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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 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

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**El Camino College Art Gallery to Present
“The Wheel Keeps Turning: Neil Moss and his Circle of Influence”**

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present “The Wheel Keeps Turning: Neil Moss and his Circle of Influence” from Oct. 11 to Nov. 5. An opening reception is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 14, with a gallery walk-through with selected artists set for 1 p.m. Oct. 19 in the El Camino College Art Gallery, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance.

Ceramic works by Neil Owen Moss (1941-2010) grace the tables and walls of thousands of people who appreciate his work. These strong and earthy forms emerge from a tradition of pottery making where clay is not simply a medium but a way of life. Influenced by Japanese Mingei (folk) ceramics, and ceramist giants Shoji Hamada and Laura Andreson, Moss’s work reflects a depth and rigor that is gained only through many years of continuous work with his own imagery, forms and glazes. His ash-glazed baskets with swooping handles, subtly decorated platters, vases with bamboo joints, rusty garden pots, tea bowls and abstract sculptural forms are simultaneously poetic, elegant and elemental.

Moss not only practiced the art of making ceramics and the business of selling his art, but also taught at El Camino College, full-time, influencing generations of students. When a colleague asked when he would retire, Moss responded, “Why should I retire? I love what I do.” Clearly this was so.

His skill and prodigious energy for artwork and for teaching his craft inspired and influenced colleagues and students alike. Seventeen people whose lives and art have been touched by Moss will present their work at this exhibit. Heather Anacker, Doug Blechner, Joe Fernandez, Hal Frenzel, Alfred Iwamasa, Ashley Kim, Russ McMillin, Tom McMillin, Edward Muela, Juan Carlos Ornelas, Jess Parker, David Parsons, Evan Sisson, Keiko Tamura, Allen Teng, Geoffrey Tjakra and Robert Wetherington – now all professional ceramists in their own right, represent the richness and variety abundant in the clay community that has been so profoundly touched by Moss’s influence. He will be long remembered and greatly missed.

The El Camino College Art Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays. For more information, call Susanna Meiers at 310-660-3593, Ext. 3543. Admission to the El Camino College Art Gallery and gallery events is free. On-campus parking is \$2.

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