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For Immediate Release

May 17, 2017

El Camino College Compton Center Speech and Debate Team Closes Season with Top Honors

Students Capture Several Team and Individual Awards at Recent Tournament

The El Camino College Compton Center Speech and Debate Team had an impressive showing during the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association's annual Cool-Off Tournament held April 29-30 at Rio Hondo College. ECC Compton Center students competed in both individual and team events, taking home a total of eight awards. ECC Compton Center's six debate teams were among the 45 teams that participated, representing 20 different two- and four-year colleges from California and Arizona.

Prior to four of ECC Compton Center's parliamentary debate teams advancing to the final round, they debated first in four rounds each covering a different social issue. In the final rankings, two teams earned gold—Ivan De La Cruz/Larissa Diggins; and Anthony Woods/Jose Naranjo. The teams of Alexandria Goldman/Khalil Teixeira and Inara Jackson/Ariyah Hammonds took silver. In addition, Khalil Teixeira was recognized as Top Eloquent Speaker, which is a cumulative ranking of the students' debate skills during the entire tournament.

“As someone who has struggled most of my life with a speech impediment, receiving an Eloquent Speaker award means quite a lot,” says Khalil Teixeira, a psychology major who plans to graduate with an associate degree in 2018. “I have only been involved in speech and debate since the beginning of this current semester and have already learned so much about listening as well as thinking critically in order to coherently respond to arguments posed against me. I believe that strong language and reasoning skills will serve me well in all of my future endeavors.”

Four public speaking honors students went on to compete in the individual speaking events. Ilse Guerrero won the Gold Cultural Artifact award and Himali Patel took home the Silver Cultural Artifact award. The ECC Compton Center Speech and Debate Team closed out the tournament and season with a Second Place Sweepstakes award in the two-year school category. Now in the program's fourth year, this is the first time ECC Compton Center has won an overall team award which recognizes teams who accumulate the most points overall throughout the tournament.

“Winning the Sweepstakes award is a great accomplishment and speaks to the skills and techniques these students are learning through Speech and Debate to help them win competitions as well as excel in all of their coursework at ECC Compton Center,” says Liza Rios, coach and professor of communication studies. “Although other two-year colleges had many more competitors participating in a variety of events, this title demonstrates that our students are a force to be reckoned with.”

ECC Compton Center Speech and Debate Team 2-2-2-2

Students who competed on behalf of ECC Compton Center include: Matthew Carias, Chris Cavanaugh, Ivan De La Cruz, Larissa Diggins, Adrian Flores, Alexandria Goldman, Maria Gonzalez-Valdovinos, Ilse Guerrero, Ariyah Hammonds, Inara Jackson, Jose Naranjo, Himali Patel, Alexys Quiero, Khalil Teixeira, Cindy Ramirez and Anthony Woods.

Photo available online: Compton Community College District Board of Trustees honor El Camino College Compton Center Speech and Debate Team member Khalil Teixeira, who was recently named Top Eloquent Speaker at the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association's Cool-Off Tournament. From left are CCCD Board of Trustees Sonia Lopez, member; Nicole Jones, clerk, Andres Ramos, president; ECC Compton Center student Khalil Teixeira; Deborah LeBlanc, vice president; and LoWanda Green, member.

<http://www.compton.edu/adminandoperations/publicrelations/images/2017/Khalil-Teixeira.jpg>

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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