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

El Camino College's sixth annual Cherry Blossom Festival is set to run from 1 to 2 p.m. March 21 on campus, adjacent to the planetarium and near the cherry trees.

This year's event is the first under its new title – the "Dr. Nadine Ishitani Hata Memorial Cherry Blossom Festival," named after the college's former Vice President of Academic Affairs at El Camino College, who passed away last year. Her husband, Dr. Don Hata, will present a plaque in her honor. The book "City of Promise: Race and Historical Change in Los Angeles" – of which the Hatas contributed two chapters, will be presented by Dr. Don Hata to the El Camino College library. The book is dedicated to the Hatas and also features a chapter by Dr. Gloria Miranda, El Camino College dean of behavioral and social sciences.

Under Dr. Hata's leadership, the annual festival has become a college tradition – a way to ring in the spring season and celebrate friendship.

Dr. Hata, who was an internationally known scholar and extremely involved in academia and community work, was instrumental in bringing the cherry trees to the campus six years ago. She had long been a strong advocate of programs designed to enrich the intellectual and cultural life of students during her 34-year career at El Camino College.

American Honda representatives are also invited to the event that will feature traditional Japanese refreshments, student poetry readings, and Japanese music by flute soloists Stephanie Schwartz, ECC reading instructor; and Donna Factor, foreign languages instructor.

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