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For Immediate Release

March 20, 2012

El Camino College to Offer Environmental Education Seminars in New “Green Bag” Lunch Series

El Camino College’s “Green Team” has organized a series of seminars, or “green bag” lunches, designed to offer information about preserving the environment and promoting sustainable practices.

The first event is “Grow Your Own Food...in Small Spaces,” scheduled for noon to 12:50 p.m. March 22 at the Distance Education Conference Room (Library 166). Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch to this educational and engaging seminar.

Guest speaker is Mike Lieberman, a Los Angeles-based urban organic gardener and the creator of UrbanOrganicGardener.com. Lieberman focuses on gardening in areas with little to no space. He has taught hundreds of people to use their small urban spaces to grow successful crops with environmentally friendly practices. He is an active speaker and motivator, and has been featured on HGTV, “The Huffington Post,” and “Mother Earth News,” among other media sources.

“This speaker can really relate to what people are going through, as far as not having a lot of space and time to garden, and that’s one thing we want to show people – easy ways to go green in their daily lives,” said ECC student Jasmine Hormati, co-chair of the Associated Students Organization Sustainability Committee (AKA the “Green Team”). The Green Team is a group of students, faculty and staff working to promote the El Camino College sustainability initiative.

“By starting with educating and getting support from students and other individuals, we can move on to greater changes on campus and in the community.”

The new “green bag” series, a takeoff from workplace lunchtime “brown bag” meetings, is an effort to educate others on topics related to learning about the environment while reducing the environmental footprint.

Additional El Camino College green bag events this spring include: “Ocean Eddies, the Marine Environment, and Climate Change,” presented by ECC oceanography instructor Changming Charles Dong on April 19, and “Rideshare/Bike to ECC,” led by ECC Police Officer Erick Mendoza and Institutional Research Director Irene Graff on May 10.

“Topics in the green bag lunch series will focus on learning about human environmental impacts and ways that students and employees can make changes in their own lives,” said Graff, who is also a member of the Sustainability Committee. “Growing some of our own food is an important start to living lighter on the earth and perfect for our local climate.”

The Green Team also staged “Recycling Week” this past fall, a week dedicated to raising awareness about the benefits of the “refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle” concept.

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