



Cañada College President's Advisory Council
September 17, 2025, 12 – 1 PM, Via [Zoom](#)

MINUTES

President's Advisory Council Members

Alicia Aguirre, faculty/Councilmember, Cañada College/City of Redwood City
Amy Buckmaster, President & CEO, Chamber San Mateo County
Barrie Hathaway, President & CEO, JobTrain
Bill Graham, President, Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital
Dr. Cathy Sandeen, President, Cal State East Bay
Crystal Leach, Superintendent, SUHSD
Diana Viscarra, Program Director, Upward Scholars
Elizabeth Wells, Executive Director, Foundation for a College Education
Dr. Esme Ortiz, VP, High School & Post-Secondary Success Programs, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula,
Gina Sudaria, Superintendent, Ravenswood City School District
Ivan Martinez, Executive Director, PAL Center
Joan Dentler, Legislative Aide, PAL Center
John Pimentel, Trustee, SMCCCD
Juanita Croft, Workforce Development Program Manager, Street Code Academy
Larry Moody, Government Affair & Community Liaison Director, JobTrain
Lisa Hicks-Dumanske, Executive Director, Redwood City Library Foundation
Dr. Lynne Mahoney, President, San Francisco State University
Melissa Stevenson Diaz, City Manager, City of Redwood City
Pam Jones, Former Faculty/Community Member, Cañada College
Patty Hall, Former Faculty/Community Member, Cañada College
Rafael Avendaño, Executive Director, Redwood City Together
Rosanne Foust, President & CEO, SAMCEDA
Shweta Bhatnagar, Associate Director, Community Relations, Stanford University
Megan Barber Allende, Executive Director, San Mateo County Community College Foundation
Wade Painter, President & CEO, Monterra Credit Union
Dr. Wei-ting Chen, Executive Director, Stanford Medicine
Kim Lopez, President, Cañada College
Lizette Bricker, VPSS, Cañada College
Ludmila Prisecar, VPAS, Cañada College
Chialin Hsieh, VPI, Cañada College
Karen Engel, Dean of PRIE, Cañada College
Megan Rodriguez Antone, Director of Community Relations & Marketing, Cañada College
Aziza De La Torre, Executive Assistant to the President, Cañada College

Attendance: Pam Jones, John Pimentel, Barrie Hathaway, Diana Viscarra, Elizabeth Wells, Ivan Martinez, Juanita Croft, Larry Moody, Rosanne Foust, Wei-ting Chen, Patty Hall, Kim Lopez, Megan Rodriguez Antone, Karen Engel, Chialin Hsieh, Lizette Bricker, Ludmila Prisecar, Aziza De La Torre, Wissem Bennani

Topic	Discussion Lead(s)
Welcome	<p>President Kim Lopez welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves. Larry Moody expressed his appreciation and added that Cañada has been instrumental in uplifting education in East Palo Alto and Belle Haven community. He also added that with the new banners in the city, young students get inspired to go to Cañada.</p>
Summer Partnership Update	<p>Lizette Bricker, Vice President of Student Services, provided an overview of the partnerships and goals.</p> <p>Cañada is in communication to bring more community partners to... incomplete sentence?</p> <p>Wissem Bennani, Dean of Enrollment Services, provided updates on the recent events, partnerships and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This summer Cañada added two new MOUs with Pal Center and Street Code Academy • Held small student-focused events • Hosted events for Redwood City middle school students • Hosted an event with Street Code Academy, with over 500 attendees

Community Partnerships: Youth on Campus

- PAL Center:
 - PAL Summer Program at Cañada College: June 2025
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP)
 - BGCP Midwinter Break for Middle school students: February 2025
 - Personal Narrative Writing (PNW) Workshops: March 2025
 - Future Grads Summer Academy: June 2025
 - Middle School Summer BGCP: July 2025
 - BGCP Be Great Conference: August 2025
- Street Code Academy
 - Tech Tournament: August 2025

Megan Rodriguez Antone, Director of Community Relations & Marketing, shared [Community Partnership Video Series](#)

President Kim Lopez shared that these videos received excellent feedback.

Megan Rodriguez Antone also provided updates from the previous meeting.

- There was a discussion about the need to showcase more of Cañada's alumni.
- Thanked Ivan who shared the idea for creating a video partnership video series.
- The partnership video series features six college alumni that describe how

they leveraged community resources and how they are working to support the community.

- Three first videos debuted and the final three will be complete in October.

Community Partnership Video Series

Showcases the diverse and impactful stories of Cañada College alumni who have leveraged community resources and employment opportunities with community partners to create meaningful change.



[Cañada College Community Partnership Video Series Featuring Rocio Vega with PAL Center](#)



Promotional Banner Project in East Palo Alto

- Located along Bay Road between University Avenue and Pulgas Avenue - just enter "EPA Center" into your map app to find them
- Working with the City to expand the project



Video

- The Marketing Department worked with the City of East Palo Alto to create banners which highlights former students and the Free College program.
- The College worked in collaboration with the City to create a banner posting policy.
- Currently waiting to hear back from the City to see how Cañada can expand the banner project in East Palo Alto.

Educational Master Plan (EMP) Priorities for 2025-2026

President Kim Lopez shared that many of these initiatives came from the Educational Master Plan, specifically, goal 3.2 - strengthening partnerships with the community and East Palo Alto.

- Hosted a Leadership Retreat 2025

Educational Master Plan: 2025 Leadership Retreat

- ✓ 60+ students, faculty, classified staff and administrators participated
- ✓ 4 breakout sessions focused on choosing the top priorities for 2025-26
- ✓ Check <https://canadacollege.edu/plans/leadership-retreat.php> for more info



President Kim Lopez also shared updates on the Progress Report

- Cañada is in its 4th year of the 5-year plan

Educational Master Plan: Remaining Strategic Initiatives



Priority Initiatives Selected for 2025-26

Goal 1: Student Access, Success, and Completion

- 1.15 Create and scale the First Year Experience Program
- 1.8 Ensure academic program viability

Goal 2: Equity-Minded and Antiracist College Culture

- 2.6 Improve faculty and staff hiring practices to ensure a diverse pool of applicants

Goal 3: Community Connections

- 3.11 Create and expand career exploration experiences for students

Goal 4: Accessible Infrastructure and Innovation

- 4.1 Improve access to campus via public transit, rideshare

Goal 1: Student Access, Success, and Completion

- Initiative: Expansion of First-Year Experience program, building on the existing Promise program.
- Action: Collaborate with Academic Senate to review and ensure academic program viability.
- Rationale: Programs must align with current community needs and maintain long-term relevance.

Goal 2: Equity-Minded and Anti-Racist College Culture

- Focus: Evaluate and improve hiring practices to ensure diverse applicant pools.
- Partnership: Collaboration with District HR to align practices and priorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: Better reflect and serve our diverse student population. <p>Goal 3: Community Connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision: Re-envision career services at Cañada College. • Community Input: Demand for "learn-and-earn" models, internships, and apprenticeship opportunities. • Call to Action: Staff and community members with industry ties are invited to join a career services task force, co-led by VP Lizette Bricker. • Special Focus: Integration with Menlo Park Center and college-wide support for workforce development. <p>Goal 4: Accessible Infrastructure and Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge: Loss of pandemic-era funding (e.g., shuttles, Lyft programs) for transportation access. • Current Efforts: Exploring new transportation solutions for East Palo Alto (EPA), Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks. • Priority: Improving ease of access to campus remains a high priority.
Update: Child Development Center	<p>Ludmila Prisecar, Vice President of Administrative Services, provided updates on the Child Development Center (CDC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project has been over 20 years in the making. • CDC aims to support both students and the local community. • Construction Completion: Expected by Winter 2026. • Facility Opening: Spring 2027 <div style="background-color: #008040; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Child Development Center</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: center; color: #008040;"> Tentative Building Activation Date: April 2026-July 2026 Opening Day: January 2027 </p> 

Child Development Center

Schedule:

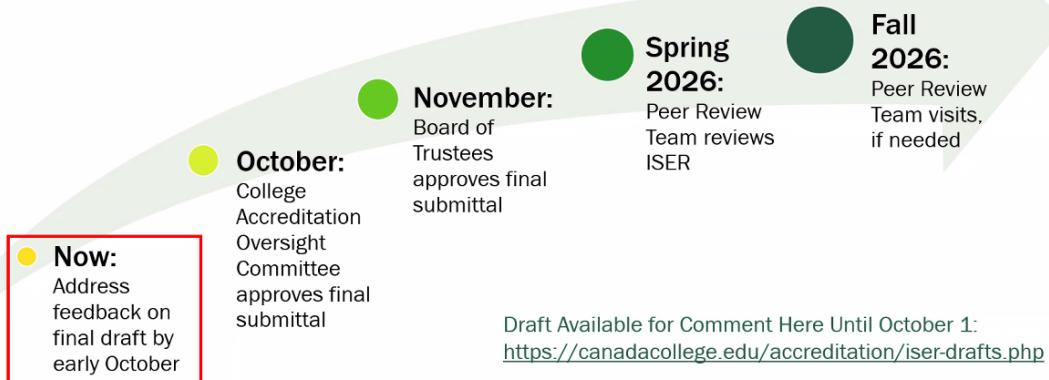
- August 2024-May 2025: Program Validation/Design Documents
- June 2025-September 2025: Permitting/Bidding
- October 2025-March 2026: Construction
- April 2026-July 2026: Activation/Move-In



President Kim Lopez extended special recognition to Patty Hall, a retired faculty member and early advocate for the Child Development Center. Patty was hired decades ago to lead the original, unfulfilled plan and has been instrumental in bringing the current project to life.

Institutional Self Evaluation	<p>Karen Engel, Accreditation Liaison Officer and Dean of Planning and Research (PRIE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehensive Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) is currently in draft.• Members of the President's Advisory Council are requested to review the current ISER Draft and submit any comments or suggested changes in the document or via email to Dean Engel by October 3, 2025. <p>Key Accreditation Standard Highlighted (1.5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCJC Standard 1.5 requires institutions to “regularly communicate[s] progress toward achieving its mission and goals with internal and external stakeholders in order to promote understanding of institutional strengths, priorities, and areas for continued improvement.”• Dean Engel walked the Council through the current draft response to this standard, highlighting the importance of the Council and many of the partners represented on the Council as well as others.
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Timeline



Closing Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on two-way accountability: The college keeps stakeholders informed, and stakeholders provide feedback and help hold the institution accountable. Highlighted communication examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media, press releases (Free College banners) Outreach to middle and high school students via Boys & Girls Club and PAL partnerships Community members invited to engage further, especially in Career & Workforce Development working groups. John Pimentel expressed appreciation for the College's deepening engagement with South San Mateo County communities (EPA, North Fair Oaks, Belle Haven) and also asked how promotional videos are being shared with schools, churches, and families Ivan Martinez (PaL Center) responded that the videos are shared via PAL's newsletter and texting platform to reach families directly.
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next President's Advisory Council meeting will be held (via Zoom) on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 from 12-1 p.m.