



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 10-27-23

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

K-14 Leadership Equity Academy

Cañada College planned and hosted its third bi-annual “Living the Promise: K-14 Equity Leadership Academy” with Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) on October 19 and 20. The Equity Leadership Academy is a part of the Living the Promise MOU. The training mission is to develop leaders with perspectives and practices rooted in equity, advocacy, social justice and anti-racism. On Thursday, Cañada managers and directors joined SUHSD Vice Principals at Skyline College and learned about identity and cultural dynamics in the workplace, perceptual positioning and leadership accountability. On Friday, the senior leadership teams from Cañada and SUHSD gathered at CSM to become skilled in coaching and consolation, scenario-based equity techniques for intervention and processing techniques.



Signing Ceremony with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

We had a special celebration on Monday night in East Palo Alto for an MOU Signing Ceremony that signified the start of the next level in our partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP). Cañada College and BGCP have been long-time partners, working together to support the success of our local families in East Palo Alto, Redwood City, North Fair Oaks, Belle Haven and the surrounding areas for years.

The ceremony took our partnership even deeper and renewed existing commitments that builds a seamless pathway for middle school, high school and college students in Southern San Mateo County.

The MOU includes:

- Expanded Dual Enrollment college courses for students taught at the East Palo Alto Clubhouse
- Middle School Career Exploration: Provide middle school students with general postsecondary advising, orientation and group workshops
- Future Grads High School: Host Summer Academy for rising high school sophomores and juniors to engage in a week-long program focused on college knowledge
- Future Grads Postsecondary: Host college success managers to meet with Future Grads Cañada students on-campus for academic advising and group workshops
- Cañada College and BGCP will host office space on each other's campuses, providing for special programs, events and resources

We were honored to have Assemblymember Diane Papan and SMCCCD Trustee John Pimentel attend and share congratulatory remarks at the ceremony. My thanks to the Cañada College students and staff who attended the event and helped us celebrate this special moment for our community.



Puente Transfer Motivational Conference at UC Davis

On Saturday, October 21, the Cañada College Puente Project attended the Transfer Motivational Conference at UC Davis. The purpose of the conference is to introduce Puente students to a university campus and expose them to leaders in various fields, relevant topics and issues, and the transfer process. Cañada Puente students had the opportunity to connect with the hundreds of other Puentistas' from Northern California community colleges and start to expand their network of support. It was a full day of bonding, learning, and community.



PTK Leadership Conference

The Beta Zeta Nu Chapter of Cañada College attended the PTK Nevada/California Regional Leadership Conference this past weekend in Burlingame. Thirteen students participated and learned more about Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), as well as scholarship and leadership opportunities!



Spirit Day

On Tuesday, the Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC) hosted an engaging Spirit Day, treating attendees to delightful pineapple buns. The event fostered a welcoming atmosphere, encouraging students to forge new connections and friendships.



Men of Color Coalition Event

The Men of Color Coalition hosted their Fall 2023 event at the Cultural Center on Wednesday. Drawing an enthusiastic crowd, the event featured a dynamic activity that sparked vibrant discussions among the attending students. This interactive engagement not only fostered a strong sense of community but also encouraged participants to collectively explore and respond to questions.



Cañada Alumna's Art Show Launches in Art Gallery on November 1

Artist and Cañada College alumna Jenny Wantuch's career as an artist comes full circle when her show *Harmony in Hues: Exploring Landscapes Through Perception, Imagination and Memory* opens in the Cañada Art Gallery (Building 9, Room 152) beginning on Wednesday November 1! The campus community is invited to the opening reception for the exhibition, which will be held in the Art Gallery on November 1, 2023 from 3 – 6 p.m. The exhibition runs through December 15, 2023. The artist who lives in San Mateo and paints out of her studio at Hunters Point Shipyards, studied graphic design at Cañada College and graduated with a degree in 2013.

The show consists of 17 paintings in total. Nine of these paintings were commissioned for Cañada College in 2021 and were completed in 2022. The commissioned paintings are 8x8 inch oil paintings inspired by the repeating patterns and architectural elements that frame the striking vistas seen at Cañada College. The commissioned paintings will be permanently installed on the campus. The other paintings in the show are larger in scale and focus on landscapes from Northern California and other locations. Her painting entitled "Wanaka Valley" is based on one of her plein air paintings from the South Island of New Zealand and the painting "Road Heading North" is inspired by her memory of growing up in Sweden. All the paintings in the show were completed in 2022-2023. Please see the attached flyer for additional information.

Harmony in Hues: exploring landscapes through perception, imagination and memory

an exhibition of paintings by the Bay Area artist Jenny Wantuch.



Mahitha Rao, Acting Director of Post-Secondary Success & University Programs

Please congratulate Mahitha Rao as she assumes her new role as Acting Director of Post-Secondary Success & University Programs. Dr. Mary Ho is currently on a temporary approved leave through March 2024. Mahitha was born in New York and raised in the Bay Area. Serving students has always driven her passion and purpose. She is a proud transfer student from Foothill College, and graduated with B.A. in Psychology & Social Behavior from UC Irvine. She then attended the University of Southern California for her Masters in Educational Counseling. She has worked in various community colleges across California, but is grateful to call Cañada home. She started as the Retention Specialist for the Promise Scholars Program in 2019, and calls it an honor to work with the Promise team and watch the program grow while serving hundreds of students. She began as Umoja counselor in 2022, and further delved into working for students within a learning program, fighting against Anti-Blackness, and creating healing spaces for our students.

Mahitha is excited to continue to expand her work at Cañada as she steps into the Acting Director of Post-Secondary Success position. She is eager to learn from her Cañada colleagues and build community in this role. Mahitha's office is located in the Colts U Transfer Center space. Please stop by and say hello as she transitions to her new office during the week of October 30.



I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim