



NEWS

El Camino College Compton Center | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2010

Seeking Former Students for California Nisei College Diploma Project

We are seeking honorees as part of the California Nisei College Diploma Project. The aim of the project is to provide honorary degrees to Japanese Americans whose studies were forcibly suspended in 1942 when they were ordered into internment camps as a result of Executive Order 9066 during World War II.

The project is the implementation of AB 37, a bill introduced by Assemblyman Warren Furutani (D-Long Beach), passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The California Community College, California State University and University of California systems are all participating in this project.

We are attempting to identify former Japanese American students, or family representatives, who are eligible to benefit from AB 37 so that they may be honored during a special ceremony this fall. According to the California Nisei College Diploma Project, more than 2,500 Japanese American students were affected by the order—including more than 1,200 students attending community colleges. It is estimated that 95 students of the former Compton Junior College were affected by Executive Order 9066.

To help facilitate this search, we have gathered information about the California Nisei College Diploma Project, including a list in progress of former students who may have been attending Compton Junior College in 1942. For more information or to help the Compton Community College District identify and locate former Japanese American students, please visit our Nisei College Diploma Project Web page or call 310-900-1600, Ext. 2916.

If you or a member of your family were forced to leave the former Compton Junior College because of Executive Order 9066, please fill out the Nisei College Diploma Application Form found online.

###

About the Compton Community College District

The Compton Community College District serves the communities of Carson, Compton, Enterprise, North Long Beach, Lynwood, Paramount and Willowbrook. The District is governed by a state-appointed Special Trustee, who works with the five-member elected Board of Trustees. Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. The District is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA, 90221.