best faculty, the best college-to-career trajectory, the best student support services, the best reputation, the best nexus of alumni, and some of the best transfer rates in all of Southern California. Our continuity and stability will be cornerstones for the students and communities we serve, as they continue

to regroup, revive, and look to thrive in the next year. We can continue to serve as a model in this process as we work together to adapt and adjust and formulate ways to safely return to campus.

What is your post pandemic vision for the future of El Camino College?

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, our mission at El Camino College remains the same—to be an institution of higher learning that consistently makes a positive difference in the lives of the people who make up our diverse and engaging community. We stand firm in our ongoing commitment to provide the best comprehensive educational programs and services that promote successful student learning outcomes that also foster collaborative partnerships with businesses and organizations throughout the South Bay



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region of Los Angeles. We share a common interest in the economic vitality of the surrounding communities, and we are a proactive provider of education and training that support this region with expanded evening/weekend classes for working adults, new educational technology initiatives and additional college/career pathways with area high schools. It is through these long-standing collaborations that El Camino

College proudly continues to be a strong and trusted partner in the South Bay, working with community leaders to align our programs with the workforce needs of the future.

As we continue to navigate through the ever-changing landscape created by COVID-19 and its aftermath, rest assured that El Camino College will continue to provide the level of support designed not only to promote a healthy and safe learning environment, but also one that will cater to the needs and challenges that students may be facing during these unprecedented times. While the majority of our Fall 2021 courses will continue



to be delivered online or in a hybrid format, many of our student services and programs will be open on campus to assist students and faculty in person. The College has implemented several protocols to help protect the health and safety of every member of our campus community to the best of our ability.

When will we return to in-person instruction?

As you know, the prevalence of COVID-19 and the Delta variant is forcing us to continue to adapt and adjust the delivery of instruction and student services.

(Continued Page 2)

Welcome ECC President: Brenda Thames, PhD

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Trust me, no one wants to have students physically back on campus more than me, however, I fully support the thoughtful and cautious approach we, as a campus community, are taking in developing and implementing a safe return to campus. So, if that means we must continue to conduct and attend most classes online or in a hybrid format just a bit longer, then that's what we must do. In the meantime, we will continue to utilize the COVID-19 Screening Kiosk campus entry and contract tracing processes that are already in place to provide us with another layer of protection in our health and safety protocols designed to protect students, faculty, and staff.

With the unanimous September 7, 2021 vote by El Camino Community College District's Board of Trustees to require the COVID vaccine for all students, staff and faculty to return to campus, I believe that we are moving in the right direction, enabling all of us to feel safe and eager to return to campus and be together in person again.

Our plan for 2022 is to safely and thoughtfully return to campus; 50% online and 50% in-person for Winter Session 2022. For Spring semester 2022, we plan to provide 80% of classes in-person, on campus and 20% still online.



When will the campus be open for students to find help?

We have already reopened the Student Services building for modified access to in-person assistance. In addition, the Library, Bookstore, Cashiers, Warrior Pantry, and Student Health Services are open throughout the semester. Parking in all lots on campus is free without any parking permits required (except for spaces reserved for handicapped parking). With student success as our top priority we continue to make every effort to ensure that the business of education continues.

The transformations occurring in our physical space are also serving as a statement to the community, that El Camino envisions a robust post-pandemic recovery, and is continuing to invest in what we believe to be a very bright future. The construction of the new Behavioral & Social Sciences Building, and the Arts Complex, will create state-of-the-art academic buildings and enhance the natural beauty of this campus. As we improve our physical facilities, we must also continue developing an equity-minded approach to teaching, learning, and comprehensive, holistic student support.



President Thames Receives a Warm Warrior Welcome from the Foundation

The El Camino College Foundation Board of Directors gave Dr. Brenda Thames a warm Warrior Welcome on August 31. The reception was held so President Thames could meet the Foundation Board as a group, and make informal introductions in a comfortable setting. It also provided the entire Foundation Board to greet the newest Board members who began their term of service on July 1, and connect in-person with fellow members.

"I was anxious to meet the El Camino College Foundation Board of Directors in a private and small setting. It is my objective to create a strong working relationship with the Foundation Board and staff while supporting the Foundation's mission," stated President Thames.

The event was hosted at the home of Foundation Board President, Laurie McCarthy. Welcome President Thames!

El Camino College to Require COVID-19 Vaccination

The El Camino Community College District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to require that all students, faculty, and staff be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before the start of Winter classes. The decision was made during the Board's regular public meeting on September 7, 2021.

All El Camino College employees and students must provide proof of vaccination by January 3, 2022, the start of the Winter 2022 Session. Free Johnson & Johnson vaccines will be made available for all students, faculty and staff at the Student Health Center.

The Board's decision came after months of public discussions, input from faculty and staff, and monitoring of the spike in the number of positive cases reported on campus and throughout the County of Los Angeles, as COVID-19's "delta variant" continues to spread.

Deena Lee Appointed as South Bay's First Female Fire Chief



Deena Lee, El Camino Fire Academy instructor of more than 15 years, was recently appointed by the City of El Segundo to serve as the permanent fire chief, effective November 2, 2021, following the retirement of Fire Chief Chris Donovan. Chief Lee is a twenty-year fire service veteran and will be the South Bay's first female fire chief. She will also be the only female fire chief in the broader

Orange tri-county coastal area.

"Drive, hard work, and dedication to helping people has led me to the position of fire chief," stated Deena Lee. "I follow an 'if you see it, you can be it' philosophy. I want to empower and inspire girls and women to pursue leadership positions." Chief Lee is a dedicated public safety professional who is committed to community engagement and volunteers with many non-

profit organizations, including the Women's Fire Alliance. She dedicates her time to mentoring young women and being a positive role model in the community.

Chief Lee began her career in the fire service as a volunteer firefighter for the City of La Habra Heights. She then joined the City of La Verne Fire Department as an apprentice firefighter.

"I want to empower and inspire girls and women to pursue leadership positions."

She promoted through the ranks and worked as a fire captain for several years. There she gained experience as a supervisor and had the opportunity to respond to multiple wildland fires. Chief Lee joined the El Segundo Fire Department in 2003 as a firefighter

and was promoted to fire captain in 2007 and later battalion chief in 2019. Lee was appointed to acting fire chief July 6, 2021.

Chief Lee holds a bachelor's degree in fire science from Columbia Southern University and has certifications for Firefighter I and II, Fire Officer, Chief Fire Officer, Urban Search and Rescue and more than 100 other fire service certifications. In addition to teaching at the El Camino Fire Academy, Lee is also a certified instructor with the California State Fire Marshal.



90's All-Decades Team Recognized

At the October 2 El Camino football game, the 90's All-Decades team was recognized. A reception prior to the game and half-time awards were part of the ceremony.

1990's All-Decades Team

Offense:

- Steve Sarkisian
- Delvon Flowers
- Ivan Wilson
- Russell Shaw
- Antonio Chatman
- Damon Terrell
- Tivete Usu
- Kenny Thomas
- David Samperio
- Billy Miller
- Ega Usu
- Latario Rachal

Defense:

- Kenny Talanoa
- DeLawrence Grant
- Ladairis Jackson
- Billy McDaniel
- Danny Katoa
- Juan Jimenez
- Donovan Gallatin
- Chris Ellison
- Eric Barnes
- Omarr Morgan
- Dave Seanlon
- Micah Borrett
- Tavita Moala



Announcing the 2022 Distinguished Alumni and Gr

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Karin Baker
Corporate Social Responsibility,
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.



Ian and Marilyn MacLeod
Entrepreneurs



Francisco X. Rivera
Sports Broadcaster, Fox Sports



Kirk Rossberg
President, Torrance Bakery

75th Anniversary Gala Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards March 4, 2022

2022 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES

Karin Baker, American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

Karin Baker joined American Honda's Corporate Community Relations team in 1997 and throughout her 24-year career at American Honda, she has had the opportunity to expand her role to work with the local South Bay community, as well as on national and global initiatives.

Marilyn and Ian MacLeod, Entrepreneurs

After attending Morningside High School in the 1950's, Marilyn and Ian headed to El Camino College. They had the opportunity to start a business in the scrap metal and recycling fields, where they were able to grow the business exponentially over the years. They are regarded by their colleagues and employees as being honest and smart, treating everyone with respect. Marilyn and Ian are revered as kind-hearted and generous by all who know them.

Francisco X. Rivera, Sports Broadcaster

Francisco X. Rivera is a bilingual sportscaster who specializes in soccer, football and baseball. He started his on-air career in 2005 as one of the youngest on-air talents in American television. Rivera is in his 13th year with FOX Deportes, mainly as play-by-play announcer and reporter for Major League Baseball games across the United States.

Kirk Rossberg, Torrance Bakery

Kirk opened Torrance Bakery in 1984. He has been active over the years in many worthwhile community events supporting local charities. Most recently, Kirk was the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce President in 2020 and received the Small Business Advocate of the Year from the CA Chamber of Commerce in 2020 for his work on behalf of local businesses.

GRATITUDE AWARDS



Mary Haag | Individual



Manhattan Beach
Rotary | Community



Northrop Grumman
Corporation | Corporate

GRATITUDE AWARDS HONOREES

Mary Haag | Individual

Mary has been a long-time supporter and advocate for El Camino College. Her husband Robert (Bob) Haag worked at El Camino for his entire career beginning in 1958. Sadly, Bob passed away in 2005, but Mary has carried on their tradition of loving and supporting El Camino College and our students through multiple scholarships in their name.

Northrop Grumman | Corporate

Over the past 16 years, Northrop Grumman has donated almost \$1 million to El Camino College to benefit students and programs, primarily in the area of STEM education including scholarships and support for programs. Northrop Grumman has also had a long partnership with the El Camino Manufacturing program, and has hired ECC students.

Manhattan Beach Rotary | Community

The Manhattan Beach Rotary has been supporting student scholarships at El Camino since 2008 and has donated close to \$100,000. The organization has also provided food and supplies to the Warrior Pantry, and individual members have also donated funds to support the pantry and the President's Circle program.

Attitude Award Inductees



Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards EL CAMINO COLLEGE

It is our honor and privilege to announce this year's Distinguished Alumni and Gratitude Awardees who will be recognized and inducted on March 4, 2022. These individuals and organizations have achieved great success in their careers and community, and we wish to acknowledge the strong educational foundation and partnership El Camino College has provided them on their professional journey.



Queer is Love Scholarship



The Queer is Love Scholarship was established to support the educational goals and dreams of El Camino College's LGBTQIA+ students and community. The Queer is Love

Scholarship is brought to you by the LGBTQIA+ Safe Zone Project Committee, the Gender Sexuality Alliance club, and Student Equity & Achievement.

Want to support the Queer is Love Scholarship with a monetary gift? It's easy to donate to the scholarship fund and takes just a few minutes! Visit the El Camino College Foundation's online donation page at www.elcamino.edu/foundation/donate. Select the donation amount and choose Donate Now!

SAVE THE DATE

The Best of El Camino

75th Anniversary Gala
Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards
March 4, 2022
Westdrift Manhattan Beach

HONORING

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Karin Baker | Corporate Social Responsibility, American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Marilyn and Ian MacLeod | Entrepreneurs
Francisco X. Rivera | Sports Broadcaster, Fox Sports
Kirk Rossberg | President, Torrance Bakery

GRATITUDE AWARDS

Mary Haag | Individual
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EL CAMINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION

New Scholarships Established for El Camino Students

Howmet Aerospace recently granted \$60,000 in total scholarship funds through their Foundation for students pursuing careers in STEM and manufacturing related fields.



Howmet Aerospace invests in technical education and workforce development initiatives, with an emphasis on increased

access to STEM fields for underrepresented individuals. Additionally, Howmet Aerospace plans to organize a holiday food drive at each of their five Southern California locations in support of El Camino College's Warrior (food) Pantry.

Century Housing granted \$30,000 in scholarship funds for students interested in affordable



housing related careers including vocational training, construction trades, human services, planning, public administration, architecture, real estate development, social enterprise or other related fields. Career attainment and economic advancement are central goals of the newly established scholarships.

Norris Foundation Visits El Camino College

On September 14, the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation's board members and staff visited El Camino College to discuss their continued support of the South Bay Promise program and see first-hand their generous grant dollars at work. Trustees Kim Presley and Jim Martin, along with Grants Manager Becky Accordino,

The Kenneth T. and Eileen L.
NORRIS
FOUNDATION



Taking a brief break from mask wearing to shoot a quick photo with our friends from the Norris Foundation at the Norris Foundation Conference Room in the ECC Student Services building. L to R: Jim Martin, Becky Accordino, Kim Presley and ECC Foundation Executive Director Andrea Sala.

met in the Norris Foundation Conference Room in the new Student Services building to discuss ways our partnership can continue to help El Camino students meet and exceed their educational goals.

Members of El Camino College's team who welcomed the Norris Foundation included Julieta Arámburo, Director of Outreach & School Relations, Dr. Cynthia Mosqueda, Faculty Coordinator, Andrea Sala, Foundation Executive Director and Heidi Wang, Foundation Development Officer. A quick campus tour concluded the meeting before the Norris Foundation team departed.

Through their mission of enhancing quality of life through medicine, education, and the arts in Southern California, the Norris Foundation has purposely made it their responsibility to get closer to their grantees in order to create strong relationships and make the greatest impact. The El Camino College Foundation is pleased to be one of these special partners, helping El Camino students achieve success year after year.

Warrior Pantry Thanks American Honda!



American Honda Motor Co., Inc., based in Torrance, delivered 1,000 cans of food to the El Camino College Warrior Pantry on Wednesday, October 20th just in time for the holiday season.

According to Katie Falk, Local Corporate Responsibility Unit lead, "Honda is proud to give back to the local communities where we live and work and appreciate the opportunity to have our associates support the El Camino College Warrior Pantry."

The cans were donated as part of Honda's internal team building event before being delivered to the Warrior Pantry by a few of Honda's associates. The El Camino football team volunteered to help unload the cans and help stock the shelves of the Warrior Pantry.

Thank you to our friends at Honda for supporting the students of El Camino College!



El Camino College Ranks in Top 100

El Camino College was recently named as one of the nation's "Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics" by *The Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine* in its October issue. For the 2019-2020 school year, El Camino Community College District ranked #22 in "Total Enrollment for a Two-Year College" and #23 in "Total Associate Degrees Granted."

"We are very proud of this distinction as it validates our efforts and re-emphasizes our commitment to serving our students by assessing, identifying and addressing their needs for success," explains El Camino College Superintendent/President Dr. Brenda Thames. "Our faculty and staff are dedicated to student success and equity. Creating a sense of belonging and helping our students achieve their goals are our highest priorities."

Every year, the magazine features "Top 100" lists charting the national progress of Hispanic and Latinx students and faculty in higher education. The magazine recognizes institutions that are committed to serving the academic needs of its campus communities. El Camino College was recognized for its long-standing reputation of high-quality student support services, award-winning faculty, and strong community partnerships and collaborations. These are among the many reasons why South Bay residents choose El Camino College as a destination to pursue their academic and/or professional goals. Hispanic/Latinx students enrolled at El Camino College represent more than half of the student population.

"I am not surprised El Camino College was ranked amongst the top 100 in the nation for best colleges to serve Hispanic students," expresses Sarah Sheik, El Camino student and Associated Students Organization Director of External Affairs. "As a mixed woman who is both Latina and South Asian, El Camino makes me feel comfortable with its vast diversity. El Camino College stands out among other universities that serve the Hispanic/Latinx community because it provides students with a wealth of resources and opportunities, as well as the support we need to embrace our roots. I love the community and safe space El Camino provides!"

Kinecta Connects the Community



For El Camino student Phu Ho, a career in the entertainment industry is within a camera lens' reach. Phu is a Leuzinger High School alumnus and former Multimedia Careers Academy (MCA) graduate, where he received his real-world technical training and first met Latrice McGlothin, Kinecta Community Foundation's Executive Director.

Phu recently produced a professional LA Galaxy promotional video for Kinecta Federal Credit Union called the #CameronChallenge. As the exclusive financial services partner of the LA Galaxy, Kinecta partnered with 18-year old LA Galaxy soccer player, Cameron Dunbar in his commitment to encourage other young adults to save and learn financial literacy. The #CameronChallenge was a 60-day financial empowerment challenge, which educated students with money management skills, all while having fun interacting with Cameron.

Phu is grateful to MCA and their partner Kinecta for giving him the opportunity to work with LA Galaxy's

player Cameron Dunbar on his video series. According to Phu, "It was a great experience for me handling such a big project, and the professionalism had to be my top priority. I also learned to communicate professionally to Kinecta's project management team through emails, phone calls and Zoom meetings."

Kinecta Community Foundation's Executive Director, Latrice McGlothin stated, "It's exciting for me to see Kinecta providing real world opportunities to help local students learn their field and continue to hone their craft." She further explained that the opportunities Kinecta offers is a great intersection and partnership to allow students to grow. "I'm proud to see our local students work hard and succeed in areas that they are so passionate about."

McGlothin further explained that these opportunities come full circle. Phu graduated from Leuzinger High School in 2020 and is now a sophomore at El Camino College and is taking part in the South Bay Promise, where he received an additional scholarship funded by Kinecta, who is a long-time Community Partner of the El Camino College Foundation. Phu plans to transfer to CSULB in fall 2023.



#GivingTuesday is November 30th!



WIN RAMS TICKETS!

Win 4 tickets to the **LA Rams** vs Jacksonville Jaguars game on December 5th! (valued @ \$1,500 | includes parking)

1 chance for each \$50 gift increment on #GivingTuesday (i.e. \$100 donation = 2 chances)

DRAWING ON DEC. 1, 2021

EL CAMINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Together we give.

November 30th, 2021



GIVING TUESDAY

Support
El Camino
College
Foundation
While You Shop

#GIVING TUESDAY™

November 30, 2021

#GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement which unleashes the power of people and organizations to transform communities and the world. This year, GivingTuesday is on November 30, 2021, the Tuesday immediately after Thanksgiving. Please consider supporting the El Camino College Foundation this holiday season on GivingTuesday.



Select El Camino
Community College
District Foundation



Use NPO
(Non-Profit Org) #AS558

