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

**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College to Celebrate Spring with Annual Cherry Blossom Festival**

El Camino College's 16th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival is scheduled for 1 to 2 p.m. March 31 on campus in the Student Activities Center, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance.

The annual "Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Cherry Blossom Festival" is named after the college's former Vice President of Academic Affairs, who passed away in 2005. Dr. Hata was an internationally known scholar who was extremely involved in academia and community work. She was instrumental in bringing the cherry trees to the campus 15 years ago, one of the many programs she supported during her 34-year career at El Camino College.

Under Dr. Hata's leadership, the Cherry Blossom Festival has become a college tradition – a way to ring in the spring season and celebrate friendship. Taiko drummers from the Taiko Center of Los Angeles will perform at the celebration and students from Clint Margrave's "Creative Writing: Introduction to Poetry" class will read their original haiku compositions. Light refreshments will be served.

The Cherry Blossom Festival is sponsored by the El Camino College Foundation and the Office of Staff and Student Diversity. For more information, call 310-660-3593, extension 3316.

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