



NEWS

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First-Generation Student Credits El Camino College Compton Center With Providing a Solid Academic Foundation and Transfer Success

El Camino College Compton Center alumnus Joseph Romero-Reyes recently fulfilled his life-long academic goal of being accepted to a four-year university when he transferred to the University of California, Merced in spring 2013 to major in psychology. He is the first member of his family to attend college.

Romero-Reyes graduated from Vista High School in Lynwood, Calif., in 2006 and like many high school graduates, he was not sure of his career direction and was not really aware of the resources available to aid him with access to higher education.

His passion for sports broadcasting and video editing inspired him to attend film school, which later helped him acquire an internship position for a television news program. After working for a while in the broadcasting field, he felt his current level of education was not enough to help him advance in a corporate career, so he decided to pursue a degree in psychology.

As a child, Romero-Reyes suffered from anxiety disorder and consequently the disorder became the reason he decided to become a counselor and help others. “Being a kid with anxiety disorder is hard enough, and having non-English speaking parents made it more difficult to receive the adequate treatment for my condition”, says Romero-Reyes. “I want to pursue a career in psychology not only to have financial security, but also to help non-English speaking, low-income families like my own with psychological counseling in their language and at affordable rates.”

When he asked peers and relatives for advice on which college to attend, ECC Compton Center was recommended for its quality academic environment and convenient location. After researching the local community colleges, he made the choice to enroll at ECC Compton Center in 2010.

“El Camino College Compton Center exceeded my expectations and allowed me to acquire the adequate tools, as well as helped me establish a solid academic foundation which propelled me to the four-year university level”, said Romero-Reyes. He made the most of his ECC Compton Center experience by taking a leadership role as an ASB officer, serving as the Commissioner of Classes and Curriculum.

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ECC Compton Center Joseph Romero-Reyes 2-2-2-2

Romero-Reyes credits the work-study program and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) for providing the necessary resources to attend college. He was hired as an ECC Compton Center student worker and received assistance with expenses through EOPS.

“EOP&S helped me by providing encouragement and moral support through the program’s knowledgeable counselors, and also assisted me financially with book vouchers or book loans and gas cards,” said Romero-Reyes. “Thanks to the experience I gained at ECC Compton Center, I know I will make my dreams a reality.”

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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