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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College Compton Center Welcomes Eight New Faculty Members

El Camino College Compton Center began the 2013-2014 academic year with eight new full-time faculty members. These new employees join the ranks of a strong academic community dedicated to student success.

Rosemarie Cervantes, Counselor/Learning Disabilities specialist.

Rosemarie Cervantes earned her master's degree in psychology from California State University, Los Angeles and a bachelor's degree in behavioral science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Prior to joining ECC Compton Center, she served as a learning disabilities specialist and counselor at Saddleback College, Chaffey College and West Los Angeles College. During her career, she also held positions as an adaptive computer lab instructor at Fullerton College and the director of Disabled Students Programs and Services at Rio Hondo College in Whittier, California. Cervantes is a certified learning disability specialist under the California Community Colleges Learning Disabilities Eligibility and Services Model.

Thomas DeHardt, Psychology instructor.

Thomas DeHardt graduated with both a Ph.D. and a master's degree in social psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCLA. DeHardt has served as an adjunct faculty member at several universities and community colleges in Southern California, including Pepperdine University, Argosy University and El Camino College. In addition, he is a lecturer at UCLA and reviews manuscripts of statistical and mathematical textbooks for SAGE Publications.

Gabriel Rivas Gomez, English instructor.

Gabriel Rivas Gomez received his master's degree in dramatic writing from the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree in English from Santa Clara University. He has been a writing instructor at University of La Verne, as well as an adjunct instructor at Pasadena City College and Mt. San Antonio College. Gomez has also been involved with the Company of Angels Theater Company in Los Angeles, where he selected plays for readings and produced a short play festival. His own play, "Scar Tissue," was published in "The Best American Short Plays 2010-2011" collection edited by William W. Demastes.

Gayathri Manikandan, Math instructor.

Gayathri Manikandan graduated with a master's degree in applied mathematics from California State University, Long Beach where she received an Outstanding Graduate Student Award. She also received both a master's and bachelor's degree in mathematics from Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College in Tichy, India. Manikandan previously served as an adjunct professor at Long Beach Community College, El Camino College, and El Camino College Compton Center teaching classes such as Basic Math, Elementary and College Algebra.

Jose Martinez, Math instructor.

Jose Martinez earned his master's degree in mathematics from California State University, Los Angeles and his bachelor's degree in mathematics from University of California, Los Angeles. Martinez honed his instructor skills by teaching at both the high school and college levels. Most recently, Martinez taught in the Bellflower Unified School District, while also serving as an adjunct instructor at Santa Ana College and, since the fall of 2010, at El Camino College Compton Center.

Miguel Ornelas, Math instructor.

Miguel Ornelas graduated with a master's degree in mathematics from California State University, Fullerton and a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from University of California, Berkeley. Ornelas previously served as the mathematics department chair and instructor at Oscar De la Hoya Amino Charter High School in Los Angeles, and as an adjunct instructor at East Los Angeles College. Prior to teaching mathematics, Ornelas was a software engineer at Siemens in Santa Clara, California.

Liza Rios, Communication Studies instructor.

Liza Rios earned both her master's and bachelor's degrees in speech communication from California State University, Fullerton. Rios most recently taught public speaking, interpersonal communication, and intercultural communication courses as an adjunct instructor at California State University, Fullerton, Mt. San Antonio College and Irvine Valley College. She was honored for her teaching in 2002 as the recipient of the student-nominated Excellence in Education award at Mt. San Antonio College.

Shannon Williams, Kinesiology instructor/Baseball coach.

Shannon Williams earned his master's degree in athletic administration and coaching from Concordia University in Irvine, California, and his bachelor's in recreation administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Williams has also served as a physical education instructor at El Camino College Compton Center, and the recreation coordinator and acting facilities director at Jordan Downs Recreation Center in Los Angeles. As ECC Compton Center's current head baseball coach, Williams led the Tartars to the 2013 California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Super Regional Playoffs.

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 90221.

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