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For Immediate Release

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Compton District “Nisei Student Experience” Exhibit Featured at Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum through the End of the Year

The Compton Community College District’s “Nisei Student Experience” traveling exhibit will be on display at the [Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum](#) beginning Saturday, October 22 through the end of the year.

El Camino College Compton Center faculty members Toni Wasserberger, professor of English and History, and Michael Odanaka, professor of Counseling/Human Development, will kick-off the opening of the exhibit with a special presentation Saturday, October 22, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., focusing on the California Nisei College Diploma Project, as well as the 2010 Nisei graduates whose families lived and worked on the Rancho San Pedro lands.

The six-panel exhibit celebrates Nisei history (second generation Japanese Americans) with books, photos, yearbooks and *Tartar Shield* articles from the former Compton Junior College circa 1941-1942. It also presents the history of the local area through pictures of the city of Carson, the former Compton Junior College site, Executive Order 9066 and the 2010 Nisei Graduation ceremony hosted by the Compton Community College District.

Assemblymember Warren Furutani (D-Long Beach) introduced Assembly Bill 37 in 2009, which called on California’s colleges and universities to confer honorary degrees to almost 2,500 Japanese Americans whose college studies were interrupted when they were sent to internment camps during World War II. Fifty-one families, including 43 former students, received honorary Associate of Art degrees from the Compton Community College District on October 16, 2010. It was one of the largest California Nisei College Diploma Project ceremonies thanks in part to Wasserberger and Odanaka who were members of the District’s planning committee for the event.

The Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum is located at 18127 S. Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, CA 90220. There is a \$4.00 suggested donation. Light refreshments will be served and a Q&A session will follow Wasserberger and Odanaka’s presentation.

For more information on the California Nisei College Diploma Project, go to:
<http://www.district.compton.edu/nisei/index.asp>

About the Compton Community College District

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.

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