

EL CAMINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION Connections

SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF EL CAMINO COLLEGE

FALL 2017

The South Bay Promise



The reality of college student loan debt is astounding, currently exceeding \$1 trillion nationwide. The average undergraduate student borrower graduates with more than \$30,000 in student loans. Community colleges across California are trying to help reduce that rate through Promise programs which create a culture of college bound high school students. The workforce is retiring, and “baby boomers” need to be replaced with a new highly skilled and educated talent pool. In an effort to remove economic barriers, the South Bay Promise program’s goal is to make El Camino College fully accessible to all local students.

This fall, ECC welcomed 77 local students to the 2017-18 South Bay Promise program, and in the fall of 2018, the program plans to accommodate up to 500 “Promise” students.

The South Bay Promise provides free enrollment fees for the first year of college to eligible students who commit to Promise requirements. The South Bay Promise is funded from private donations to the El Camino College Foundation and a variety of other resources. Here’s how you can help:

Sponsor a Student

You can help local South Bay high school seniors attend college by sponsoring a student in the South Bay Promise program. Enrollment fees are \$46 per unit, and up to 15 units are covered through the South Bay Promise for the first year of attendance at El Camino College.*

**1 student
= \$1,380**

**5 students
= \$6,900**

**10 students
= \$13,800**

**Donations can be paid over a 12 month period and are fully tax deductible.*

Student Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the South Bay Promise, a student must:

- Graduate in spring from an accredited high school within the El Camino Community College District or reside in the ECCCD.
- Apply by April 30th of their senior year in high school to attend El Camino College the following fall semester.
- Commit to full-time status by enrolling in 12 units for both the fall and spring semesters.
- Apply to the South Bay Promise program.
- Be a resident of the state of California for tuition purposes (or be AB 540 eligible).
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Dream Act application.

I am the South Bay Promise



High school was a time of uncertainty for me where I experienced a lot of family issues, so emotionally, it was hard. When I graduated from South High School in Torrance in June 2017, I was unsure about my future, but knew I wanted to attend college, and go to El Camino because I have a dream of becoming a nurse.

A few years ago, my mom was sick, and I was her “nurse” and helped her with her medications and treatments. One of the nurses who cared for her told me everything was going to be okay, which helped me grow hope for my mom.

I always try to believe in the impossible because of what my mom’s nurse said that day. She made me realize that I wanted to be just like her, not only to help my own family, but others in need too. From that moment on, I knew I wanted to go into Nursing as my career and help people.

I wasn’t sure how I was going to afford college though, because my parents aren’t able to help me financially. Being accountable for my own college expenses is making me mature and independent, but it’s challenging. I have a part-time job and go to school full-time. I live with my older brother, so that helps a lot.

Fortunately, I learned about the new South Bay Promise program at El Camino College for first-time freshman students through some of my friends at South High who were going to participate. Through the “Promise” program, my enrollment fees and books for my math and English classes are paid for. Priority registration, orientations, counseling help, and creating an educational plan were all offered to me through the program to help me adjust to the complexity of going to college.

I know El Camino has one of the best Nursing programs in the South Bay, and I am so proud to be a student here participating in the South Bay Promise program. Your help for other students just like me from our South Bay is so appreciated! Thank you for helping me reach my dream of becoming a nurse!

— Priscilla

I know El Camino College has one of the best Nursing programs in the South Bay, and I am so proud to be a student here participating in the South Bay Promise program.

Alumni News



El Camino College Alumna Lands Internship at New York Times

Jessica Martinez, ECC Class of '15, who served as editor-in-chief of The Union student newspaper and Warrior Life magazine while at El Camino College, earned a prestigious internship at the New York Times as part of the Dow Jones News Fund internship program. The program includes a 10-week position working on the newspaper's "Culture" copy desk. She began the internship just three weeks after her June graduation from New York University, where she double majored in journalism and social and cultural analysis.

Martinez said her time at El Camino College – particularly working at The Union – prepared her for NYU and her internship. "As a student journalist at ECC, I wanted to come to New York for school, and my dream job would be any position at The Times," she said. "I truly don't think this would have been possible without the guidance I received at ECC."

Martinez graduated from ECC in 2015, where she was a Presidential Scholar, an award reserved for students graduating with a 3.7 or higher GPA. That same year, Martinez earned a second-place award for Reporter of the Year from the Associated Collegiate Press and first place for Best Online Infographic from the College Media Association. The Union received Newspaper of the Year in the less-than-weekly category for two-year colleges. At NYU, Martinez worked as an editor of the student newspaper and as a transfer student ambassador.

ECC Scholarship Recipient Heads to Dental School

Adrian Menendez, ECC Class of 2015, loved his time at El Camino College, where he studied Natural and Biological sciences and graduated with a 4.0 GPA, before heading to the University of Southern California. Adrian was a two year recipient of the Wayne and Margaret Bemis Scholarship Honoring Julius Sumner Miller. At USC, Adrian majored in Human Biology in preparation for the long road to dental school. If it hadn't been for Organic Chemistry, he would have graduated from USC with a 4.0 as well! This past May, he graduated magna cum laude (3.79 GPA) from USC. While attending USC, Adrian worked at the USC Dental School part-time, and was active in the USC Pre-Dental Honors Society. He is taking a "gap year" while applying to dental schools including USC, UCLA, and UCSF.

Adrian's favorite memory of El Camino was the impact of his English instructor, Dana Crotwell, who Adrian says opened the door to him becoming "environmentally conscious", and was an amazing influence in his educational career. Good luck to Adrian!



Giving Tuesday

November 28, 2017

BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Black Friday. Cyber Monday. Giving Tuesday.

Giving Tuesday is a Global Day of Giving. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many people focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Please join the #GivingTuesday movement and support the El Camino College Foundation by donating to our campaign. We are thrilled to partner with Grandpoint Bank as our matching gifts provider. Grandpoint Bank has generously agreed to match all gifts received on this national day of giving, to double your donation! Thank you Grandpoint Bank! To give online, please go to www.elcamino.edu/foundation/donate.asp

Grandpoint Bank has generously agreed to match all gifts to the El Camino Foundation to double your donation!

To learn more about Grandpoint Bank, please visit them at www.grandpointbank.com.

Thank you in advance for supporting the students of El Camino College this holiday season!

Grandpoint.

Mike and Jacquie Thompson: For the Love of Computers and Education

Jacquie Thompson was a student at El Camino College when computers were just starting to make their way into our world. She took a Computer Information Systems class, and her love affair with computers began. Jacquie was an adult learner with three young children and a job. She was a part-time student and lucky enough that her employer paid for her education. She graduated from ECC and attended CSU Long Beach, where she received her BS and MBA from the School of Business with an emphasis in Information Systems. As Jacquie puts it, "I was bitten by the computer bug!"

While Jacquie was working full-time, she became a part-time instructor at El Camino one night a week to share her passion for computers. That part-time gig turned into becoming an Associate Professor and then a full-time Professor in the Business Division teaching programming at El Camino College. She spent 15 years as a faculty member at the college, retiring just three years ago.

At that time, she and her husband Mike, decided to establish the CIS Scholarship for computer science students. "Education is the thing we cherish the most," explained Jacquie. "We give to El Camino College and we give to Torrance Unified schools where our son teaches. We are proud to help students and lucky to have the means to do so." Mike, whose career was in the banking industry, added, "My mom was a teacher, my brother and sister were teachers, my wife was a teacher, and now my son is a teacher. I'm surrounded by education and that's what we believe in." Mike didn't escape teaching himself, as he taught an adult education class for Long Beach City College for five years through the American Institute of Banking.

Jacquie and Mike's generation was the first in their families to receive a college degree, and their three children attended El Camino before transferring to receive four-year degrees,



Jacquie and Mike Thompson with their 2017 scholarship recipients. Pictured from left: Scott Johnson, Jacquie Thompson, Chudabala Varintorn and Mike Thompson.

because Jacquie and Mike instilled the importance of education from an early age. "El Camino has done so much for our community. I can't imagine anyone who hasn't been touched in some way." She added, "The instructors are so interested and really care about the students."

The Thompsons also support the Veterans Center at El Camino, and donated a much-needed computer to the center. We salute the Thompsons and are proud to have their support of El Camino College students.



El Camino College Grad to Transfer to Prestigious Business School

Nicole Mardesich, El Camino College Class of '17 and 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 programs such as the Honors Transfer Program and the Transfer Center helped her achieve her goal of transferring successfully to a four-year institution, 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," Nicole said. "Not only did El Camino College offer me a chance to further my academic endeavors, but it also helped me grow as a leader."

As the ECC Student Trustee this past year, Foundation Board Representative, and the Associated Student Organization (ASO) director of finance, Nicole said she was particularly proud of her accomplishments such as implementing "FloWater hydration stations" throughout the ECC campus. Nicole also worked as an El Camino College student ambassador in the ECC Office of Outreach and School Relations and was vice president of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society.

University of California
Berkeley
Haas School of Business

ECC Grad Named CSU Dominguez Hills Presidential Scholar

Congratulations to ECC graduate Joanne Lobo, Class of '17, who was named a California State University, Dominguez Hills Presidential Scholar. Joanne is one of 12 students named for the prestigious award this year, and began her studies at CSU Dominguez Hills this fall. The full-tuition scholarship is the university's highest academic award, with more than 100 high-achieving students applying for the award this year.



Additionally, Presidential Scholars receive an annual book allowance, parking permits, priority registration, academic success coaching and a \$500 discount on student housing. We wish Joanne all the best at CSU Dominguez Hills!

Warrior Food Pantry



The Warrior Food Pantry will open at El Camino College in the fall of 2017, providing non-perishable food items to any ECC student who chooses to utilize the pantry. In an effort to address homelessness and food insecurities, the college is also allowing students who are homeless to shower in the locker room facilities where towels and toiletries are provided.

The Warrior Food Pantry was initiated to provide supplemental food for the homeless and food insecure students attending El Camino College. Recent studies have found that thousands of community college students show up to class hungry due to food insecurity.

Conversations on food insecurity have gained momentum throughout higher education in California. Both four-year university systems (California State University and the University of California) have published studies that acknowledge the importance of addressing food insecurity in order to support student success*. These studies are relevant for El Camino College given the proportion of food insecure households in the South Bay.

Colleges have begun responding to these concerns by creating food pantries, free and reduced lunch programs, and partnering with community organizations to create affordable housing options. These programs exist due to the influence that insecurity challenges have on student experiences and outcomes.

Addressing food insecurity of students at El Camino College will support efforts to increase persistence and degree attainment. Please help us stock the ECC campus food pantry by donating food or cash!

*Crutchfield et al., 2016; Martinez, Maynard, & Ritchie, 2016

El Camino College: Have You Seen Us Lately?

Facilities upgrades continue across campus, transforming the look of El Camino College in many areas. Here are some current projects:

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

A new gymnasium will house two full instructional and athletic competition areas for basketball, volleyball and badminton. A multipurpose 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 additional parking spaces to the campus!



Student Services Center due to open late 2018.

ECC: Did You Know?

Established in 1947, this year marks the 70th anniversary of El Camino College. Here are some facts you may not know.

Number One!

El Camino College is #1 in Southern California for percentage of transfer students admitted to UCLA.

Top Ten!

We are one of the Top 10 in California for transferring to UC schools, and top 3 for transferring to CSU schools.

The Largest Transfer Program!

The El Camino College Honors Transfer Program is one of the largest and most robust in the state.

Scholar Athletes!

158 student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or higher in 2016-17 (Scholar-Baller program).

EL CAMINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION



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