

EL CAMINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION Connections

SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF EL CAMINO COLLEGE

FALL 2015

EL CAMINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS

El Camino College, the path. For tens of thousands of students, it's the first step on the road to a better future. The El Camino College Foundation provides the extra support students need to achieve success in school and in life.

50% of students at El Camino intend to transfer to a four-year college or university.

55% of El Camino College students receive financial aid. Most of these students live at or below the poverty level.

55% of students reported that neither parent had any college experience.

35% of our students enroll as full-time students. Those who can enroll as first-time, full-time students are twice as likely to earn their degree in two years.

65% of students are part-time, most work to support themselves and/or their families while in school. According to counselors, maintaining a job while enrolled at ECC can be one of the biggest obstacles to academic success.



Foundation Sponsors Chromebooks Pilot for English Classes



According to Pete Marcoux, an English professor at El Camino College, the demise of the paper based textbook is not a question of “if” but a question of “when.”

“In order to prepare our students for their future, El Camino College reading and writing classes need to focus on reading and writing in the digital world,” he explained.

During Marcoux's presentation to the ECC Foundation Board requesting funding to pilot Chromebooks, his passion shined through as he explained the benefits of digital learning in his classroom. Using McGraw Hill's digital textbook, learning would take on a whole

new meaning for this generation of students who have grown up in a world surrounded by social media and technology.

The pilot project is proving to be a hit with students and faculty. The collaborative learning environment allows the teacher and students to interact simultaneously, and peer editing can be completed easily by sharing the screen. Students are more engaged and eager to learn through this modern classroom experience.

WHAT DO THE STUDENTS THINK OF CHROMEBOOKS?

“Chromebooks give students the opportunity to stay connected, use little to no paper, and make working with classmates easier.”

“Chromebooks are very easy to carry versus a textbook. They are light and have a very slender shape, so it is easy for students to transport them anywhere.”

“Thanks to our Chromebooks, we are able to reduce our paper consumption exponentially because everything is online from the textbook, homework, quizzes, and essays.”

ECC Foundation Funds “South Bay Promise”

Dakari Jones was a hard working senior at Leuzinger High School when her counselor told her about the new South Bay Promise program at El Camino College. When she learned that the “Promise” would



Dakari Jones

pay for her books and tuition for the first year at ECC, and also allow her to join the First Year Experience program, she was convinced El Camino College was the place for her.

“El Camino’s the BEST!” she

exclaimed when talking about her experience this fall. “Being involved in the South Bay Promise cohort is like having my own community at school. We have the same classes together, and it allows us to form



Trevon Dennis

relationships and make friends. I feel special!”

“The South Bay Promise is a really good program. It’s great how our group is in the same classes. It was nice that I didn’t have to stress



about paying for my books, and I got a lot of help from the counselors with my educational plan,” said Trevon Dennis, another “Promise” student from Inglewood High School.

The South Bay Promise was created to provide a pathway from high school to college, in collaboration with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Centinela Valley Union High School District, Inglewood Unified School District, El Camino College and CSU Dominguez Hills. The South Bay Promise will allow students to chart a clear pathway from high school to El Camino College, and then onto California State University, Dominguez Hills, or another four-year university where they are accepted. South Bay Promise students may also utilize support services at El Camino that include summer school classes, tutoring, transfer assistance, career counseling and peer-to-peer

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mentoring.

The El Camino College Foundation is proud to support the program for a second year. This program will continue to grow, and with support from the Foundation’s generous donors, more students will be eligible to participate.

Dr. Wayne and Peggy Bemis: Keeping the Memories Alive

Wayne G. Bemis, D.D.S., is an El Camino College alumnus who grew up in the South Bay. He and his wife of 59 years, Peggy, graduated from Leuzinger High School. Dr. Bemis remembers his years at El Camino

newlyweds. He received his degree at USC School of Dentistry, and opened a dental practice in the South Bay, where he worked tirelessly for the next 45 years until his retirement in 2008.

Dr. Bemis has established two scholarships at El Camino College in memory of his favorite professors: Julius Sumner Miller and Dr. Gordon Wilson.

Julius Sumner Miller was a guiding force in the education of Dr. Bemis during his years at El Camino College, and Miller’s approach to teaching was “never boring.” Professor Gordon Wilson changed Dr. Bemis’ view of the world, and opened his eyes to many areas not yet discovered by him in history, political science and economics. According to Dr. Bemis, “Professor Gordon explained each subject matter, making it understandable and fascinating. Both of these professors had a major impact on my life.”

The Bemis’ have created a legacy for their scholarships by establishing an endowment in their

estate plan. By naming a gift to El Camino College Foundation in their will, the recollections of Dr. Bemis’ days at El Camino will live on in

perpetuity. His gift is the ultimate legacy to El Camino College and the students their scholarships will benefit.



Dr. Wayne and Peggy Bemis with the 2015 Bemis Scholarship recipients.

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fondly, with the oil fields of Torrance surrounding the campus. While serving in the military from 1955-57, Dr. Bemis attended night school at El Camino. After the military, he became a full-time student, while Peggy worked at Northrop to support the

Frances Ford: A Passionate Supporter of ECC Nursing Students



President Fallo, Frances Ford, Shelby Bradley (recipient of the Ford scholarship), and Jon Ford (nephew and presenter of the scholarship).

Warren E. Ford was a remarkable and passionate Chemistry professor at El Camino College for 36 years.

He and his wife Frances were a strong part of the El Camino College family during the formative years of the College. Since Warren's

writes them warm letters of encouragement on her faithful typewriter, and they write her back! Since establishing the scholarships in 2008, over 50 students have received financial help from the Ford Scholarships. Frances is passionate about nursing, because her mother Dena was a professional nurse in 1918 in Marshalltown, Iowa during World War I.

Shelby Bradley received a Ford high school nursing scholarship as she entered El Camino from high school, and was the first Ford high school recipient accepted into the nursing program to graduate from the nursing program. She has continued her education at CSU Dominguez Hills, where she'll receive a BS in nursing.

Making a difference in these students' lives is most important to Frances. Her support and encouragement of these recipients has helped them be successful in their educational path. Nursing is one of the most difficult, and expensive, programs at El Camino. Having a supporter like Frances to watch over these students makes their lives a little easier.

passing, Frances has remained engaged and is still a big part of the ECC family. She has established several scholarships for incoming high school and El Camino College students, providing funds to pay for tuition, books and fees.

Frances truly enjoys her scholarship recipients, and for many of her Nursing students, she continues her generosity with annual help funding their educational expenses. Frances

Since establishing the scholarships in 2008, over 50 students have received financial help from the Ford Scholarships.



El Camino College Foundation
**PRESIDENT'S
CIRCLE**

President's Circle

The El Camino College Foundation's President's Circle is a dynamic group of distinguished community members, business leaders, alumni and friends who support El Camino College.

The President's Circle provides funds for the El Camino College Foundation to respond to the College's greatest needs, and support and enhance campus programs. Your donation enables us to strengthen funding of vital student services, support the President's strategic initiative and priorities, and respond to new and emerging opportunities.

You will also receive these benefits:

- Exclusive invitations to events with the ECC President, including the annual President's Dinner
- VIP seating at special events on campus throughout the year
- Network with business and community leaders
- Access to the College President and key College & Foundation leaders

President's Circle donors play an important role as ambassadors in our community to help educate others about El Camino College and the critical role education plays in transforming lives. Become a member today.

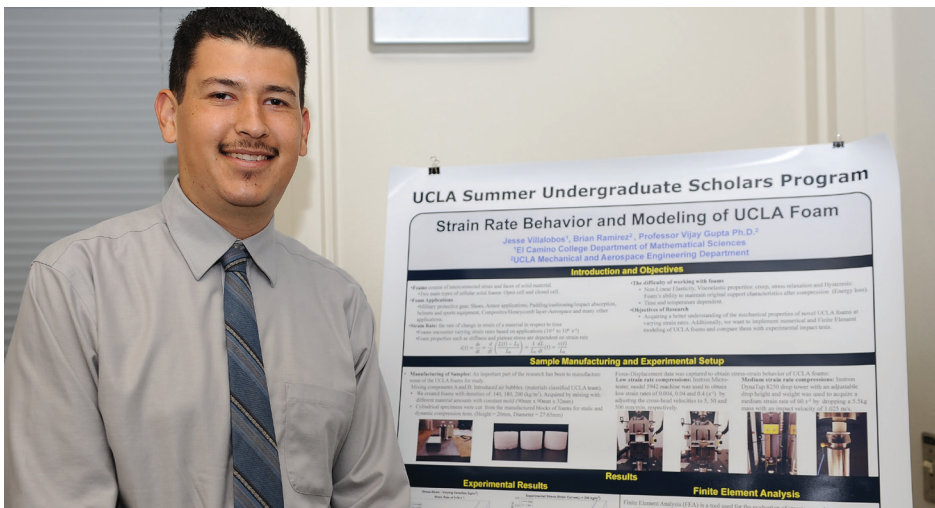
Meet the Foundation Student Representative



Eman Dalili is the El Camino College Foundation student representative, as well as the student representative to the ECC District Board of Trustees. Eman graduated from Palos Verdes High School in 2014, and headed to El Camino. Next fall, he will apply to four prestigious colleges: USC, UC Berkeley, UCLA and Cornell as a business major.

Eman has engrossed himself in activities at El Camino College which require many meetings at school after his classes are finished: commissioner of finance for the Inter Club Council; president of the Business and Marketing Club; and co-president/founder of Students Against Cancer Club, as well as a member of El Camino's award-winning debate team. In his "spare time," Eman has been an intern for Congresswoman Janice Hahn and former Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi.

"My experience at El Camino College has been nothing short of exceptional. It's truly a special place with amazing opportunities, wonderful people and unparalleled student support services," Eman explained. "In my time here, I've grown extraordinarily as a student, leader, and most importantly, as a person."



Jesse Finds His Way at El Camino College

By Jesse Villalobos, ECC student, Class of 2016

Since I was young, I've always had an interest in science or engineering, but unfortunately my years in high school were misguided and undisciplined, and I was unable to perform well academically. I felt ashamed of the student that I was in high school and when I graduated, I didn't even go to graduation because I felt I did not deserve a celebration of my poor academic display.

Through the help at MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement), I acquired scholarships, engineering research opportunities at UCLA, lots of workshops providing vital career information, counseling and a community of students in similar majors.

After high school I went straight into working full time with my dad as a mechanic and office assistant, which helped my family financially. In the fall of 2006, I attempted school at Cerritos College, but due to my employment and my lingering lack of motivation, I had to withdraw.

The following years I worked to help my family financially, but with an unsatisfied feeling of accomplishment. I attempted to take a class once more at Cerritos College in the fall of 2009, yet again half-heartedly motivated and working too many hours, so I withdrew for a second time.

Everything changed for me when I became

unemployed in September 2011 and I could not acquire employment with a high school degree. I would apply for jobs and stood in long lines to fill out applications at multiple job opportunities, but I wouldn't get any of these jobs.

I was finally able to acquire a stable job working in an office in Torrance in February 2012. I began to reestablish myself financially, but I was not going to allow myself to be placed in a situation where I would be unemployed with just a high school degree. This is when El Camino College came in to my life.

I enrolled in El Camino College in fall 2012. I was a geology major, but switched to mechanical engineering when I noticed that I was doing well in math. The geology department at El Camino College was of great help and support in my success here. Although I am a mechanical engineering major, I am still considering going into petroleum engineering since it's closely related to geology.

Although school was hard, I knew I needed to stay enrolled so I could make a difference in my life. Through the help at MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement), I acquired scholarships, engineering research opportunities at UCLA, lots of workshops providing vital career information, counseling and a community of students in similar majors. I am so thankful to Southern California Edison and the Edison Scholars program. The funds given to me will help me complete my education, and I was honored to receive their support.

Now I am in my last year at El Camino, and I will be completing the pre-engineering requirements and acquiring an associates of science in geology and mathematics in spring 2016. I plan on transferring to a mechanical engineering program, preferably at UCLA, USC, or UCI.

I love El Camino College for everything that it has given to me, and I hope to give back one day with my own scholarships.

A MESSAGE FROM ANDREA SALA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is my honor to serve as the Executive Director of the El Camino College Foundation. In my short time here, I have experienced the kindness and passion of our supporters

and alumni. Their generosity and willingness to help our students attain their educational goals, and give them the support required to be successful, is heartwarming.

In our community, El Camino has a stellar reputation, and it seems everyone I meet has some connection to the College. My favorite stories are those of alumni and faculty who were here in the early years, and were paramount in molding the shape of El Camino College today.

I have strong ties to El Camino as well, since my twin daughters attended in 2009 after graduating from high school. As members of the women's soccer team, they both received their associate degrees and transferred to four-year universities. Their experience at El Camino College helped shape them into the young women they are today and had a positive influence in their academic life. I'm proud to say they both graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications, and are now in the workforce with strong careers.

I look forward to meeting more of our alumni, donors, friends and supporters in the future. If you have a favorite El Camino story to share, please email me at asala@elcamino.edu. I'd love to hear from you!

Gratefully,
Andrea Sala, Executive Director
El Camino College Foundation



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