



COMPARING JUNIOR COLLEGES in their respective countries are Dr. Stuart E. Marsee, president of El Camino College, and a campus visitor, Dr. Akira Watanabe, research scholar in junior college education, from Hiroshima, Japan.

Japanese Educator Visits El Camino

With only 25 hours of his year's visit to the United States remaining, Dr. Akira Watanabe, professor of Hiroshima University, made a whirlwind tour of Southern California Thursday, indicating interest in two Southland campuses.

Selected for observation on the one-day tour by the Japanese educator were the University of California at Los Angeles and El Camino College.

Dr. Watanabe, welcomed to El Camino by President Stuart E. Marsee, explained his special interest in the community college "in light of its educational achievement and its status as an independent junior college district."

RESEARCH SCHOLAR
A research scholar of junior college education and mass communication, Dr. Watanabe arrived in the United States on September 8, 1960, to assume duties as an exchange teacher in Everett Junior College in Everett, Wash.

Reviewing impressions of his year's work, the educator said, "American junior college students are very bright. Their purpose is clear-cut, and they work in harmony and cooperation with their instructors. They are diligent students—more studious than I expected. They have been very helpful to me."

ASTONISHMENT

Dr. Watanabe expressed his astonishment as the recipient of a Christmas present from students in his class in Everett.

March 3, the noted Japanese professor relayed his impressions of the United States and its educational system to Japan via the Voice of America.

ADDRESSED
During his stay, he addressed numerous American educators, including a group of New England Junior College instructors and administrators and representatives of the American Association of Junior Colleges in Washington, D.C.

Junior colleges have developed in Japan since 1950, 280 being in operation by 1960. "The Japanese and American programs are similar," Dr. Watanabe pointed out, "except that American colleges are founded on a big scale, especially in California." "While American enrollments are much larger than those in Japan," the professor said, "both offer similar programs including general and semi and pre-professional education."

TRANSLATED
Dr. Watanabe, who has been a student of the junior college since 1945, has translated many books into Japanese. These have been helpful in the establishment of the Japanese JC, he noted.

The sociology instructor lauded the continued growth of the junior college, characterizing it as the "people's college," open for many. "It is a very effective democratic institution," he said. He praised the independent junior college district as exemplified by El Camino College.

Dr. Watanabe was accompanied on his Southern California campus tour by Dr. Fred Kintzer of UCLA.

After his arrival in Yokohama on July 14, he plans a week's visit in Tokyo before returning to his home in Hiroshima.

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