



## # Student Spotlight

### "Success, Support, and Determination: A Story of Success at ECC"

Meet Theodore! He's been part of the ECC community for two years as an F-1 visa student majoring in Computer Science. Recently, he shared some of his experiences, including how he's tackled challenges and found success along the way.

"They gave me great advice and helped me stay on track." Theo didn't just rely on luck, though. He worked hard, asked many questions during the lectures, and visited his professors during office hours. "Don't be afraid to ask questions, meet with your professors, and use office hours. They're there to help!" he said.

As a Computer Science major, Theodore had to dive into some challenging math classes. If you've taken those, you know they can be intense, with fast-paced lectures and tricky terminology. But Theo didn't just survive—he thrived, thanks to some amazing professors. "Professor Watson and Professor Marks were incredible," he said.

Over the winter break, Theo is planning to return to Korea to reunite with family and friends. He's especially excited to see his grandparents and share everything he has accomplished. His journey proves that with a little support and determination, you can achieve great things at ECC.



### Meet Theodore!

He's been part of the ECC community for two years as an F-1 visa student majoring in Computer Science. **Theo's advice:** "Follow the ISP Instagram! It's super helpful for updates like refund deadlines, semester schedules, and campus events."



### Martin Luther King Holiday

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a **U.S. federal holiday** observed on the third Monday of January to honor the civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It celebrates his contributions to the fight against **racial injustice** and **equality** and encourages reflection on his legacy of nonviolent activism.



### International Day of Education

**January 24** is the International Day of Education, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to highlight the role of education in fostering **peace** and **sustainable development**. It emphasizes the need for inclusive and equitable quality education, which focuses on ensuring lifelong learning opportunities for all. Learn more at **Unesco** and **United Nations** websites.



**Share Your Story!**

We're looking for students who want to share their experiences and advice with the ISP community. Let us interview you and highlight your journey! Please contact: [tjohnson@elcamino.edu](mailto:tjohnson@elcamino.edu)

## # Staff Spotlight

# Summer Kennedy

If you are an international student, you surely know Summer. She has been doing remarkable work at El Camino College International Program since 2008, helping many students achieve their academic and personal goals. Summer is passionate about her family, and loves to try new food from different countries. Her hobbies include singing and dancing.

Besides supporting the International Students Program, Summer is also the El Camino Language Academy Coordinator, a program designed to help students strengthen their English skills so they can transfer to El Camino College, continue their studies at a four-year institution, and gain confidence as English speakers.

The ECLA serves as the first step for many international students to learn the language and culture of the United States. The program welcomes students from around the world and enhances their learning experience through engaging classes and enriching activities that reflect American culture.

After years of working with Internationals, Summer shared a piece of special advice: "I believe students need to have an open mind, set realistic goals, and not be too hard on themselves. They should try their best to enjoy the process while learning."



## Life After ECLA: A Student's Point of View

By Lynda Gutierrez Andrade

International Students face various challenges before transferring to El Camino College, however, I'm glad I started my application with The El Camino Language Academy. The international team provides amazing support, making the process easier. If you want to perfect your English, learn different subjects, and expand your creativity, ideas, and dreams, I highly recommend enrolling in ECLA. It is a great option to develop, support, and create new skills before starting at ISP. Classes in ECC can be fast, with a lot of technical vocabulary and the majority of classes are with native English speakers. The best option is to have the best preparation possible.

My new life at ECC, after ECLA, is going awesome! I like the college, the teachers, my friends, and what I am studying: Industry and Technology Engineering. I am been improving my English at an engineering level, learning a lot about the industry, maths, programming, blueprints, 3D printing, machining, welding, etc. I'm getting different tools to be successful in the area, having the opportunity to talk with different professors about future jobs, and in general, expanding my vision for my future.

In addition, I really enjoy working at the Special Resource Center (SRC). We help students with verified disabilities to make them the most auto-sufficient in the school and the professional area. My job at the SRC specializes in adaptive equipment and computer technology, and I have different training in personal service, technology tools, and English Sign Language to maximize my camp of assistance. This is going to be something that will aid my career because I will be able to work successfully with different people, teams, and technology tools.

"ECLA was more than a language academy, it brought me different good friends, and taught me about different cultures, accents, traditions, and food. It made me understand more about the academy system in the U.S."

- Lynda Gutierrez Andrade, Industry and Technology Major.



## New Year, New Goals

The New Year is always a time to set new goals and life plans. As you define your aims for 2025, consider the following:

- 1. Define Your Priorities:** Think about what matters most in your life and value your time.
- 2. Be Realistic:** Set achievable goals that are within reach, such as dedicating more time to your studies. In the future, you will be proud of the goals you accomplish.
- 3. Be Kind to Yourself:** Sometimes you may not meet your goals, and that's okay. Give yourself credit for being here and for your efforts to study abroad in a new language and country. Mistakes are valuable learning experiences, and it's perfectly fine to stumble along the way. Embrace the experience of living abroad, not just the outcome.

The ISP wishes you a wonderful 2025 filled with happiness, achievements, and learning. Always remember how important your life is.

## Important Dates

**Monday, January 6:** Winter Classes Begin

**Thursday, January 9:** Last Day to Add/Drop for a Refund (Winter Term)

**Monday, January 20:** Martin Luther King Holiday (Campus Closed)

**Wednesday, January 29:** Last Day to Drop with a "W" (Winter Term)