

Cañada College MAY 24, 2025



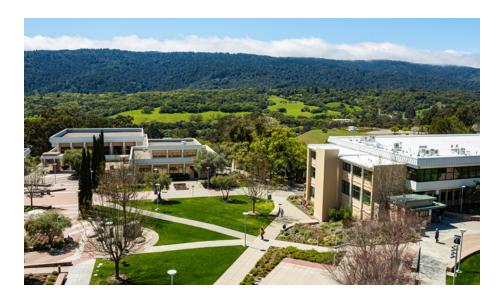


COMMENCEMENT *Class of 2025*

MAY 24, 2025

Cañada College welcomes you—the Class of 2025—into the ranks of the proud alumni of Cañada College.

We also welcome your families and friends to this 57th Commencement celebration, mindful and appreciative of their contribution to your achievement through their support, sacrifice and encouragement.



President's Welcome



Welcome to the 57th Commencement Ceremony at Cañada College!

We are honored to celebrate our students and the remarkable accomplishments they have achieved. Today, we come together with their families and loved ones to recognize not just a milestone, but a journey filled with perseverance, growth and success. Throughout this celebration, we will hear inspiring words that reflect the promise and potential of what lies ahead.

Commencement is also a moment for reflection. It's a time for our graduates to look back on the friendships formed, the connections that shaped their experience and the faculty and staff who guided them—whether by helping them discover their passions, choose their

academic or career path, or find the next institution to continue their journey.

The path to this day hasn't always been easy. Each graduate here has overcome challenges and shown extraordinary dedication to their goals. Graduates, I admire the resilience, determination and hard work that brought you to this moment. Just as you have supported one another along the way, the College has strived to support you in every step of your academic and personal growth.

Graduates, I encourage each of you to pause and truly take in this moment. Look around at your classmates, your families and friends and the Cañada College community each of us here to celebrate you. Enjoy this day and be proud of everything you've accomplished.

Congratulations, Class of 2025! I wish you continued success in all your future endeavors.

Kim Lopez, President, Cañada College

Commencement Keynote Speaker



Elmer Martinez Saballos Mayor, City of Redwood City

Born and raised in Redwood City, Mayor Elmer Martínez Saballos is the proud son of Central American immigrants and spent a majority of his young life growing up in the Central, Palm Park and Stambaugh-Heller neighborhoods: communities he now represents on the City Council.

Elmer is a product of Redwood City's local schools, attending Sequoia High School and Cañada College before transferring to the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2017, Elmer became the first person in his family to graduate from a four-year

university and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a minor in Global Peace & Security.

Following his graduation, Elmer returned to Redwood City and began his career in public service supporting state legislators, State Senator Jerry Hill and then-Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Kevin Mullin, as their district representative. Elmer worked directly with residents during the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic, and managed policy and casework related to housing, healthcare reform, transportation, and economic development.

Inspired to find solutions that alleviate the housing and affordability challenges impacting Bay Area families, Elmer joined the Redwood City Planning Commission in 2020, and served on the commission until he was appointed to the City Council in 2022. Following his successful election in November 2024, Elmer has the honor of serving as the Mayor of Redwood City—becoming the youngest mayor in city history, and the only one of Central American heritage.

In his professional capacity, Elmer serves as the Director of Communications for the Child Care Coordinating Council (4Cs) of San Mateo County, where he shapes the agency's messaging and outreach as it connects families to child care and other resources critical for long-term success.

In his free time, Elmer enjoys hiking on the California coastside, cooking new recipes, practicing photography, and enjoying the company of his family and friends.

Program

~ Master of Ceremonies

Lizette Bricker, Vice President of Student Services

\sim Processional

"Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar

∞ President's Party

Faculty Processional led by Grand Marshal Alicia Aguirre Student Processional led by President Student Leadership Award recipient Konatsu Okita and Student Speaker Oscar Arreola Buendia

 National Anthem, "Star Spangled Banner" Performed by Monique Martinez

✓ Welcome & Introduction Kim Lopez, President, Cañada College

✓ Keynote Speaker Elmer Martinez Saballos, Mayor, City of Redwood City

≈ 2025 President's Student Leadership Award Konatsu Okita

∞ Class of 2025 Co-Valedictorians

Sumaia Ishaq Asfour Gabriella Grace Baker Joshua Estrada Patricia Grewell Wenyin Gu Alicia Haskell Konatso Okita Francesca Re Fraschini Delilah Oita Noor Rizqie Beth Lubov Rodgers Holly Lane Taylor Samuel Zhang

Welcome from the Student Body and Introduction of the Student Speaker

Yuliana Leon Subias, President, Associated Students of Cañada College

Student Speaker Presentation

Oscar Arreola Buendia

∞ Presentation of the Class of 2025

Gampi Shankar, President, Academic Senate, Cañada College

Awarding of Associate of Arts and Science Degrees and Certificates

Gampi Shankar, President, Academic Senate, Cañada College Mike Guingona, President, Board of Trustees, San Mateo County Community College District Wayne Lee, Vice President, Board of Trustees, San Mateo County Community College District Richard Holober, Member, Board of Trustees, San Mateo County Community College District Lisa Petrides, Ph.D., Member, Board of Trustees, San Mateo County Community College District John Pimentel, Member, Board of Trustees, San Mateo County Community College District Chloe Johnson, Student Trustee, San Mateo County Community College District Melissa Moreno, J.D., Chancellor, San Mateo County Community College District Kim Lopez, President, Cañada College Chialin Hsieh, Ed.D., Vice President Instruction, Cañada College Lizette Bricker, Vice President Student Services, Cañada College Ludmila Prisecar, Vice President Administrative Services, Cañada College

∞ Salutation to the Graduates and Closing Remarks

Kim Lopez, President, Cañada College

\sim Recessional

The Graduates and their guests are invited to the reception on the campus lower lawn immediately following the Commencement Ceremony.

Academic Leadership

\sim Board of Trustees

Mike Guingona, President Wayne Lee, Vice President Richard Holober, Trustee Lisa Petrides, Ph.D., Trustee John Pimentel, Trustee Chloe Johnson, Student Trustee Melissa Moreno, J.D., Chancellor

\sim Administration

Kim Lopez, President Chialin Hsieh, Ed.D., Vice President of Instruction

Lizette Bricker, *Vice President of Student Services*

Ludmila Prisecar, Vice President of Administrative Services

Wissem Bennani, Ed.D., Dean of Enrollment Services and Support Programs

James Carranza, Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences

Karen Engel, Ph.D., Dean of Planning, Research & Institutional Effectiveness

Max Hartman, Dean of Counseling

Alexander Kramer, Dean of Business, Design & Workforce

Anniqua Rana, *Ed.D.*, Dean of Academic Support & Learning Technologies

Kathleen Sullivan-Torrez, Dean of Kinesiology, Athletics, and Dance Ameer Thompson, Ph.D., Dean of Science & Technology

Megan Rodriguez Antone, Director of Community Relations & Marketing

∞ Academic Senate

Gampi Shankar, President Monica Malamud, Ph.D., Vice President Lisa Palmer, Ph.D., Secretary Sarah Aranyakul, Treasurer Lisa Palmer, Ph.D., Curriculum Committee Chair and Subcommittee Representative Salumeh Eslamieh, Professional Development Committee Chair and Subcommittee Representative Ana Miladinova, Senator David Eck, Ph.D., Senator Ellen Young, Senator Hyla Lacefield, Senator Sandra Mendez, Senator Diana Tedone-Goldstone (Fall 2024) and Carlos Luna (Spring 2025), Senators Dominique Wu, Senator

\sim Classified Senate

Alex Claxton, President Jacky Ip, Vice President Paul Gaskins, Treasurer Krystal Martinez, Secretary Sarah Cortez, Activities Co-Coordinator Alyssa Lucchini, Activities Co-Coordinator Peter Tam, Photography

3D Animation & Videogame Art - A.A.

Sarah L. Bradbury Ashley Siobhan Horch, *Magna Cum Laude*

Accounting - A.S.

Julie Aguilar, *Magna Cum Laude* Maria Gonzales, *Magna Cum Laude* Regina Cynthia Holland Walan, *Magna Cum Laude* Lauren Paige Kowtko Amy Marie Quezadaz Corina Antonia Romero, *Magna Cum Laude*

Allied Health - A.S.

Heather Lynn Agcaoili, Magna Cum Laude Victor Manuel Bautista Renteria Roselyn Cabello, Magna Cum Laude Sofia S. Carrilho, Magna Cum Laude Carla Karine Souza De Carvalho, Magna Cum Laude Marilyn Anabelen Castaneda Rosa Churape-samano Viet Quoc Cong Melanie Diaz, Cum Laude Thi Hong Hanh Do, Summa Cum Laude Radhika Rani Dutt Marlee Ebalo Nancy Enciso Alessandro A. Esquivel Stephanie J. Fernandez, Cum Laude Mariana Gomes De Assis, Cum Laude Jamella Porscha Harris Brittney Nicole Hutchings Zoha Irshad Ian Lorenzo Gutierrez Johns, Cum Laude Robert Raymond Kurtz Sandra Villa Lombera Alexandria Marie Lourenco Cindy C. Marroquin Mia Rose Mccann, Cum Laude Kara Mcgee Rubi Mendez Gonzalez, Magna Cum Laude

Citlalli Mendoza, Cum Laude Emily Mendoza Mora Jenna Sarina Mizirawi Emi Nakajima Joshua Oskar Nieder Brigette Anahi Ochoa Andrade, Cum Laude Rajinesh Padarath Andrea Perez-Maya, Magna Cum Laude Victoria Celine Preciado Haro, Magna Cum Laude Heidy Geraldine Riveros Arboleda, Magna Cum Laude Arlen Salas Medina, Magna Cum Laude Daniel Ramon Schembri, Magna Cum Laude Shekinah Christine Solero, Magna Cum Laude Anna Margareta Helena Strathdee, Magna Cum Laude Jemima Audrelia Surya, Cum Laude Ginger Sharee Taddei Nathan Tatusya Tam, Summa Cum Laude Siale Fifita Tofavaha, Cum Laude Leidy Marlene Valencia Cinthia Vazquez Hernandez, Magna Cum Laude Phoebe A. Zhang, Magna Cum Laude

Anthropology - A.A. Evan Thomas Ramos

Anthropology - A.A.-T Ciara Mccullough, Magna Cum Laude Kyle Anthony Taylor, Magna Cum Laude Samuel John Trumble, Magna Cum Laude

Art History - A.A.-T Myles Gong Natalia Evangelina Villegas Castillo, *Cum Laude*

Biological Sciences - A.S. Lyvette Cristina Martell, *Magna Cum Laude* Ellen J. Rayl Megan Lynn Rogers, *Magna Cum Laude*

Biology - A.S.-T

Amal Salem Alfraijat Raneem A. Almahasneh, Magna Cum Laude Carlos Angulo, Cum Laude Gabrielle Loran Blatt Kyle Cheuk Lam Chan, Cum Laude Kacey Jane Conaway, Magna Cum Laude Ava Vieira Glenn, Magna Cum Laude Ziyao He, Magna Cum Laude Ziyao He, Magna Cum Laude Noah Louis Hood, Magna Cum Laude Yuliana Leon Subias Chen Liang, Magna Cum Laude Josue Lizama Samantha Ann Mefford Diego Ruiz Arvizo, Cum Laude Steven Dean Sutton, Magna Cum Laude

Business Administration - A.S.

Alex Abarca, *Magna Cum Laude* Zachary Michael Ames Julia Arroyo Maria E. Chavez Shileen Marie Gwin, *Cum Laude* Regina Cynthia Holland Walan, *Magna Cum Laude* Lauren Paige Kowtko Andrew Cairns Parenti, *Cum Laude* Maxwell Hamilton Hume Ross, *Magna Cum Laude*

Business Administration - A.S.-T

Kian Yukio Ohira Jordan Andrew Clark, *Cum Laude*

Business Administration 2.0 - A.S.-T

Joy Richard Abinader, *Cum Laude* Simona Barborikova, *Magna Cum Laude* Dylan Francis Barnwell Manpreet Bhatia, *Cum Laude* Roberto Nicolas Blanco, *Magna Cum Laude* Micaela Rose Camacho, *Magna Cum Laude* Alexandra A. Castillo Hernandez, Magna Cum Laude Thawanrat Cheevakasemkoon America Beatriz Chinchilla Ortega, Magna Cum Laude Zianna Angela Leonardo Cruz, Magna Cum Laude Jazmin Fernandez, Magna Cum Laude Adamaris Flores-Velazquez **Iesus** Daniel Garcia Jonathan Sarmiento Gonzalez, Cum Laude Anthony Albert Gonzalez Ramos Tyler Kai Ho, Magna Cum Laude Riku Homma, Magna Cum Laude Xuanyi Hua Monica Infante-Gutierrez, Magna Cum Laude Kosuke Kaneko, Cum Laude Manpreet Kaur, Magna Cum Laude Nikhill Kumar, Magna Cum Laude Samuel Martinez Karen Melendez Joselin Bereniz Merlos Michelle Mataniah Meskin, Magna Cum Laude Ma Rosario Moreno Morales, Magna Cum Laude Serene Ali Nofal Edgar Ochoa Rueda, Magna Cum Laude Martin Armando Osorio, Magna Cum Laude Denisha Otis Andrew Cairns Parenti, Cum Laude Justin T. Parrish, Magna Cum Laude Jose Manuel Pena Lopez Celeste A. Perez Dylan Philip Petrin, Cum Laude Corina Antonia Romero, Magna Cum Laude Monica Salto Maldonado Tita T. Sandoval Graham Mcgraw Sheardown Randolph Charles Staufenberg, Cum Laude Jules Lyons Thomas Adrian Valverde Morales

Carson Todd Vance, *Magna Cum Laude* Mariela Vargas Vivian T. Vong Andrew Christopher Vukic Yiling Wu, *Magna Cum Laude*

Business Management - A.S.

Salvador Alvarez Maria E. Chavez Regina Cynthia Holland Walan, *Magna Cum Laude* Samuel Martinez Joselin Bereniz Merlos Kevin Ferrer Nobles-Naval Merve Perek Lalanie Ann Blas Robins, *Magna Cum Laude*

Chemistry - A.S.

Kacey Jane Conaway, *Magna Cum Laude* Jiselle Dior Inglish Chen Liang, *Magna Cum Laude* Lyvette Cristina Martell, *Magna Cum Laude* Megan Lynn Rogers, *Magna Cum Laude* Ryan Louis Rossovich, *Summa Cum Laude*

Child & Adolescent Development -A.A.-T

Jasmine Alicia Acosta-Govea Stephanie Marie Akers-Wright, *Cum Laude* Luisa Azucena Arevalo, *Magna Cum Laude* Sumaia Ishaq Asfour, *Summa Cum Laude* Ana Carina Barajas Brian Castro, *Magna Cum Laude* Rebeca A. Castro, *Cum Laude* Kiara Casusol, *Cum Laude* Emily Madalena Chavez Johanna Garibay, *Magna Cum Laude* Chloe J. Goh, *Cum Laude* Erendida Gonzalez Gina Guizar Bastidas Jiana Kirsten Mendoza Hidalgo Alondra Kalizet Lopez, *Cum Laude* Michelle Manjarrezmontero, *Cum Laude* Chloe Miran, *Magna Cum Laude* Heart Keona Noble Dean, *Magna Cum Laude* Carlos Arturo Noguera Arciniegas, *Magna Cum Laude* Yuli Azucena Perez Luis Ruiz, *Magna Cum Laude* Stephanie Salazar Adrianna Liana Turchet

Communication Studies - A.A.

Gabriella Grace Baker, *Summa Cum Laude* Luis Eduardo Gonzalez, *Cum Laude* Mikyas Seyoum Alonso M. Zarate

Communication Studies - A.A.-T

Juan Bedolla Fabrizio Miguel Herrera Garrido Edwin Daniel Martinez Michelle Usher Ashley Giselle Villalobos Ryan Zeh

Communication Studies 2.0 - A.A.-T

Dominic Anthony Avila, *Cum Laude* Luis Eduardo Gonzalez, *Cum Laude* Stephen Francis Aj Langi Anthony Joseph Stalker, *Magna Cum Laude* Tanner Steven Van Why

Computer Science - A.S.-T

Jennifer Alvarado Elijah Ryan Bartlett, *Magna Cum Laude* Edwin Dominguez Carlos Anthony Espana Eduardo Jimenez Eric Leonardo Linares, *Magna Cum Laude* Alma Janet Pereznegron Salgado Hannah Justina Agdeppa Reyes, *Magna Cum Laude* Ryder G. Steil, *Magna Cum Laude* Precious Chukwuemeka Sunday

Xavier A. Tapia, *Cum Laude* Iurii Tiutvin, *Magna Cum Laude* Saul Ernesto Vasquez Rio Marat Vazquez, *Cum Laude* Garrett Rowell Weber

Digital Art & Animation - A.A.

Sara Louise Douty, *Magna Cum Laude* An Nguyen, *Magna Cum Laude* Griselda Ontiveros Francesca Re Fraschini, *Summa Cum Laude* Oliver James Simpson, *Magna Cum Laude*

Early Childhood Education - A.S.

Arminda Araoz-Penaloza Rebeca A. Castro, *Cum Laude* Alaa Chagra, *Summa Cum Laude* Karla Fernanda Chavez, *Magna Cum Laude* Aracela Isabel Chavez Cruz, *Cum Laude* Rosana Duran, *Magna Cum Laude* Elvi Corina Gonzalez Lopez Celia R. Gutierrez Guadalupe Montoya, *Magna Cum Laude* Virginia Cristal Ramirez Ayala Roxana D. Sarina Silvia Solis, *Magna Cum Laude* Uppekkha Praba Kumari Weerasekera, *Magna Cum Laude*

Early Childhood Education - A.S.-T

Rebeca A. Castro, *Cum Laude* Jessica Aparecida Dantas Oliveira, *Magna Cum Laude* Chloe J. Goh, *Cum Laude* Asia Keleta Grant, *Cum Laude* Carlos Arturo Noguera Arciniegas, *Magna Cum Laude* Aidan Janel O'Connor Virginia Cristal Ramirez Ayala Ayia Kira Tadj, *Magna Cum Laude*

Economics - A.A.

Alex Abarca, *Magna Cum Laude* Devin Michael Bettencourt Maria E. Chavez Adamaris Flores-Velazquez Shileen Marie Gwin, *Magna Cum Laude* Areg Dikran Horoupian, *Summa Cum Laude* Diego Anderson Lauri Brylan Troy Lundy Joselin Bereniz Merlos Nicole M. Morales, *Magna Cum Laude* Josiah S. Morris Kiichi Murakami Lalanie Ann Blas Robins, *Magna Cum Laude* Corina Antonia Romero, *Magna Cum Laude* Nathalie Cristina Vargas

Economics - A.A.-T

Joy Richard Abinader, Cum Laude Simona Barborikova, Magna Cum Laude Beech Love Basler, Magna Cum Laude Mia Berta Valle, Magna Cum Laude Roberto Nicolas Blanco, Magna Cum Laude Alexandra A. Castillo Hernandez, Magna Cum Laude Thawanrat Cheevakasemkoon America Beatriz Chinchilla Ortega, Magna Cum Laude Samuel Joseph Erlikhman, Magna Cum Laude Adamaris Flores-Velazquez Monica Gallardo Hernandez Jesus Daniel Garcia Jonathan Sarmiento Gonzalez, Cum Laude Jack Patrick Hilton, Magna Cum Laude Tyler Kai Ho, Magna Cum Laude Riku Homma, Magna Cum Laude Xuanyi Hua Monica Infante-Gutierrez, Magna Cum Laude Manpreet Kaur, Magna Cum Laude

Nikhill Kumar, Magna Cum Laude Samuel Martinez Ma Rosario Moreno Morales, Magna Cum Laude Edgar Ochoa Rueda, Magna Cum Laude Martin Armando Osorio, Magna Cum Laude Justin T. Parrish, Magna Cum Laude Samantha Gail Pilkington, Cum Laude Andrew Rustrian Monica Salto Maldonado Graham Mcgraw Sheardown Ricardo Silva Rios, Magna Cum Laude Randolph Charles Staufenberg, Cum Laude Alexia Carolina Stevenson, Summa Cum Laude Jules Lyons Thomas Matias Marcelo Tineo Rojas, Magna Cum Laude Adrian Valverde Morales Ian Alexander Whittle, Cum Laude Yiling Wu Magna, Cum Laude Zhijian Wu, Magna Cum Laude Jazmin Sofia Zilla, Cum Laude

Engineering - A.S.

Frederico Ferreira Costa, *Magna Cum Laude* Gustavo Ferreira Costa, *Magna Cum Laude* Gary Kevin Gamarra Navarro, *Magna Cum Laude* Wenyin Gu, *Summa Cum Laude* Megan Lynn Rogers, *Magna Cum Laude* Mikaela Marie Santos-Stevenson, *Magna Cum Laude* Iurii Tiutvin, *Magna Cum Laude* Samuel Zhang, *Summa Cum Laude*

English - A.A. Morgan Bailey Sidou, *Magna Cum Laude*

English - A.A.-T Manuel A. Barron Armenta Anoushka Lily Bhow, *Magna Cum Laude* Carolina Isabel Mendoza, *Magna Cum Laude* Luca Lupin Miller, *Magna Cum Laude* Avery Elena Schnitt, *Magna Cum Laude* Naomi Rae Zarzecki, *Cum Laude*

Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management - A.S. Diego Anderson Lauri

Fashion Design: Custom Dressmaking -Small Business Oriented - A.S.

Kristina Sue Christian, *Summa Cum Laude* Natalie Murillo, *Cum Laude* Daron J. Session, *Magna Cum Laude* Gennevieve Frances Springer, *Magna Cum Laude*

Fashion Design: Technical Apparel Industry Oriented - A.S. Revleen Bhullor

Fashion Design: Theater Costuming - A.S. Eva Cristina Carrijo Garcia Campana, *Magna Cum Laude*

Fashion Design: Merchandising - A.S. Oluwatoyosi Adenekan

Geography - A.A. T Ksenia Lapshina, *Magna Cum Laude* Osmar Anibal Ortiz Acosta, *Magna Cum Laude* Elisa Pullens, *Magna Cum Laude*

History - A.A.-T Gianvito Carrilgio, *Magna Cum Laude* Carlos Covarrubias James Edward Descalso Alexander R. Dominguez Godinez Isaac Lev Even-Kesef Adilene Mendoza Avina Samuel John Trumble, *Magna Cum Laude*

Interdisciplinary Studies with Emphasis in Arts & Humanities - A.A.

Pamela Colleen MacKenzie, *Magna Cum Laude* Ethan James Payne Christopher David Sagehorn, *Magna Cum Laude*

Interdisciplinary Studies with Emphasis in Arts & Humanities CSU - A.A.

Robert Pierre Alexander Luisa Azucena Arevalo, *Magna Cum Laude* Jasmin Becerra-Alonso, *Cum Laude*

Interdisciplinary Studies with Emphasis in Natural Science & Mathematics - A.A.

Jennifer Alvarado Thi Hong Hanh Do, *Summa Cum Laude* Gustavo Ferreira Costa, *Magna Cum Laude* Mariana Gomes De Assis, *Cum Laude* Wenyin Gu, *Summa Cum Laude* Alexa Marie Gudino, *Magna Cum Laude* Josue Lizama Colter Martin Mcmasters Anthony Meneses, *Cum Laude* Shekinah Christine Solero, *Magna Cum Laude* Nathan Tatusya Tam, *Summa Cum Laude* Leidy Marlene Valencia Samuel Zhang, *Summa Cum Laude*

Interdisciplinary Studies with Emphasis in Natural Science & Mathematics CSU - A.A.

Alexis Arevalo Murillo Hanna Arda Bender Eduardo Jimenez Lada Lykova

Interdisciplinary Studies with Emphasis in Natural Science & Mathematics UC - A.A.

Kizzara Gedleine Alfonso, *Magna Cum Laude* Evangeline R. Gillet, *Magna Cum Laude* Chen Liang, *Magna Cum Laude* Haohuan Qin, *Magna Cum Laude* Cindy Serafin

Interdisciplinary Studies with Emphasis in Social & Behavioral Sciences - A.A.

Logan Benjamin Baltazar Ali Barkhordar Kyler Scott Bittner, Cum Laude Melodie V. Bladen Isabella Daniella Camacho, Magna Cum Laude Alondra Angela Esparza Austreberta Garcia Lopez Shileen Marie Gwin Magna, Cum Laude Lena Thalia Heldmaier Ruby Lee Jazmine Virginia Lopez-Gutierrez Cynthia Patrice Mena Evan Thomas Ramos Julieta Sanchez, Magna Cum Laude Nathan Tatusya Tam, Summa Cum Laude Vilma Haydee Torres, Magna Cum Laude Cinthia Vazquez Hernandez, Magna Cum Laude

Interdisciplinary Studies with Emphasis in Social & Behavioral Sciences CSU- A.A.

Hanna Arda Bender, *Summa Cum Laude* Gilbert Sean Flores, *Magna Cum Laude* Stephanie Nallely Garcia Villagomez Maria Fernanda Ortiz Maricela Santacruz

Interdisciplinary Studies with Emphasis in Social & Behavioral Sciences UC- A.A.

Mia Berta Valle, *Magna Cum Laude* Lexi Marie Calloway Riku Homma, *Magna Cum Laude* Xuanyi Hua Anthony Montoya Ke'Shawna N. Nolan, *Magna Cum Laude* Konatsu Okita, *Summa Cum Laude* Daniel Teodoro Rubio Garcia

Interior Design - A.S.

Varinia Joyarit Abad Gabriella Elise Bouchard Betsy Ann Bradford, *Magna Cum Laude* Sadiqah Byrd Nayeli Camarillo Navarro Kyleen Sylvia Freeburg, *Cum Laude* Patricia Grewell, *Summa Cum Laude* Eveli Loveman, *Cum Laude* Inna Vladimirovna Nosenko, *Cum Laude* Ariana Padilla, *Cum Laude* Adelina Rosa Palacio Sarmiento, *Cum Laude* Sheree Shui Chee Poon, *Magna Cum Laude* Beth Lubov Rodgers, *Summa Cum Laude* Quetzalli Cecilia Vega Garcia Emily N. Wassermann, *Magna Cum Laude*

Kinesiology - A.A.

Sergio Garibay Noah Blue Lake Gilberto Lopez, *Cum Laude* Suzanne Kay Whitten

Kinesiology - A.A.-T

Christopher Anthony Arturo Arce, *Magna Cum Laude* Mario Michael Archini, *Cum Laude* Melanie Diaz, *Cum Laude* Jomarlo Micz M. Flores Francesco Giusti, *Magna Cum Laude* Kobe Loe-Yin Gong, *Cum Laude* Gisele Samantha Tania Gutierrez Alejandro Luna-Victoria Leonardo Par Del Rio, *Magna Cum Laude* Mason Robert Picone, *Cum Laude* Miguel Angel Rivera, *Cum Laude* Raquel Rodriguez

Law, Public Policy & Society - A.A.-T

Anthony Mario Tsolakis, Summa Cum Laude

Marketing - A.A.

Stephanie Marianna Eliades, *Magna Cum Laude* Kevin Merin Marroquin Majano, *Magna Cum Laude* Ashley Giselle Villalobos

Mathematics - A.S.-T

Mikael Tai Cheng, *Magna Cum Laude* Jiselle Dior Inglish Koosha Jahani Jasmine I. Lin, *Magna Cum Laude* Martin Armando Osorio, *Magna Cum Laude* Jonathan Pedraza Barrera, *Cum Laude* Haohuan Qin, *Magna Cum Laude* Haohuan Qin, *Magna Cum Laude* Ryder G. Steil, *Magna Cum Laude* Iurii Tiutvin, *Magna Cum Laude* Vlad Andrei Tomutiu, *Magna Cum Laude* Anthony Mario Tsolakis, *Summa Cum Laude* Manuel Zaragoza

Medical Assisting - A.S.

Luis Martin Baez Gladys Cotrina, *Magna Cum Laude* Alexa Marie Gudino, *Magna Cum Laude* Samantha Alicia Ortega Laxmi Raut Iris Iracema Tan Sanchez Vilma Haydee Torres, *Magna Cum Laude* Nohea Kamailelaulii Zane

Medical Billing Specialist - A.S.

Alexa Marie Gudino, *Magna Cum Laude* Rebecca Ann Hays Barbara Cayabyab Mejia-Bucu Ross Mcnesby, *Summa Cum Laude*

Nutrition and Dietetics - A.S.-T

Lani Marie Rangasajo Perez

Paralegal - A.S.

Neyda Carranza Chastin Chung, *Magna Cum Laude* Carmel Franco Yuliet Garibay Margarita M. Lopez, *Magna Cum Laude* Talaya Danielle Sandoval Christine R. Thiebaut, *Cum Laude*

Philosophy – A.A. Aaron Joseph Schinasi, *Magna Cum Laude*

Philosophy - A.A-T. Vincent James Fumagalli, *Cum Laude* Austin Michael Rolfe, *Magna Cum Laude*

Physics - A.S.-T Gisselle Maldonado, *Cum Laude* Haohuan Qin, *Magna Cum Laude* Ryder G. Steil, *Magna Cum Laude* Iurii Tiutvin, *Magna Cum Laude*

Political Science - A.A.

Jules Gallant Bassermann, *Cum Laude* Areg Dikran Horoupian, *Summa Cum Laude* Christian Lucas Raymond Klostermann

Political Science - A.A-T.

Oscar Arreola Buendia Isabella Lauren Christman, *Magna Cum Laude* Kevin Alberto Garcia Mora Stephanie Nallely Garcia Villagomez Blake Alexander Mathews, *Magna Cum Laude*

Psychology - A.A.

Melodie V. Bladen Trevian Burns Aracela Isabel Chavez Cruz, *Cum Laude* Gilbert Sean Flores, *Magna Cum Laude* Lania T. Harris, *Magna Cum Laude* Deaunna Hartzfield Cynthia Patrice Mena Anthony James Perez Evan Thomas Ramos Gwendolyn Yvonne Rasheed, *Cum Laude* Nathan Tatusya Tam, *Summa Cum Laude* Holly Lane Taylor, *Summa Cum Laude*

Psychology - A.A.-T

Nicholas Aguilar Luisa Azucena Arevalo, Magna Cum Laude Oscar Arreola Buendia Emily Bejinez Cruz, Magna Cum Laude Hanna Arda Bender, Summa Cum Laude Melodie V. Bladen Rose Lyra Boncimino, Magna Cum Laude Jacob Ronald Brewer, Magna Cum Laude Isabella Daniella Camacho, Magna Cum Laude Canisha Ann Cantrell Fatima Castro Jessica Aparecida Dantas Oliveira, Magna Cum Laude Jessica Marie Davis-Thompson, Magna Cum Laude Alondra Angela Esparza Katherine G. Espinoza Nadia Fedotova, Magna Cum Laude Gilbert Sean Flores, Magna Cum Laude Stephanie Nallely Garcia Villagomez Jennifer Gonzalez Bazan, Cum Laude Alexa Marie Gudino, Magna Cum Laude Lania T. Harris, Magna Cum Laude Alicia Ann Harrison Alicia Haskell, Summa Cum Laude Lena Thalia Heldmaier

Giselle Hernandez, Magna Cum Laude Phillip Arthur Hsieh Jayline Jimenez Flores Leilani Renee Kenny, Cum Laude Ruby Lee Alondra Kalizet Lopez, Cum Laude Krystal Ly, Magna Cum Laude Michelle Manjarrezmontero, Cum Laude Vladimir Pavlovich Markov, Magna Cum Laude Cynthia Patrice Mena Alexa Morales Chavez, Magna Cum Laude Ana Alejandra Moreno, Magna Cum Laude Ke'Shawna N. Nolan, Magna Cum Laude Konatsu Okita Summa, Cum Laude Maria Fernanda Ortiz Jenna-Vieve Chariss Pineda Mitzi Ramirez Rangel, Magna Cum Laude Gwendolyn Yvonne Rasheed, Cum Laude Roselyn Rosas, Cum Laude Daniel Teodoro Rubio Garcia Maricela Santacruz Meghan Victoria Spence Sofia Tapia, Magna Cum Laude Holly Lane Taylor, Summa Cum Laude Azzurra Maria Doris Tissingh, Magna Cum Laude Vilma Haydee Torres, Magna Cum Laude Pisileni Foloi Tu Uhoko, Magna Cum Laude Marilyn Nicol Villeda, Magna Cum Laude

Radiologic Technology - A.S.

Sergio Alexander Alonzo Lopez Garrison A. Chin, *Cum Laude* Justin M. Davis, *Cum Laude* Brittany Rochelle Felix, *Magna Cum Laude* Nelly M. Husary, *Magna Cum Laude* Andrew Jonah Isbandi, *Magna Cum Laude* Nora Lynn Jamrosy, *Magna Cum Laude* Erwin Roble Lao Hak Lee, *Cum Laude* Luz Maria Martinez Vanessa Sara Mora, *Cum Laude* Janine Mai Ngoc Nguyen, *Magna Cum Laude* Phuong N. Nguyen, *Magna Cum Laude* Juan Carlos Pulido Margot Rosario Anne Resurreccion, *Magna Cum Laude* Bhakthima Siribua Cheyenne D. Verlinden Yixi Wu, *Cum Laude* Jeremy Yee, *Cum Laude* Nadim A. Yehia

Social Work & Human Services -A.A-T.

Melodie V. Bladen Andrea Lopez, *Magna Cum Laude* Makariotera Pina, *Magna Cum Laude* Marisol G. Ruiz

Sociology - A.A.

Itzel Alvarez Melodie V. Bladen Gilbert Flores, *Magna Cum Laude* Maria Gabriela Garcia Marquez Lania T. Harris, *Magna Cum Laude* Deaunna Hartzfield Cynthia Patrice Mena Gwendolyn Yvonne Rasheed, *Cum Laude* Nathan Tatusya Tam, *Summa Cum Laude*

Sociology - A.A.-T

Priya Natani Alo, *Magna Cum Laude* Oscar Arreola Buendia Anoushka Lily Bhow, *Magna Cum Laude* Melodie V. Bladen Sandra M. Brown Sexton Jessica Marie Davis-Thompson, *Magna Cum Laude* Alondra Angela Esparza Katherine G. Espinoza Gilbert Flores, *Magna Cum Laude* Stephanie Nallely Garcia Villagomez Eric Gabriel Gomez Martinez

Lania T. Harris, Magna Cum Laude Alicia Ann Harrison Alicia Haskell, Summa Cum Laude Brandon Jesus Henriquez Jayline Jimenez Flores Leilani Renee Kenny, Cum Laude Ruby Lee Leimana Makasini, Magna Cum Laude Vladimir Pavlovich Markov, Magna Cum Laude Natalia Michelle Mayorga Cynthia Patrice Mena Ke'Shawna N. Nolan, Magna Cum Laude Maria Fernanda Ortiz Philip Pradip Patel, Magna Cum Laude Hilze Perez Gomez Jenna-Vieve Chariss Pineda Gwendolyn Yvonne Rasheed, Magna Cum Laude Liliana Elu Saldana, Magna Cum Laude

Spanish - A.A.

Jessica Aparecida Dantas Oliveira, *Magna Cum* Laude

Studio Arts - A.A.-T

Hana Ahmed, *Magna Cum Laude* Joshua Estrada, *Summa Cum Laude* Arielle K. Kremesec Xiangye Li Isabella L. Maitia Delilah Oita Noor Rizqie, *Summa Cum Laude*



3D Animation & Videogame Art

Sarah L. Bradbury Lauren Katora Campbell Ashley Siobhan Horch Riley Oconnell Valeriia Otvodenkova Juan Manuel Perez

Accounting

Sonya De La Cruz Maria Gonzales Alina Lysak Bruno Santos Soares Arabella Ngoc-Ai Vuong

Administrative Assistant Kimiya Jahani

Administrative Support Assistant Rocio Karen Vega

Bilingualism & Biliteracy in English/ Spanish

Juan Diego Camader Lidice Isela Zegarra

Business Administration

Oliver Omar Begazo Lopez Maria Magdalena Colin Colin Joselin Bereniz Merlos Timothy John Spurling Eva Yanira Valle Wang

Business Assistant Flor De Maria Flores Gonzales Alyssa Bethel Johnson

Business Information Worker Sunil Kumar Gautam

Business Management Salvador Alvarez Chiraboonyakan Boonchanang Joselin Bereniz Merlos Larissa Rochink Costa

Computer Science: C++

Alexis Arevalo Murillo Ryder G. Steil Precious Chukwuemeka Sunday Manuel Zaragoza

Computer Science: Java Manuel Zaragoza

Digital Art & Animation

Juan Manuel Perez Francesca Re Fraschini Brian Michael Walker

Early Childhood Education

Arminda Araoz-Penaloza Melisa Arslan Alaa Bitar Alaa Chagra Karla Fernanda Chavez Olivia Flores Ines Gomez Alvarez Brenda V. Gonzalez Paula Andrea Guevara Grajales Celia R. Gutierrez Sabrina Maya Kiefus Jennifer Mata Tahereh Nasirimazraeh Mirtha Teresa Nostas Rosalba G. Nunez Zeba Sultan Tamae Tominaga Ma. Angelica Varela Gomez

Engineering Megan Lynn Rogers

Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management Xin Guang Xiaojing Su

Entry Level Bookkeeper

Julie Aguilar Flor De Maria Flores Gonzales Maria Gonzales Alina Lysak Jamie Marie Miles Glenda Stefany Valdes Mancia Arabella Ngoc-Ai Vuong

Fashion Design: Custom Dressmaking/ Small Business Oriented

Melena A. Gallagher Susan Uher Jimenez Gennevieve Frances Springer

Fashion Design: Merchandising

Eva Cristina Carrijo Garcia Campana Justin Leo Palisoc

Fashion Design: Technical (Apparel Industry Oriented)

Yunhoe Kim Sherri Marie Stratton

Fashion Design: Theater Costuming Eva Cristina Carrijo Garcia Campana

General Office Serena Marie Okigbo Silvia Macias Silva Alexandria Nicole Simpson

Graphic Design

Maria Christina De La Cruz Bryan Portillo Mejia Francesca Re Fraschini Shane Dominick Sargent Alex Joseph Woods

Home Staging

Paola Andrea Aguirre Betancur Lucilene Alves Carvalho Alexandra Door Icochea Adhilene Oyorzabal Sandoval Marcia Lee Rapozo-Hilo Nghi Phung Lu Tran Quetzalli Cecilia Vega Garcia Yanna Wu

Human Relations in the Workplace

Aadyn Jakob Meyer Blanca Jazmin Luna Rocio Karen Vega

Inclusion Support

Linda Patricia Barco Corado Kelly Christina Chan Alma Rosa Garcia Rios Paula Andrea Guevara Grajales Sara Husain Adelaidah Jackson Carlos Arturo Noguera Arciniegas Yu-Chun Tsai

Interior Design

Varinia Joyarit Abad Paola Andrea Aguirre Betancur Gabriella Elise Bouchard Betsy Ann Bradford Nayeli Camarillo Navarro Alexandra Door Icochea Lizzy D'Urzo Kyleen Sylvia Freeburg Patricia Grewell Anna P. McDevitt Luissel Daniela Miller Inna Vladimirovna Nosenko Adhilene Oyorzabal Sandoval Adelina Rosa Palacio Sarmiento Sonia Rose Pasillas Aleksandra Shetrakova Nghi Phung Lu Tran Ana Elena Valderrama Quetzalli Cecilia Vega Garcia Emily N. Wassermann

Kitchen & Bath Design

Alexandra Door Icochea Curtis Adrian Dufour Eveli Loveman Luissel Daniela Miller Inna Vladimirovna Nosenko Adhilene Oyorzabal Sandoval Adelina Rosa Palacio Sarmiento Sheree Shui Chee Poon Tracy Ann Power Beth Lubov Rodgers Angelika Regina Tesch Cynthia Elaine Green Tipton Nghi Phung Lu Tran Emily N. Wassermann Hiromi Morishita Weiner

Litigation

Yuliet Garibay Lorrie Garrity Christine R. Thiebaut

Marketing

Pratyasha Paresh Das Alexander James Feirman Alicia Figueras Navarro Diego Anderson Lauri Maria Alejandra Ortega Martinez

Medical Administrative Assistant

Isabel Ling Chang Gladys Cotrina Alexa Marie Gudino Anmol Karmacharya Janelly Amanda Lopez Barbara Natally Martins De Moura Carolyn Anne Rively Pritesh Singh Adia Y. Vasquez

Medical Assisting

Luis Martin Baez Alejandro Barrientos Alexa Marie Gudino Anmol Karmacharya Samantha Alicia Ortega Jillian A. Pniower Jamie Ruan Iris Iracema Tan Sanchez Vilma Haydee Torres Eymi Abril Ucan Mul Nohea Kamailelaulii Zane

Medical Billing Specialist

Steffanie N. Escobar Isaiah Rey Garcia Elena Chloe Garrovillas Alexa Marie Gudino Rebecca Ann Hays Barbara Cayabyab Mejia-Bucu Marlyn Renteria

Medical Coding Specialist

Susana Arias Escalona Giselle Delgadillo Steffanie N. Escobar Monica Jesus Estrella Isaiah Rey Garcia Elena Chloe Garrovillas Alexa Marie Gudino Janelly Amanda Lopez Marlyn Renteria Jennifer Elizabeth Reyes Andrea Sandoval Iris Iracema Tan Sanchez

Paralegal

Hawwah A. Hailey N. Deluca Rodriguez Lorrie Marie Garrity Talaya Danielle Sandoval Christine R. Thiebaut

Payroll Specialist

Julie Aguilar Sonya De La Cruz Flor De Maria Flores Gonzales Maria Gonzales Blanca Cecilia Lancheros Ribon Alina Lysak Amy Marie Quezadaz Glenda Stefany Valdes Mancia

Preparation for Academic Scholarship and Success (PASS)

Jennifer Alvarado Lilian Alvarado Erwin M. Alvarez Aracela Isabel Chavez Cruz Thais De Souza Vieira Corina L. Fonseca Brizeida Gomez Chams Ivette Gonzalez Marcela Guevara Beatriz Guzman Yanina Jimenez Hualpa Donnovan Joel Leon Motato Alina Lysak Carlos Alejandro Martinez Saavedra Yadira Naranjo Maria Nieves Pacheco Carlos Perez-Mendez Teodora Ramirez Celene Magdalena Reyes Concepcion Reyes Sosol Gustavo Adolfo Ruiz Manuela Santamaria Rocio Karen Vega Alberta Zaligan Rosa Elena Zuniga Ortega

University Transfer: CSU GE

Luisa Azucena Arevalo Sumaia Ishaq Asfour Simona Barborikova Jasmin Becerra-Alonso Hanna Arda Bender Melodie V. Bladen Kenia D. Buenrostro Nayeli Camarillo Navarro Canisha Ann Cantrell Shuchen Cao Rebeca A. Castro Emily Madalena Chavez Jessica Aparecida Dantas Oliveira Carlos Anthony Espana Alondra Angela Esparza Isaac Lev Even-Kesef Gilbert Sean Flores Adamaris Flores-Velazquez Alexa Marie Gudino Lania T. Harris Eduardo Jimenez Ruby Lee Xiangye Li Lada Lykova Kian Yukio Ohira Maria Fernanda Ortiz Celeste A. Perez Virginia Cristal Ramirez Ayala Gwendolyn Yvonne Rasheed Heidy Geraldine Riveros Arboleda Delilah Oita Noor Rizqie Julyssa Sandoval Jonathan Thomas Sollano Vilma Haydee Torres Cinthia Vazquez Hernandez

University Transfer: IGETC CSU GE

Joy Richard Abinader Robert Pierre Alexander Kizzara Gedleine Alfonso Jennifer Alvarado Christopher Anthony Arturo Arce Oscar Arreola Buendia Elijah Ryan Bartlett Juan Bedolla Mia Berta Valle Roberto Nicolas Blanco Sandra M. Brown Sexton Isabella Daniella Camacho Alexandra A. Castillo Hernandez America Beatriz Chinchilla Ortega Jessica Aparecida Dantas Oliveira Joshua Estrada Nadia Fedotova Crystal Flores Jaimes Jesus Daniel Garcia Stephanie Nallely Garcia Villagomez Jonathan Sarmiento Gonzalez Iennifer Gonzalez Bazan Ziyao He Jayline Jimenez Flores Leilani Renee Kenny Arielle K. Kremesec Nikhill Kumar Ksenia Lapshina Josue Lizama Konatsu Okita Martin Armando Osorio Samantha Gail Pilkington Daniel Teodoro Rubio Garcia Monica Salto Maldonado Ibrahim Muti Shuman Randolph Charles Staufenberg Zeke Syme Vilma Haydee Torres Zhijian Wu

University Transfer: IGETC UC GE

Alexis Arevalo Murillo Ashley Jane Avila Cuevas Declan Thomas Gibbons Catherine Elizabeth Greenberg Ziyao He Xuanyi Hua Chen Liang Ryan Khaled Mustfa Konatsu Okita Haohuan Qin Yessar Saad Jose M. Sosa Torres Charles Wesley Stewart III Steven Dean Sutton Jules Lyons Thomas Yiling Wu Zhijian Wu Kaiwei Zhang

Video Game Design Michael Cale Kapuniai



Scholarship Donors

Cañada College would like to honor and give thanks to the wonderful scholarship donors who have helped countless students throughout their educational journeys.

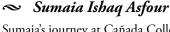
AAUW, Mid-Peninsula Chapter Scholarship Anne Marquart Scholarship Assistance League of San Mateo County Barbara McCarthy Scholarship **Big Smile Scholarship** Beverly Travlos Scholarship Bruno and Kathleen "Be" Carnovale Scholarship Cañada Fashion Department Scholarship Cañada College Learning Center Scholarship Cañada STEM Scholarship Castillo Scholarship Changemakers Scholarship Fund Constance Marshaye Hartley Scholarship CSEA Chapter 33 Scholarship Dale & Helen Mersereau Scholarship Darryl Usher Memorial Scholarship Dr. Genevieve H. Cory Interior Design Scholarship Dr. Steve Shire Endowment Scholarship ECE Student Scholarship Elizabeth Egan Scholarship in Art F.L. Griffin Scholarship Gail Kamei Scholarship Hamilton Award for Excellence in STEM Hennessy Family Scholarship Hohbach Family Endowed Scholarship Iliff Scholarship James R. and Hope A. Tormey Memorial Endowment Fund Jean Evelyn Letsinger Scholarship Joan B. Del Gaudio Trailblazer Scholarship Karl S. Pister Leadership Opportunity Award, UCSC Laura Hill Griffin Scholarship League of CA Cities - Latino Caucus Scholarship Lewis Family STEM Scholarship

Mary Topalis Trust for College of San Mateo and Cañada College Nursing Scholarship Michael Vosburg-Casey Scholarship Monterra Credit Union Scholarship Nature-Ecology Preservation Scholarship Nellie Leong Scholarship Nikita Ogireddy Scholarship Fund Oscar Siguenza Memorial Scholarship Osher Scholars Endowment Scholarship Pacific Dining Student Scholarship Pat Hanada Classified Service Scholarship Pepsi Scholarship Fund Private Client Reserve Scholarship Project Change – Reverend Kristi Denham Scholarship Rhonda Chaney Design Scholarship Fund Robert & Toni Oyster Endowed Scholarship Robert Stiff Scholarship San Francisco Benefactor Nursing Scholarship Fund San Mateo County Community College Foundation Finish Line Fund Scholarship Sara Boddinghouse Coastside Scholarship SMCCCD Retirees' Scholarship Social Sciences of Cañada College Scholarship Sterling Redman Scholarship Susan Yoshimura Scholarship Susanne L. Stevens Scholarship Fund Toby Merman Memorial Scholarship in Interior Design The Carmela Santino Scholarship Fund The San Mateo County Community College Bookstore Textbooks Scholarship The William & Cora Saperstein Foundation Scholarship Fund University Pathway Scholarship Vera Quijano Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship Virginia Hudson Memorial Scholarship

Class of 2025 Co-Valedictorians

These graduates were acknowledged as Cañada College's top students for the 2024-2025 Academic Year. This includes summer and fall 2024 and spring 2025. We are proud to recognize these top students as Co-Valedictorians for the Class of 2025.





Sumaia's journey at Cañada College has been one of growth and self-discovery. Grateful for opportunities that Cañada provided, she will continue her education at San Jose State University, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Development.



🗢 Gabriella Grace Baker

Gabriella's journey at Cañada College was transformative and empowering. With support from dedicated faculty, she gained skills and confidence to pursue her goals. After graduation, she will begin a full-time role in E-Commerce at Levi Strauss & Co.



🗢 Joshua Estrada

Joshua Estrada had a vision when he entered Cañada College: to become the best artist he could be. Ultimately, he returned with much more; he gained wisdom, skills, friendships and community.



🗢 Patricia Grewell

After a successful tech career, Patty followed her passion for design. She is grateful to Cañada College not only for the education it provided, but for introducing her to a welcoming and supportive community of aspiring Interior Designers.



∞ Wenyin Gu

Wenyin, a proud first-generation college student, found an empowering, diverse community at Cańada College. Now, she's transferring to a four-year university to continue her journey toward becoming an engineer and building her future.

Class of 2025 Co-Valedictorians



🗢 Konatsu Okita

Kona began her journey at Cañada College as an international student. Through her involvement in the Cultural Center and STAR Program, she discovered the power of supportive communities. She's excited to study Psychology at a four-year university.



🗢 Francesca Re Fraschini

Francesca found a home away from home at Cañada College, where she met inspiring people who shaped her journey. She has discovered her passion for UX/UI design and now looks forward to designing thoughtful, user-centered experiences.



∞ Beth Lubov Rodgers

Beth returned to college to acquire skills necessary to transition careers into Interior Design. She is grateful for her professors and the friendships formed at Cañada. Upon graduation, Beth will join a design + build residential remodeler.



∞ Holly Lane Taylor

Graduating from high school and Cañada College, Holly is grateful for the opportunities through the Middle College program. She will attend San Jose State University, with dreams of working as a criminal psychologist or with the CIA.



∞ Samuel Zhang

Sam arrived at Cañada College eager to make an impact. From building a robotic prosthetic arm to launching a district-wide waste-sorting robot initiative, his journey was purpose-driven. Upon graduation, Sam will be transferring to pursue Mechanical Engineering.

President's Student Leadership Award



∞ Konatsu Okita

Cańada College is proud to name Konatsu Okita as this year's President's Student Leadership Award recipient. She will earn two Associate Degrees for Transfer in Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies: Social & Behavioral Sciences. She will transfer to UCLA to pursue a degree in Psychology.

Kona was born and raised in Kyoto, Japan. As an international student, Kona's early days in the United States were filled with challenges: navigating life alone, learning a new language and adjusting to a new culture. Her journey has been full of exploration and excitement, but also moments of fear and anxiety.

Despite these challenges, Kona became actively involved in campus life and discovered the power

of community. Kona worked as a Student Ambassador for the Cultural Center and a peer mentor for the S.T.A.R. Program, helping create spaces for cultural exchange and facilitating Japanese cultural events. Seeing people come together to celebrate, learn and connect was the best part of her time at Cañada College. Kona was selected as a scholar for the 2024 National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE), where she developed as a leader and presented her research. Through these experiences, she learned the power of representation, the importance of being open-minded, the impact of listening to others and the value of solidarity. As President of the Active Minds Club, Kona advocated for mental health awareness and reducing stigma.

In the future, Kona hopes to study interdisciplinary fields combining Psychology, Nutrition and Science, with the long-term goal of promoting mental wellness and supporting individuals with mental illnesses.

Class of 2025 Student Speaker



🗢 🛛 Oscar Arreola Buendia

Oscar Arreola Buendia is a proud Latino, immigrant and first-generation college graduate who has balanced the roles of full-time single father, son, brother, employee and student leader with courage and commitment. Throughout his time at Cañada College, Oscar has served with distinction as a Senator and as Commissioner of Activities in the Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC), dedicating himself to building inclusive and empowering spaces on campus.

Oscar's journey to this moment has been anything but easy. As someone who came to the United States as a child, he carries with him the sacrifices and dreams of his parents, who believed in a better future for their son. Oscar has taken those dreams and turned them into reality - earning not just one, but three Associate degrees,

and transferring to the University of California, Berkeley to pursue a Bachelor degree in Politics.

As a student leader and advocate for equity, Oscar is committed to the values of justice, representation and community. He believes deeply in the power of education to transform lives and in the importance of showing up and speaking out—especially for those who have historically gone unheard. Oscar is ready to be a voice for his peers at Commencement, and to honor the strength, diversity and shared struggles that unite the graduating Class of 2025.

Academic Regalia

The colorful attire worn by the graduates, the faculty and officers of the College on the occasion of Commencement has historic roots in medieval times. A statute in 1321 required that all "Doctors, Licentiates and Bachelors" of the University of Coimbra wear gowns. Academic attire began to appear on United States campuses in the late 1890s. A conference was held in May of 1895 at Columbia University with college representatives to establish a code of regalia for American colleges and universities. Since then, there have been a few revisions, but what remains in a tradition of colors found in gowns, hoods and caps.

The faculty Grand Marshal will carry an academic mace at today's ceremony. The academic mace, first used in the 14th century, is descended from the club of Hercules. The scepter on the mace stands for lawful power and regal authority, and was carried by Zeus, the Greek God of moral law and order. Cañada's mace is made primarily of red oak with olivewood embellishments. These are two trees which are abundant on the Cañada College campus.

Bachelor's and Master's gowns show pointed sleeves, open yokes and no trimmings. Doctoral gowns have bell shaped sleeves and velvet trimming. Hoods are worn over the gown to designate bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees. Hoods are not worn for associate degrees. Inside all hoods are the colors of the college or university granting the degree. The colored velvet binding or edging of the hood is determined by the degree subject awarded.

Agriculture – *Maize* Arts, Letters & Humanities – *White* Commerce, Accountancy & Business – *Drab* Dentistry – *Lilac* Economics – *Copper* Education – *Light Blue* Engineering – *Orange* Fine Arts, including Architecture – *Brown* Forestry – *Russet* Journalism – *Crimson* Law – *Purple* Library Science – *Lemon* Medicine – *Green* Music – Pink Nursing – Apricot Oratory/Speech – Silver Gray Pharmacy – Olive Green Philosophy – Dark Blue Physical Education – Sage Green Public Administration – Peacock Blue Public Health – Salmon Pink Science – Golden Yellow Social Work – Citron Theology – Scarlet Veterinary Science – Gray

🗢 Cañada Honors Sashes

Students graduating with honors designations are awarded sashes which signify their level of academic achievement. Students who are graduating with Summa Cum Laude designation (4.0 cumulative GPA) receive a gold sash; students graduating with Magna Cum Laude designation (3.5 and above cumulative GPA) receive a silver sash, students graduating with Cum Laude designation (3.3 and above cumulative GPA) receive a bronze sash. Students who are eligible for Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society receive a gold PTK sash.



Cañada College opened in 1968 as part of the three-school San Mateo County Community College District. Cañada offers hundreds of academic, transfer and career classes during the day, in the evening and on weekends. Cañada College is recognized as one of the top community colleges in Northern California for successful transfer rates and degree completion. As a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution, Cañada College provides a rich and diverse environment for students of all ages and backgrounds. The primary service area for the College is the southern portion of San Mateo County: Redwood City, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, San Carlos, Atherton, Portola Valley, La Honda, Woodside, Half Moon Bay and Pescadero.

Cañada College is one of the smallest community colleges in the Bay Area enabling it to meet its mission of ensuring that students from diverse backgrounds achieve their educational goals by providing quality instruction in transfer and general education classes, workforce programs and basic skills. The College has historically been rated as one of the best community colleges in Northern California in transferring students to four year colleges and universities. Students find excellent educational programs and a highly respected two-year general education program as well as Workforce training in an array of fields including: Computer Information Systems, Radiologic Technology, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Digital Art & Animation, Business, Accounting, Economics, Early Childhood Education, Paralegal, Medical Assisting and Work Experience Education. The Class of 2025 honors the memory of a member of our Cañada family. She is in our hearts today.



🗢 🛛 Martha Ann Mirabella

Martha Ann Mirabella was a paralegal student at Cañada College as she wanted to spend her remaining years doing pro bono work in immigration and criminal law and was interning for an immigration attorney. Her professors remarked that she was an excellent student, worked hard in all her classes and was proud that she was the oldest student in class.

Martha was loved by all and was considered by many

to be the nicest person they knew. She was nonjudgmental and always saw the good in people. She dedicated her life to volunteering in San Mateo County. She taught illiterate adults how to read and tutored those who were trying to pass the test to become US citizens. Martha was an ombudsman, visiting long-term care facilities to ensure that the residents were safe and well cared for and was on the civil grand jury.

Martha was the beloved wife of the late Frank Mirabella, married for 49 years; mother to Diane Pessagno and Frank Mirabella; grandmother to Michael and Stephen Pessagno and Frank Mirabella.



Acknowledgments

Thank you to the individuals and groups for their planning and efforts to make our Commencement Ceremony memorable and meaningful for our graduates, their families and guests:

Associated Students of Cañada College Cañada Bookstore SMCCCD Facilities Planning and Operations Cañada Marketing Department SMCCCD Information Technology Services SMCCCD Public Safety

~ Commencement Committee:

Faamanu Alala Megan Rodriguez Antone Wissem Bennani Lizette Bricker **Rachel Corrales** Aziza De La Torre **Jackie** Flores Max Hartman Jai Kumar Maria Lara Anthony Lim Karen Pinkham Ludmila Prisecar Andrew Soler Chantal Sosa Sergio Suarez Jason Wendt John Winchester

Notes & Well-Wishes



Commencement Safety

www.canadacollege.edu/commencement/safety.php

Congratulations CLASS OF 2025



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @canadacollegeRWC #iCANgrad25

canadacollege.edu/commencement