JCCCNC Announces New Director of Programs

San Francisco (April 2, 2015) – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California recently named Matt Okada as the new Director of Programs. Prior to being selected Okada served as the Center’s Program Coordinator for the past two years focusing on new program development and managing the department’s computer system and technology. Most recently he has also been acting as the interim Director of Programs.

Matt’s past experience working for other community nonprofit agencies includes the Japanese Community Youth Council and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County. Matt grew up in Selma, near Fresno, CA and earned his undergraduate degree from California State University Fresno in Recreation Administration with an emphasis in community recreation and youth services.

“I’m excited for this amazing opportunity to serve as the Director of Programs for the JCCCNC. Working at the Center has given me the opportunity to learn about San Francisco’s Japantown and its rich history, while contributing toward providing programs to the many people around the community. It’s very rewarding to be able to serve such a caring community and in my new role I hope to continue the outstanding programs that the Center is known for and hope to engage new audiences throughout the Bay Area,” said Okada.

Matt first moved to San Francisco hoping to land a job working for the city parks department, but having been introduced to the Japantown community he found what a rewarding and meaningful experience it was for himself. Okada succeeds the former Director of Programs, Ryan Kimura.

“Matt has been a great asset to the Center, creating new and innovative programs which have expanded the cultural learning experience at the JCCCNC,” said Paul Osaki, Executive Director of the JCCCNC. “We are excited about the leadership, enthusiasm and new perspectives that he brings to the position that will help lead the JCCCNC well into the future,” stated Osaki.

“What I enjoy most about working at the JCCCNC is that it offers over 100 different programs and special events throughout the year that helps to bring the Japanese
American community together and our rich culture and traditions to life everyday,” remarked Okada.

###

**About the JCCNC**

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and facility usage. The JCCNC is a non-profit community center based in San Francisco.