



NEWS

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El Camino College Compton Center's First Year Experience Program Helps Diego Ramos Build Confidence in Himself as a Student and an Artist

El Camino College Compton Center graduate Diego Ramos will transfer to the University of California, Irvine this fall to study studio art. He works primarily as an assemblage painter and enjoys combining traditional oil painting with manipulated paper that is sometimes embroidered or treated in other ways, to create pieces that resemble fabric. Despite a passion for the subject, Ramos did not always know that he wanted to explore a career in the arts.

In 2009, Ramos graduated from Dominguez Hills High School in Compton. He was looking forward to attending California State University Los Angeles in the fall of 2009, until his financial aid application did not go through. It was at this point that he was introduced to Rebeca Mason, director/counselor of ECC Compton Center's First Year Experience (FYE) Program. Initially Ramos was disappointed that he would not be attending California State University Los Angeles, but after meeting Mason and qualifying for the FYE program his outlook began to change.

The FYE program places students in a learning community where they develop key study skills, have access to vital campus and college resources and are given opportunities to explore different majors, as well as careers. Ramos credits the FYE program for helping to keep him on track with his classes, while also giving him an understanding of what is expected academically in college.

Another focus of the FYE program is to bring in guest speakers who provide college advising and counseling. Ramos remembers one such speaker from the University of California, Berkeley. "She talked a lot about minorities in college, which really resonated with me," explains Ramos. "I am a minority and it showed me that transferring was possible."

Transferring became more than a possibility for Ramos. After being accepted to the University of California at Irvine, the University of California at Santa Cruz and the University of California at Santa Barbara, it became a reality and a big decision. Ultimately, Ramos chose the University of California, Irvine because its art program is the best fit for him.

His plans for the future include earning a bachelor's degree, and possibly a master's degree in Fine Arts, as well as joining an artist residency program.

Ramos is extremely thankful for his experience at El Camino College Compton Center. "It gave me time to think about what I really wanted to do and the path that I wanted to take. Then programs like FYE and the professors gave me the tools to get there," said Ramos.

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ECC Compton Center Transfer Student Ramos 2-2-2-2

The First Year Experience Program at El Camino College Compton Center is currently accepting applications for the 2011-2012 freshman cohort. Students must have graduated from high school during the 2011 school year in order to participate in the FYE program beginning fall 2011. All interested applicants may [submit an application online](#) or pick one up at the Transfer Center, Room D-29.

FYE Program information sessions are held throughout the summer every Wednesday in the Transfer Center, Room D-29 at 11:00 a.m.-12:00pm and 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., on a first come, first serve basis. Students must register at the Transfer Center or by calling 310-900-1600, Ext. 2505.

About El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center is the community's education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. El Camino College Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA.

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