A Celebration of Students

The end of our academic year is fast approaching, making this a great time to stop and reflect on our students’ achievements! We have much to celebrate – scholarships are being awarded and receptions are being planned on behalf of programs, departments, clubs, and other groups. Thank you to all faculty and staff who helped organize these celebrations in honor of our outstanding students.

Each student is a success story. We are proud to be a part of their future – whether they are heading toward a rewarding career or transferring to the college or university of their dreams.

Check out our Campus Calendar on page two of this newsletter and the event calendar on our El Camino College Web site. There are many opportunities to meet some exceptional students and participate in student recognition festivities.

Welcome to Commencement 2008

We welcome Dr. Mildred García, president of California State University, Dominguez Hills as our guest speaker for the 61st Annual El Camino College Commencement Ceremony.

Dr. García assumed the presidency at Dominguez Hills in August 2007 and became the university’s first female president and the first Latina president in the 23-campus California State University system. She is the university’s seventh president, following James E. Lyons Sr., who retired last year after seven years at CSUDH.

Dr. García’s career in academia spans more than 30 years of higher education leadership. She was previously president of Berkeley College, a private institution with seven campuses in New York and New Jersey, and served in various administrative capacities at Arizona State University, Montclair State University and Hostos Community College of City University of New York.

Considering herself an educator foremost, Dr. García began her teaching career as an instructor of business and technology at LaGuardia Community College in New York. She continues to produce scholarly work focused on issues of equity in higher education.

Dr. García holds a bachelor’s degree in business education from Bernard M. Baruch College, a master’s degree in business and higher education from New York University, a master’s degree in higher education administration from Columbia University – Teachers College, and a doctorate in education from Columbia University – Teachers College.

Her commitment to ensuring equitable access to higher education is well served at CSUDH, a university considered one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse in the western United States.

El Camino College Commencement is scheduled for 4 p.m. June 6 in Murdock Stadium. Parking and admission are free – no reservations required. All are welcome to attend this wonderful celebration of student success!
Accreditation – Final Draft Posted Online!

We encourage everyone to be a part of our accreditation process. The final draft of the 2008 Accreditation Self-Study is available on the Portal (MyECC) for viewing. All comments are welcome on these draft documents. Please send all notes to Dr. Susan Dever, sdever@elcamino.edu and Dr. Arvid Spor, aspor@elcamino.edu.

Logging in is not required – the link is on the front page on the right-hand side in the box titled “Resources & Comments.” You can also click on: “Accreditation Self Study 2008.”

We encourage everyone to read the entire document and to provide feedback!

State Budget Update

The property tax shortfall continues to increase, severely affecting this year’s state budget. AB 2277 has been introduced to amend the Education Code to include the following:

• County auditors must submit estimated property tax receipts for the prior year by November 15th of each fiscal year.
• County auditors are required to submit actual property tax receipts for the prior year by April 30th of each fiscal year.
• Appropriates $80 million dollars in the current year to backfill a property tax shortfall amount identified in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Under current law, general fund apportionments to K-12 districts automatically adjust for changes in property tax revenues. The law does not provide for a similar adjustment for community college districts; therefore, when the property tax receipts are lower than estimated in the fiscal year, the only means for adjustment is a reduction in community college funding.

On March 21, the State Chancellor’s Office revised the First Principal Apportionment and estimated that community colleges will be hit with an $84.4 million deficit attributed to the property tax shortfall – the largest property tax shortfall in history. The cut reduces funding to local community colleges by $72 per full-time equivalent student, or about 1.5% of each college’s general per-student funding.

It is important to note that this is a preliminary estimate. Given the continuing economic downturn affecting the housing sector, the property tax shortfall could worsen as property tax receipts continue to come in.

READ Poster Celebrities 2008

Congratulations to our annual READ Poster “celebrities” for 2008! The recent unveiling in our library lobby introduced Maria Brown of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Division, and Laurie Pelayo of the Library/Cataloging Department.

The event is part of the library’s annual celebration of National Library Week, and part of our tradition to honor local “celebrities” with our READ Poster program.

The celebration also offered flex credit to all faculty who attended, and a chance to check out who is “hanging around” the library!

CAMPUS CALENDAR

May
1 Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
1-4 ECC Dance Concert
2 21st Annual Athletics Golf Classic Fourth Annual Transfer Conference
3 EOP&S Empowering Parents Conference
4 ECC Women’s Choir Concert
8 International Food Fair
9 Last Day to Drop with a “W” EOP&S Banquet
12 ECC Dance Band Student Art Show
17 ECC Concert Choir & Chorale
18 ECC Concert Band
19 Board of Trustees Meeting
21 Academic Awards Reception