



NEWS

El Camino College Compton Center | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | Email: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2011

El Camino College Compton Center Mathematics Instructor Participates in Jaime Escalante Legacy Project

El Camino College Compton Center instructor Ruth Zambrano dedicates her summers to engaging inner-city youth in a demanding academic schedule of pre-college and college mathematics through the Jaime Escalante Math Program where she teaches pre-algebra and algebra. Instructors for this program are carefully selected based on their teaching skills and a passionate dedication to the success of their students.

Zambrano, who teaches courses such as basic arithmetic skills, pre-algebra, elementary algebra, intermediate algebra and college algebra at ECC Compton Center, has been a part of the Jaime Escalante Math Program since 2007. This mathematical “boot-camp” provides rigorous instruction in intermediate and advanced mathematics to middle and high school aged students in order to improve their chances of being accepted to university-level math and science programs. The program is the legacy of Jaime Escalante, a former math instructor at Garfield High School in Los Angeles who is also the subject of the 1988 film *Stand and Deliver*. During his tenure, Escalante dramatically improved the performance of his students by demanding the most out of them with a “hard work for student and teacher alike” approach.

Zambrano’s approachable, attentive teaching style lends itself to this innovative, total immersion mathematics program where students cover one year of mathematics (two semesters) in seven weeks.

“In spending four hours per day, five days a week with students, you really get to know their strengths and weaknesses and are better able to meet their needs,” says Zambrano. “I try to do the same thing with my students at ECC Compton Center by giving step-by-step instruction, creating a comfortable environment for questions, and making myself available for one-on-one tutoring.”

Female students account for more than half of the Escalante Program’s enrollment. Zambrano enjoys being a role model for young women interested in mathematics.

“I love it when even the shy girls start to ask questions,” Zambrano says. “It means they have a desire to understand, which is important in keeping middle school girls engaged in the subject.”

-more-

Jaime Escalante Legacy Project 2-2-2-2

Zambrano spent her formative years in Huntington Park and Lynwood. One aspect of participating in the Escalante Program and teaching at ECC Compton Center that she finds particularly rewarding is working with students in the communities where she grew up.

“I see myself in my students and want to show them that anything is possible,” she says. “One of the greatest feelings in teaching is giving others the skills they need to achieve their goals.”

Zambrano earned a Master of Science degree in applied mathematics from California State University, Long Beach, in addition to a Bachelor of Science degree in the same subject from UCLA.

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. Many classes are available and offered at an affordable price—fees are only \$26 per unit. The catalog and class schedule for day, evening, weekend and online courses is available on the website at www.compton.edu or may be picked up at ECC Compton Center located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA. For more information, call 310-900-1600.

###