FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2010

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562)653-7878

NORWALK, Calif. - April 19, 2010 - Cerritos College film students Sean Zilke-Escalante and Taylor Mullen got to “grow” their filming skills and helping mind this spring from their internship with Urban Farming, a non-profit organization which plants food on unused land and space to provide food for people in need while educating all on environmentally sustainable system.

Their internship was a project “Urban Farming Tour 2010,” in which the crew of seven people traveled across the country in a RV to eradicate hunger and educate people across the country on growing vegetables and the importance of eating healthy.

On the tour with them were gardeners Mike Travis, who appeared on Oprah for saving a man’s life; Oba Carr, a former welterweight boxing champion who fought Oscar De La Hoya; an expert gardener Trevor Johnson; and two drivers Nate and “Big” Mike.

During the two-week national tour to six states, Zilke-Escalante and Mullen filmed and edited the community gardening project documentary and posted short videos on YouTube on a daily basis.

This road movie project gave them a unique, unforgettable experience. “I don't think I felt that sick before in my life,” said Zilke-Escalante of Norwalk. “We drove for three days straight from Detroit to Phoenix to meet a deadline. We were awake while bouncing around, cooking while bouncing around, and sleeping while bouncing around.”

At the same time the internship gave Zilke-Escalante and Mullen an opportunity to apply the skills they learned in the film classes and get hands-on experiences communicating and collaborating within an organization’s “chain of commands.”
The first video of the tour is on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgys7ULRY84. They are currently editing two more tour videos at home.

Their confidence has also grown from this project. “Now that I have experience down on my resume, I’m ready to go out and look for more filming jobs,” said Zilke-Escalante.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu/.

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