



NEWS

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2016 Distinguished Faculty and Staff Honorees Put Students First at El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center recently announced its honorees for the 2016 Distinguished Faculty and Staff awards at the Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Breakfast, an event designed to thank all members of the campus community for their commitment to ECC Compton Center and its educational mission. Eyob Wallano, science instructor; Felecia Hatten, admissions and records specialist; and Robert Rooks, real estate adjunct instructor, were recognized for their dedication to students, ECC Compton Center, and colleagues.

Eyob Wallano, recipient of the Distinguished Faculty award, has served as a member of the science department since 2007 where he teaches microbiology and physiology. He has also held the position of division chair for the Health, Natural Sciences and Human Services Division. He is an advocate for all students, and has made it his mission to have more STEM major students graduate from ECC Compton Center and transfer to four-year universities. He has taken a leadership role in the development of increased opportunities for students interested in pursuing science disciplines. He is the research coordinator for natural sciences and serves as a research mentor for students.

In 2010, he established a student-tended science garden as an effective teaching platform for biology, microbiology, anatomy, physiology, and other academic areas that require significant research experience. In 2015, he established and organized the first annual Microbiology Research Symposium to help students get oriented with scientific research at the undergraduate level. In 2016, he expanded this program to include a Natural Sciences Research Symposium for student participation. He is recognized for going above and beyond to help his students succeed and is sought out by students as a positive mentor and instructor. "He believes in each and every one of his students' dreams, and encourages us to get good grades in order to achieve our dreams," said one ECC Compton Center student.

In addition to teaching, Wallano contributes in many other ways to the campus community. He serves as a member of several committees including: the academic senate, hiring committee, an Accreditation Standards subcommittee, and the Division I Curriculum committee. Wallano received his doctorate in in veterinary medicine from the Kharkov Zoo-Veterinary Institute in Kharkov, Ukraine, and a master's degree in veterinary science from the National Veterinary School of Lyon in Lyon, France.

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Felecia Hatten, recipient of the Distinguished Staff award, is an evaluation specialist in the Admissions and Records Office where she has worked for 18 years. She says she enjoys working in the Admissions and Records Office because it is the “heart” of the institution and she is able to interact with and assist nearly all students on campus. As a veterans representative, she is honored to have the opportunity to work with veterans, assisting them with enrollment and referring them to student services and veterans resources to help them continue their higher education.

She is an active member of the classified employees union and has served as treasurer for the last five years. Hatten is a dedicated philanthropist who volunteers her time and resources to give back to those in need. She served as liaison for the Compton Federation of Employees Local 3486 to support a campaign called “Shoes That Fit” organized by the Federation of Teachers College Staff Guild Local 1521A in Los Angeles to collect new shoes for children in need. The Compton Community College District had 35 employee/union members participate and donate 75 pairs of new shoes for children in the Los Angeles area. She also volunteers with veterans’ organizations, and along with her family, she provides care packages to the homeless in downtown Los Angeles on Christmas.

In 2015, Hatten served as the first president of the newly chartered Tri-Cities Branch of the National Association of University Women (NAUW). The NAUW serves women, youth and the disadvantaged by addressing educational needs, advancing the status of women's issues, and strategically partnering with allied organizations.

Robert Rooks, recipient of the Distinguished Adjunct Faculty award, is a part-time real estate instructor at ECC Compton Center. He has more than 30 years of experience in the real estate industry, including 27 years working as a real estate broker/appraiser and property manager. He also has experience in large-scale condominium development and construction.

He is dedicated to student success and provides support to students in a variety of ways. In addition to scheduled classes, he teaches courses to help students prepare for the state real estate exam. To provide networking opportunities, he invites his students to professional real estate events and seminars that are usually only available to industry insiders. He arrives an hour early to his classes to make himself available to students, answer questions and address their concerns. He also teaches real estate courses at El Camino College, and serves on the Advisory Committee at ECC Compton Center.

Rooks is a licensed California appraiser, and is a member of the California Real Estate Educators Association, Pacific West Board Association of Realtors, California Association of Realtors, and National Association of Realtors.

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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