

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EL CAMINO COLLEGE LGBTQIA+ PRIDE CENTER**



**IMPORTANT FALL 2023 DATES**

**LGBTQIA+ HISTORY MONTH  
(OCTOBER)**

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**NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY  
(OCTOBER 11)**

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**SPIRIT DAY  
(OCTOBER 17)**

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**TRANSGENDER DAY OF AWARENESS  
(NOVEMBER 20)**

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**WORLD AIDS DAY  
(DECEMBER 1)**

**PRIDE Week at ECC Was a Huge Success!**

PRIDE Week at El Camino College took place from May 30th-June 6th and consisted of nine amazing activities for students and staff to participate in. Jireh Deng, a queer Asian American poet, filmmaker, and multimedia journalist kicked off PRIDE Week on Tuesday with a screening of their documentary titled, " Mia's Mission". This is a story about a woman who came out as transgender at the age of 60, after a 20-year career as a criminal defense attorney in Los Angeles. Later that evening the Social Justice Center was transformed into a bingo hall for Drag Bingo, with guest host, The Bearded Martha Stewart.

On Wednesday, ECC invited a panel of community members to speak with students and staff about what they are doing to make the South Bay a safe and inclusive space for everyone. Members of the panel included: Dottie Wine, Community Activist; Erick Ponce-Furlos, California State Assembly; Scott Houston, Elected Member of the Board of Directors at West Basin Municipal Water District; Alphonso Hicks, South Bay LGBT Center Treasurer; and Dennis Mangers, ECC alum and retired Strategic Advisor for arts, culture and the creative economy to Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. The festivities continued that day with karaoke/game night and a performance from the LA Gay Men's Chorus.

Thursday started off with ECC's PRIDE Festival in the Student Services Plaza along with a pajama themed movie night where the GSA screened Love Simon.

On Friday, a group of students and staff attended a field trip to the LA LGBT Center and had lunch at Hamburger Mary's.

PRIDE Week ended with ECC's first ever PRIDE Prom, where students were able to bring their same sex partners and show off their dance moves! This event was especially important as most of the attendees were high school students during the pandemic and did not have a prom.





**SOUTH BAY PRIDE PADDLE & LUNCH**

ECC English and Human Development Professor Sarah Leinen, hosted the South Bay PRIDE Paddle & Lunch at the King Harbor Yacht Club on Sunday, July 30th. This was a different type of PRIDE parade, one that took place in the water. ECC students were able to rent paddle boards and had a festive time out on the ocean. After the paddle, students were treated to a buffet style lunch and a musical performance by Aileen Quinn (the original Annie) and The Leapin' Lizards and a drag show with The Bearded Martha Stewart, Chi Chi Diabla, and Jodie Smiles.

**LONG BEACH PRIDE**

On Sunday, August 6th, ECC students and the South Bay LGBT Center partnered again and participated in the Long Beach PRIDE parade. This was the 40 year anniversary of Long Beach PRIDE and the third largest PRIDE parade in the state of California. ECC students celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community with a focus on inclusion and help to educate the wider community that diversity builds a stronger and healthier society.



**MEET THE LGBTQIA+ STUDENT SUCCESS COORDINATOR**



Greetings Warriors! My name is Kenny Simkins, and I am the LGBTQIA+ Student Success Coordinator here at El Camino College. I am a product of the community college system and am thrilled to be in a position where I am able to give back to other community college students. I hold an Associate of Arts in Human Services, a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology, and a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology. I possess both experience and training that demonstrates my sensitivity and understanding of the various academic, socioeconomic, cultural, disability, and ethnic backgrounds of community college students. I have a strong commitment to equity and diversity and want to make sure that every student has access to resources that can be adapted to meet their needs, regardless of their circumstances.

Scan here for ECC's LGBTQIA+Resources



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