

Dear Friend,

El Camino College is a very special place, and I'm constantly reminded of the high quality of students who have studied here, and have gone on to lead extraordinary lives.

I am thrilled to announce our next class of inductees joining our Distinguished Alumni Honor Roll. Please continue reading below for our complete list of 2022 Distinguished Alumni and Gratitude Award winners. We received a record number of nominations this year, and we wish to thank the entire community for recognizing the amazing work our alumni are doing to make our world a better place.



Congratulations to all our Distinguished Alumni and Gratitude Awardees. We are very proud to call you ECC Warriors. *Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior!*

Warmest regards,

Andrea Sala
Executive Director

Alumni Spotlight: Meet our 2022 Distinguished Alumni and Gratitude Award Inductees



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. Congratulations -- we are so proud of all of you!

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
Manhattan Beach Rotary | Community
Northrop Grumman Corporation | Corporate



Karin Baker
Distinguished Alumni



Ian and Marilyn MacLeod
Distinguished Alumni



Francisco X. Rivera
Distinguished Alumni



Kirk Rossberg
Distinguished Alumni



Manhattan Beach Rotary
Community
Gratitude Award



Mary Haag
Individual
Gratitude Award



Northrop Grumman
Corporate
Gratitude Award



Save the Date: 75th Anniversary Gala & Distinguished Alumni Event - March 4, 2022



Mark your calendars and save our date! Please join us for our Diamond Anniversary Gala and Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards event. More details to follow.

Event Spotlight: State of the College - November 5, 2021



COLLABORATE
CONNECT
EDUCATE
PREPARE
INNOVATE
SUPPORT

Please Join Us Virtually

Friday, November 5, 2021

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Via Zoom

Please join us for the virtual fourth annual State of the College to hear about the post-pandemic economy – our new normal – and how the South Bay economy is surviving and adapting. More than one year later, COVID-19 continues to shape our economy and redefine the workforce needs of our region.

RSVP by Friday, October 29 for Meeting Link
marcomm@elcamino.edu or 310.660.3406
View more **State of the College** information here.

Instructor Spotlight: 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 as the new 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 Ventura/Los Angeles/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. 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 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.

Program Spotlight: El Camino Partners with NBCU Academy for Journalism Training and Scholarships



El Camino College is the only California community college to join 16 other colleges and universities nationwide in the new NBCU Academy, an innovative multi-platform journalism training and development program for university and community college students through education, on-campus training and online programming.

El Camino College's partnership with NBCU Academy was recently featured by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. [Watch the video spotlight below.](#)

Congratulations to all El Camino scholarship recipients. We are so proud of you!



Program Spotlight: El Camino's Entrepreneurial Studies to Hold Business Pitch Contest



El Camino College students who have been dreaming of starting their own business will be able to compete in a business plan pitch competition to make their entrepreneurial dreams a reality. On November 18,

students can compete in the "Perfect Pitch Competition," and present to a panel of judges from the community who are experienced entrepreneurs.

To qualify for the competition, students must enroll in two preparatory sessions where they will have an opportunity to fine-tune their business plan and practice their business proposal delivery. A \$500 prize, made possible by [JPMorgan Chase](#) through their [minority entrepreneur](#) program, will be awarded to the winning pitch to be used for the creation and implementation of their business idea.

"The Perfect Pitch Competition is an opportunity for our students to take control of their future," explains Dr. Virginia Rapp, Dean of Business at El Camino College. "Students across campus will receive support from business faculty and advisors on their business concept as well as their presentation skills. Participants will deliver their business presentation virtually and vie for the cash prize."

El Camino business management professor Melissa Som de Cerff says that the contest is a perfect launch pad for those students who have been thinking about starting their own business. Those interested in developing their own small business should consider the [Entrepreneurial Studies Program](#) offered by the Business Division.

Community Spotlight: Spreading ECC News to Manhattan Beach

Did you know that the *Manhattan Beach 360 Radio Show* goes live every Friday at 8:00am to bring news and happenings to the South Bay community?

Hosts Joe Terry of *The South Bay Show* and Kelly Stroman of the *Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce* invite active Chamber members to share information and updates about their organization on this weekly podcast.

On September 24, Ann O'Brien, El Camino College's Executive Director of Marketing & Communications and Foundation Executive Director, Andrea Sala were guests on the show. Together, Ann and Andrea discussed all things new at El Camino, including our new president Dr. Brenda Thames, vaccination mandates, the State of the College on November 5, and our 75th Anniversary Gala, among other topics.



Please [listen to the podcast here](#). Enjoy!

Donor Spotlight: Chicken of the Sea Supports Warrior Pantry



Thai Union, the parent company of **Chicken of the Sea**, recently donated nearly \$500 in canned tuna and other packaged seafood products, to the new Warrior Cupboard in Athletics. This gift was specifically designated to help El Camino student-athletes with healthy and protein rich snacks.

Heidi Wang, Foundation Development Officer stated, "The individual to-go cups and single-serve pouches are perfect for our student-athletes. We are excited to be the recipient of on-going Chicken of the Sea products to the **Warrior Pantry**."

Thanks Thai Union for your continued support of our students!

Pictured: Trixi Miles of Thai Union and Heidi Wang of the ECC Foundation, in front of the Thai Union North America corporate office in El Segundo.

Community Giving: Win LA Rams Tickets on #GivingTuesday



WIN RAMS TICKETS!

Win 4 tickets to the **LA Rams** vs Jacksonville Jaguars game on December 5th!
(valued at \$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

Due to the generosity of a special donor, for each \$50 gift increment made on **#GivingTuesday** (i.e. \$100 gift = 2 chances), your name will be entered into a drawing for four (4) tickets to the **LA Rams** vs. Jacksonville Jaguars game at SoFi Stadium on December 5, 2021. The tickets are in Section 114, Row 9, 9 rows up from the visitor's bench on the 20-yard line and includes parking (total package valued at \$1,500). The winner will be drawn on Dec. 1, 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.

Support the El Camino College Foundation on #GivingTuesday. Go Rams! [Donate Here!](#)

The El Camino College Foundation (EIN 95-3874302) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to fund and support student success programs at El Camino College.



El Camino College Foundation | 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506

