





SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF EL CAMINO COLLEGE

FALL 2024

# Embrace the Season of Giving: Support the ECC Foundation's 2024 Annual Campaign

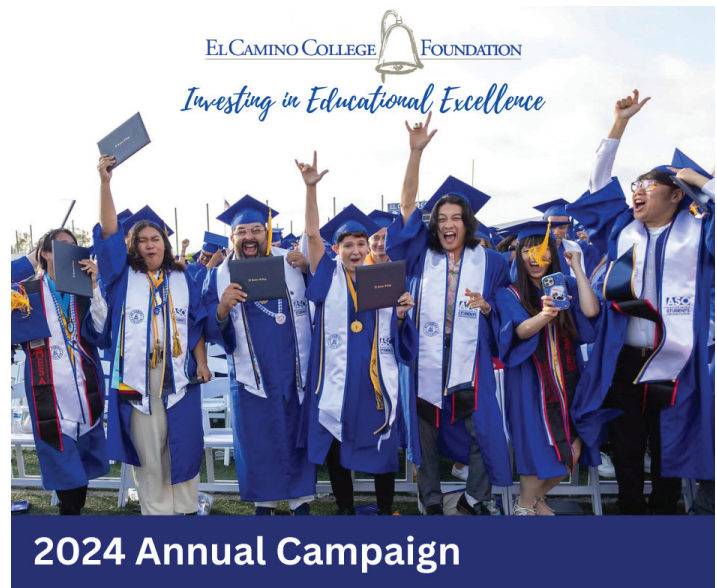


Fall is a time for reflection and an opportunity to come together and make a profound impact. With the changing season and a new school year comes a renewed commitment to our mission of supporting the students and programs that make El Camino special. This fall, we are excited to launch our Annual Campaign, and we need your support to continue to advance our student-centered goals.

## Why Your Support Matters

Every donation, no matter the size, contributes to providing essential student resources. Your generous contribution will directly support student programs, services, and initiatives. Our fall goal is to make funds more accessible for our students served by the following campus programs:

- Black Student Success Center
- FIRST (Formerly Incarcerated)
- Guardian Scholars (Foster Youth)
- Honors Transfer Program
- Immigrant Student Success/Dreamer Program
- LGBTQIA+ Pride Center
- MANA (Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander)
- STEM Programs (MESA/ASEM)
- MICASA & Puente (Latina/o/x)
- MOCAN (Men of Color)
- SEA Center (Student Equity & Achievement)
- Social Justice Center
- Umoja - Project Success
- Veterans
- Warrior Pantry/Warrior Closet



## How You Can Help

**Donate:** Make a gift anytime between now and December 31, 2024. This year, #GivingTuesday falls on December 3rd, the Tuesday immediately following Thanksgiving.

**Your generous contribution will directly support student programs, services, and initiatives.**

**Share:** Spread the word about our mission and our appeal with friends and family. You will be surprised how many lives El Camino College has shaped.

As we celebrate this season of gratitude, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support. Your belief in our work fuels our dedication and drives us forward.



# The Architecture Program at El Camino College Reaches Golden Milestone



The current academic year at El Camino College represents an important milestone for the Architecture Program. Introduced in the Fall of 1974, architecture courses were offered for the first time as part of an independent program. Prior to the establishment of the program, architectural

drafting courses were offered through the mechanical drafting program. Albert Palmer, an architect and civil engineer who taught at El Camino for 30 years, is credited with establishing the program with the intention of focusing on the needs of the architecture profession. The program started with six architecture courses in 1974 and grew to a dozen courses 25 years later in 1999. The emphasis was on the technical side of the profession with drafting and drawing courses at its core.

Today, the Architecture Program is a comprehensive educational pathway for more than 300 students enrolled in more than 30 plus architecture and sustainable design courses. While the program maintains its roots as being one of the best community college programs to train students on the technical side of the profession, the program's emphasis today is squarely on decarbonization and design theory.

**The architecture students today represent a more diverse group with extensive talent to better shape the future of the profession.**

“When I was a student at El Camino in 1969, the focus was on training draftsmen,” says Dan Richardson, a 28-year veteran faculty member of the program. “Today the profession has its sights on minimizing the impacts of the built environment to which our program reflects this in order to better address the needs of



our industry partners,” he continues. In addition, the architecture students today represent a more diverse group with extensive talent to better shape the future of the profession.

To celebrate this milestone, El Camino College and the Architecture Department are planning several events to commemorate the accomplishments of the program. From establishing an endowment for student scholarships and developing an industry campaign to curating an alumni exhibition and hosting an alumni reception, various 50th Anniversary activities will mark this special occasion through the rest of the academic year.

## Student Spotlight: Roshumba Mason



When recent ECC graduate Roshumba Mason returned to El Camino after an extended break from college, she was determined to give higher education another try, this time with the help of El Camino's specialized programs, services, and the many mentors and friends she met along the way. Even though she faced challenges with attending college during the pandemic, she fulfilled her educational plan and

will be transferring to a four-year university with the goal of becoming a school counselor. She eventually plans to return to her home school district and work for LAUSD as an academic success counselor. Way to go, Roshumba!

## Support the ECC Foundation on Giving Tuesday

# GIVING TUESDAY

December 3, 2024



Use NPO (Non-Profit Org) #AS558

## TUSD's Early College Program at North High School Sets Students Up for Success



This fall, Torrance Unified School District's North High School began their 3rd Early College Program cohort in partnership with El Camino College. This program provides driven, forward-thinking

students a jumpstart to their college and professional careers.

The comprehensive 4-year model began in November 2021 and provides students the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma and an AA or AS degree from El Camino College after taking classes including Business, Computer Science, Ethnic Studies, First Aid Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Basic Emergency Care, Journalism, Trigonometry, and more. While most Early College programs throughout the state are completely housed at the local community college, North's program is unique in that students still have the opportunity to

attend both campuses to participate in North's athletics, fine arts programs, campus clubs, and other extracurricular activities while earning both diplomas.

Kati Krumpe, Chief Academic Officer of Torrance Unified School District, spoke last year about the successes of the Early College Program at an El Camino College Board of Trustees meeting stating, "The cohort's GPA was at 3.8 this past year, including both El Camino and high school courses. The group also demonstrated a 100% retention rate, as all students remained in the program the following year."

In addition to TUSD, El Camino College has collaborated with 23 local high schools and has expanded their dual enrollment and early college course offerings for high school students. This free program not only helps to educate the South Bay, but families can ultimately save thousands of dollars in college tuition along the way.



## Adversity Does Not Mean Impossible for Jason Newton

Jason Newton is a current El Camino College student, looking to complete a Business Administration degree in December. However, his journey towards a college degree has been truly remarkable and nothing short of easy.

Jason Newton moved to the South Bay from Lexington, Kentucky in March 2020, during the pandemic. Prior to El Camino, Newton spent years in foster care and attended college at Eastern Kentucky, then the University of Kentucky to study Hospitality Management. He was hired as a line cook at Kincaid's Restaurant in Redondo Beach on July 15, 2022. He became homeless that October. The first few months he had nothing but a backpack and a job. Newton stated, "It was definitely an experience I was not prepared for. It wasn't my first time {being homeless}, but to the extent that it was, being alone in a place I knew nothing about... It could really happen to anyone."

Ultimately, Newton saved enough money to purchase a car, which enabled him to land a second job delivery driving. Luckily for Newton, working in food service allowed him a daily shift meal. He also ate at the Salvation Army and received more food at a Torrance distribution center. At the Salvation Army, a worker introduced him to contacts who connected him to caseworkers who helped him move into the Redondo Beach pallet shelter. "I was thrilled. I was completely thrilled," Newton said. Newton is now a tenant at The Moonstone, Los Angeles County's first Homekey project in the South Bay, developed in partnership with Century Housing. He serves as their on-site Resident Advisor.



Reflecting, Newton shared, "The term homeless is not a blanket term. It's interesting how so many people can be treated because of one term... It's situational things, and they happen, and you keep doing what can be done. I have faith that God doesn't give us anything we can't overcome."

After El Camino, Newton's goal is to pursue a bachelor's degree at Cal State University Dominguez Hills and secure a management position in the food service industry. After hearing about Newton's story of hardship, the El Camino College Foundation awarded him the Joy Bender Scholarship in the amount of \$4,000 for his resiliency to remain in school despite life's challenges.

We would like to thank the Easy Reader for bringing us this story.



# Looking Through the Lens of Telescope Maker Richard Hedrick: President/CEO of PlaneWave Instruments



When PlaneWave Instrument's CEO, Richard Hedrick, was working towards a degree in physics at El Camino College in 1990, he didn't know attending a talk by El Camino astronomy professor and professional astronomer Perry Hacking, would change his life forever. During his independent study under Dr.

**Because El Camino launched his professional career, Hedrick stated, "I'm a big fan of what community colleges can do."**

— Richard Hedrick, CEO  
PlaneWave Instruments

Hacking, Richard discovered a passion for astronomy and astrophotography in the California desert with a borrowed 10" telescope.

Inspired by Jean Texereau's book, "How to Make a Telescope", Richard conceived the idea of a telescope-making class. He approached Dr. Hacking to see if he would consider teaching it, and

in 1991, the first telescope-making class began at El Camino College. This elective, no-credit telescope-making course required ten students per semester, and is still taught at El Camino College today, under the course name ASTR 13 - Astronomical Optics. This class is where Richard Hedrick, Joseph Haberman, and Jason Fournier, the future co-founders of PlaneWave Instruments,

met and further pursued their future in astronomy. Because El Camino launched his professional career, Hedrick stated, "I'm a big fan of what community colleges can do."

As their hobby evolved through the early 2000s, Dr. Hacking, Richard, and his classmates set out on a mission to make the biggest amateur telescope in the world. Their plans included a 42" visual-use telescope, with handmade optics, and an eyepiece position that did not require a large ladder. When David Rowe, the engineer who would later develop the CDK telescope heard of their mission, he suggested a new design that would offer higher performance, and the crew welcomed him to their team.

**"When you do something you love, it isn't work."**

— Richard Hedrick, CEO  
PlaneWave Instruments

In 1995, Richard graduated from UCLA and began work at Celestron, overseeing Product Development. Soon after, Jason Fournier was hired as Product Manager and Joe Haberman was hired as Master Optician. While working at Celestron, the team continued to develop the optics for their 42" telescope. As production continued, their pursuit of the perfect telescope began, and from this dream, PlaneWave Instruments was born. "When you do something you love, it isn't work," stated Hedrick. We are so proud of alumnus Richard Hedrick and the strong educational foundation he received at El Camino College. Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior!

## About PlaneWave Instruments

Founded in 2006 by former Celestron engineers Richard Hedrick and Joseph Haberman, PlaneWave Instruments brings a full line of telescopes and related products to amateur and professional astronomers. PlaneWave telescopes are primarily used for planetary photography by serious astrophotographers, colleges and universities, and space observation companies.





# Retiree Luncheon 2024



All event photos can be viewed online at El Camino College's Flickr account in the 2024 Retiree Luncheon album.



# Assemblymember Muratsuchi Adds College Professor to his Title

Husband, father, attorney, politician and now professor, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, representing California's 66th Assembly District, adds a new professional title to his name. This fall, Muratsuchi began teaching Political Science 1, Governments of the U.S. and California, at El Camino College, transferring the knowledge gained by his long-term political career to local students.



Pictured from L to R: Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi with ECC representatives, Kerri Webb, Heidi Wang, and Ann O'Brien.

Muratsuchi admitted that he truly enjoys teaching. Connecting with young adults, especially through classroom discussions, has been very rewarding to him. He hopes to convey the idea that politics at the local, state, and national level have a direct impact on his pupils. Muratsuchi's goal is to have his students translate concepts into their daily lives. "It's important for the students to make a difference by getting involved with politics," Muratsuchi said. Watching and critiquing the 2024 presidential debates this semester has been a class highlight.

Apparently, Muratsuchi had been thinking of teaching a college-level course at El Camino for some time and broached the topic with college administrators in January 2023. Muratsuchi submitted his resume like all potential faculty members, and after a full vetting and hiring process, was offered the position. Once students heard the Assemblymember was teaching, the course completely filled up and even was waitlisted.

Muratsuchi attended UC Berkeley and received his Juris Doctor degree at UCLA. Thank you for educating the students of the South Bay.

## Every Day is a Good Day to Support the Warrior Pantry



El Camino College's Warrior Pantry offers food and toiletries to students to help them succeed in their classwork without distractions caused by food insecurity. This fall semester, the Warrior Pantry is experiencing higher than anticipated student visits, based on need.

The Warrior Pantry is currently seeking donations from the community and will accept most food and personal care items. For more information, or to arrange a donation drop-off, please contact Sharonda Barksdale at sbarksdale@elcamino.edu or call 310-660-3593 x6350. The Warrior Pantry is located in the Stadium Room on the 2nd floor of the Bookstore Building.

### Hours of Operation:

Tuesdays 12pm - 5pm | Wednesdays 10am - 3pm | Thursdays 10am - 3pm

**"The Warrior Pantry is a fast and easy way to get groceries for free. The staff is excellent and supportive every time. This program is a huge help to my family."**

— Blossom Adanike, Speech Language Pathology Major

## Thank You for Your Continued Support!

We would like to highlight the following donors who have supported the El Camino College Foundation with a minimum gift of \$250 for 10 consecutive years or more. Your generosity truly is appreciated!

Name	Years		
The Boeing Company	29	Geneva Martin and Patrick Garvey	16
Le Valley Pattison	26	Mary Lou and Mike Trevis	16
Kathy and Raymond Lovell	25	Michelle Arthur	14
Dawn Charman	24	Louise Bahar	13
Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio and Gino DiGregorio	23	Carmyn and Mark Fields	13
Angela Simon	22	Kurt Hull	13
Peter Marcoux	21	Sherry and Ian Kramer	13
Michael Wynne	21	Barbara Riser	13
Manhattan Beach Rotary	18	Jacqueline and Richard Rede	12
Nina Bailey	17	Greg Braxton-Brown	11
Debra Breckheimer	17	Rick Christophersen	11
Nancy and Russ Tonner	17	Norman Maclean	11
California Community Foundation	16	Torrance Memorial Medical Center	11
		Andrea and Jim Sala	10

## 3X Olympic Medalist April Ross Named Women's Head Beach Volleyball Coach



New ECC Warriors head beach volleyball coach April Ross with assistant coach Carolina Garbato. (Photo courtesy of April Ross for the ECC Union)

Three-time Olympic medalist and professional beach volleyball player April Ross was recently hired to coach El Camino's women's beach volleyball program. Ross succeeds LeValley Pattison who stepped down from coaching after eight seasons. Ross will become the second coach in the program's eight-year history. "I'm excited to

**"I'm excited to continue to grow this program. Not just compete, but guide the athletes here in their lives and help them succeed."**

— April Ross  
3X Olympic Medalist

continue to grow this program," Ross said. "Not just compete, but guide the athletes here in their lives and help them succeed."

The former USC Trojan who won back-to-back NCAA indoor volleyball titles in 2002 and 2003 represented the United States at the Summer Olympic

Games in 2012, 2016 and 2020. At the 2020 Tokyo Games, Ross paired with Alix Klineman to defeat Australia to secure a gold medal.

Prior to those games, Ross and Jennifer Kessy wrapped up the London Games in 2012 with a silver medal after falling to Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh-Jennings in the gold medal match. Four years later at the Rio de Janeiro Games, Ross was paired with Walsh-Jennings to take home a bronze medal after defeating Brazil.

Ross will retire from the AVP in November after playing her final season. ECC athletic director Jeff Miera expressed excitement with Ross' hiring. "I'm really excited about this opportunity for our student-athletes. It's incredible for them to play and be coached by a three-time Olympic medalist."

## New Banners Promote Diversity and a Sense of Belonging While Beautifying Campus

El Camino College's new campus banners project celebrates the diversity of El Camino's student body and promotes valuable support services available to all students. Through the installation of more than 200 vibrant banners, this project highlights about 80 El Camino students and 16 programs/services available at the college.

Placed strategically throughout campus, the colorful banners not only beautify the environment but also serve as a constant reminder of the College's commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive campus culture.

The banners feature rich photos of current and former students along with information about key support services and culture-specific programs, informing students of the resources available to them. On October 10th, the college held a Campus Banners Celebration to celebrate El Camino's vibrant student body and the new lamp post banners displayed around campus.

