



NEWS

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The Compton Community College District Invites Community to Participate in the California Nisei College Diploma Project Enrichment Activities

As part of the California Nisei College Diploma Project, the Compton Community College District has developed a series of academic activities to celebrate Nisei history (second generation Japanese Americans), as well as a more comprehensive history of the local area which now encompasses the cities of Compton, Carson, Lynwood, Gardena and Dominguez Hills.

The purpose of the educational enrichment activities is to connect our contemporary student body to the history of the college and of the surrounding area. The month-long series of educational events are complimentary and open to the public.

Compton Community College District academic enrichment activities include:

- A showing of the film, *Rabbit in the Moon*, an award-winning recollection of the life, political tensions, social and generational divisions in the internment camps, providing a “snapshot of that time” according to filmmaker Emiko Omori. The film will be shown on September 28 through September 30 at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. each day in the Staff Lounge.
- A library exhibit highlighting “The Nisei Student Experience at Compton Junior College” debuts on October 1. The exhibit will remain for approximately a month and will display an array of photos, documents and various other artifacts of former Japanese American students and historical Compton Junior College circa 1942.
- A special guest lecture on October 6 by Alan Nishio titled “Balancing National Security and Civil Liberties in a Democratic Society: A Lesson from History.” Nishio, former associate vice president for student services at California State University, Long Beach, is a founding member of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR) organization, formerly known as National Coalition for Redress/Reparation. Nishio was actively involved in the successful campaign to gain redress for Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during WWII. The lecture will take place in the Student Lounge. Nishio’s bio may be viewed at <http://karl.papubs.csulb.edu/students/history/memory/nishio/>.
- A Nisei Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for October 16 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Compton Community College District located at 1111 E. Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90221. This is a special ceremony held to confer honorary college degrees to

approximately 35 Japanese American students (or their family members in absentia) whose education was interrupted by internment during World War II at the former Compton Junior College. Assembly Member Warren Furutani as the featured keynote speaker.

- A student debate staged by students from the speech courses will take place on Tuesday, November 16 in the Student Lounge. Debate topics will include discussion of civil liberties, civil rights and issues related to the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII.

The California Nisei College Diploma Project's goal 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 Assembly Bill 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.

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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.