

Dear Heidi,

May brings the realization that the academic year is quickly coming to an end, with this year's virtual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 27 and El Camino College's 2021 Commencement scheduled for June 11.



As California enters the least restrictive yellow tier and moves to fully reopen its economy June 15, we look forward to safe public gatherings and fun Foundation events in the near future.

Please continue to stay healthy and well. We can't wait to see you in person soon!

Warmly,

Andrea Sala
Executive Director

New El Camino College Superintendent/President Announced



After nearly a six month process, Dr. Brenda Thames has been named the 7th Superintendent/President of El Camino College by ECC's Board of Trustees. She was approved at the May 17 Board of Trustees meeting, and will officially take office July 1, 2021. Currently serving as the President of West Hills College Coalinga, Dr. Thames brings 23 years of experience to El Camino. Learn more about [Dr. Thames and her professional background](#).

The ECC Board of Trustees interviewed four finalists from a nationwide search, presented by the Presidential Search Committee and the PPL Executive Search Consultants. Public Forums in April to introduce the candidates provided the campus and external community an opportunity to get to know the candidates while they answered questions submitted by the community. Read the official [announcement released by El Camino College](#) here.

Thank you to the campus Presidential Search Committee who dedicated their time and efforts to this important hiring process. From all of us at the El Camino College Foundation, welcome and congratulations Dr. Thames! We look forward to working with you!

Foundaton Spotlight: Teacher Appreciation Week 2021

With no campus events in over a year, it was nice to plan a Foundation event after what seems to have been forever!

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3-7) was the perfect occasion to honor our faculty after a long and challenging pandemic year. The El Camino College Foundation decided to do something extra special on May 5th, Warrior Wednesday, to recognize the efforts of our nearly 950 full- and part-time faculty. A drive-thru lunch distribution event was organized as a small way to say THANK YOU. A complete boxed lunch was served to all faculty who pre-ordered a meal, using the Warrior Pantry drive-thru as the campus pick-up location.



A big thank you to all our Foundation volunteers, Kim Cameron of the Warrior Pantry and her staff, and our generous lunch sponsors: **Gaetano's Restaurant**, **Torrance Bakery**, and the **Water Replenishment District**. We appreciate you acknowledging El Camino College educators, who are always there to help our students! View more **Faculty Appreciation Photos** here.



Teacher Appreciation from Gaetano's



Cookie from Torrance Bakery



Waves of support for our wonderful faculty



Foundation serving lunches & smiles under masks



Kelsey Iino with Counselor, Rocio Diaz



Andrea Sala and Kim Cameron with
ECC Campus Police

Francisco X. Rivera Named 2021 Commencement Speaker



El Camino College welcomes Francisco X. Rivera as the 2021 commencement speaker. The El Camino alumnus will address the Class of 2021 virtually during the 74th Annual Commencement Ceremony scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday, June 11. Rivera was scheduled as the college's 2020 commencement speaker before the ceremony moved to a streamlined virtual celebration due to the coronavirus pandemic. The college community is pleased Rivera will participate in the online ceremony this year.

"We are happy to welcome Francisco X. Rivera back to El Camino College, where he began his studies in higher education that led to an exciting and rewarding career," said El Camino College President Dena P. Maloney. "His achievements in broadcasting are an inspiration to our students and many others."

A soccer commentator and reporter for FOX Sports, Rivera joined the network's soccer coverage as a sideline reporter for the 2013 Gold Cup. That same year he became the first Mexican-born broadcaster on the FOX Broadcast Network. Since then, he has served as a contributor for high-profile Mexico national team matches.

Read more about [Francisco X. Rivera as this year's commencement speaker](#).

Student Spotlight: Giancarlo Fernandez Receives Diversity Award

Congratulations to ASO President, Giancarlo Fernandez, for being awarded the Advocate Award at this year's **Educate, Celebrate & Elevate Diversity Awards**, presented by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. This event honors achievement and leadership in multiculturalism and diversity.

Giancarlo will be recognized on May 19 at a virtual awards ceremony, which educates, celebrates and elevates those promoting culture, diversity, and inclusion in the South Bay. The Advocate Award recognizes an outstanding individual with the ability to rally, to affect positive change, to educate through intercultural dialogue on current events, and to advocate on behalf of marginalized communities.



In addition to being ASO President, Giancarlo serves on the President's Advisory Committee on Race & Equity, is Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Co-Chair of Student Equity Advisory Council, and is a member of Inter-Club Council. With all his involvement at ECC, Giancarlo was a featured **Student Spotlight** in 2019. While at El Camino, Giancarlo earned three degrees and will graduate this June. He was accepted to both UCLA and UC Berkeley.

"I work to ensure that activities and objectives promote an inclusive, welcoming and equity striving climate for all students. As a First-Generation Latino student, I understand the struggles and obstacles that historically underrepresented student groups face and I am honored to be surrounded by such empowering students, staff, faculty and administration." stated Giancarlo.

Community Partners Spotlight: Norris Foundation



For the last three years, the **Norris Foundation** has been a generous sponsor of the El Camino College Foundation, by awarding numerous grants in support of the South Bay Promise and Student Emergency Fund programs.

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.

Thank you Norris Foundation for your past and continued support!

Warrior Pantry Spotlight: Eagle Scout Project Makes a Difference

Drew Sasaki and Ty Urabe of **Boy Scout** Troop 242 of North Torrance, completed their Eagle project by building heavy duty wooden carts and donating food and toiletries to the Warrior Pantry. Both students are now qualified to become Eagle Scouts. Pictured below are the large rolling carts which have already been put to use by the Warrior Pantry staff and volunteers.



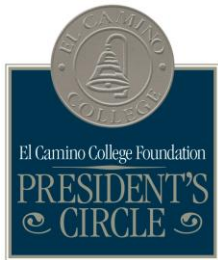
Drew Sasaki and Ty Urabe presenting their handmade wooden carts to the Warrior Pantry



Engraved name plates dedicating their Eagle Project to the Warrior Pantry

Thank you Drew and Ty and Boy Scout Troop 242 for your generosity and helping El Camino students facing food insecurity. Congratulations to you both on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and selecting the Warrior Pantry as your service project beneficiary.

President's Circle Spotlight: Welcoming Our Newest Donors



President's Circle members are leading supporters of El Camino College and the El Camino College Foundation, and play an important role as ambassadors in our community. President's Circle supporters are vital to continuing the legacy of excellence at El Camino College. With a \$1,000 minimum annual gift, they play a critical role in our students' success.

We are pleased to welcome our newest **2021 President's Circle donors**:

Valerie and Chris Adlam
Melissa and Jeff Baumunk
Sara and Roy Dietz
Jonathan Kaji | Kaji & Associates
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Crystal and Rod Macdonell

Bill and Mary Mealer
Trustee Trisha Murakawa
Sandy Pringle Associates
Daniel Tang
Kathy and Paul Wafer
Stanley Walsh

Community Giving - Give Today!

A charitable gift to the **El Camino College Foundation** is a great way to catapult a student's education. This May, be A-MAY-ZING and donate today!

As always, thank you for your support!



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

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

