



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 5-26-23

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

55th Annual Commencement is Tomorrow!

Our Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2023 will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. and we invite you to celebrate the graduates at this momentous event. Friends and family of the graduates can also watch the ceremony from home! The broadcast of the Commencement Ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and can be viewed at www.canadacollege.edu/commencement. Please visit the [commencement website](#) for the latest information and updates. General questions regarding Commencement may be directed to canstudentlife@my.smccd.edu.

Fast Facts: Cañada College Class of 2023

- 527 Graduates
- 533 Degrees & Certificates Awarded
- 224 Graduates Achieved Honor Status
- 276 First Generation Graduates
- Oldest Graduate: 80-years-old
- Youngest Graduate: 16-years-old

Cohorts and Other Groups

- 102 Promise Scholars Program Graduates
- 35 International Student Graduates
- 22 DACA/Dreamers/AB540 Graduates
- 19 TRIO Graduates
- 17 Student-Athletes
- 11 Veteran Graduates

Gender/Race/Ethnicity

- 70 percent Female Graduates
- 25 percent Male Graduates
- 262 Hispanic Graduates

- 126 White Non-Hispanic Graduates
- 49 Asian Graduates
- 30 Two or More Races Graduates
- 17 Filipino Graduates
- 11 Black Non-Hispanic Graduates
- 4 Pacific Islander Graduates



Outreach to High School Students

This week, Cañada sent messages to more than 4,400 Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) juniors and seniors, inviting them to enroll in Summer courses through our Concurrent Enrollment program. A copy of the message is attached. Communication to SUHSD students is a component of the Living the Promise MOU that we established last year with Ravenswood City School District, SUHSD, San Francisco State and Cal State East Bay. In addition, earlier this month, Cañada College sent Welcome and Acceptance Letters to more than 2,200 graduating seniors (and their parents) from SUHSD.

Therapy Animals at the Library

Last week the Cañada College Library, along with the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, hosted Cate and Amabelle, two therapy dogs who provided much needed comfort to our students. Students also got to meet Indigo the peacock! The event was a success and students were thrilled to participate.



Student Recognition and Achievement Ceremony

Last Friday, the campus held its annual Student Recognition and Achievement Ceremony. At this joyous event, we celebrated our scholarship recipients, transfer students, Honors Transfer Program scholars and tutors.



TRIO SSS Graduation Recognition Ceremony

On the same day, the TRIO program celebrated our graduating and transferring students with a recognition ceremony. TRIO family and friends came together to remind us how far we have come and that we never walk alone. Additionally, students received their regalia and cap decorating kits for their big day!



Digital Art & Animation Student Show

Also on Friday, our Digital Art & Animation program presented its 9th Annual Student Show, a compilation of work by students in Digital Art & Animation over the last academic year and featured photography, digital painting, illustration, design and 2D and 3D animation. You can view a recording of the Student Show [here](#).



End-of-Year Fashion Celebration

On Saturday, our Fashion Department held its end-of-year trunk show, focusing on knit patterns and garments. Two students, Rachel and Lakeisha, showed off their personal designs and many students were also recognized, received certificates and were awarded scholarships.



SMCCCD Migration Celebration

Also on Saturday, Cañada College served as the host campus for the San Mateo County Community College District Migration Celebration. The event celebrated our undocumented community and their accomplishments.



Puente End-of-Year Celebration

On Wednesday, our Puente Program celebrated accomplishments by honoring its students who were transferring and/or graduating. The morning celebration included poetry readings, as well as sharing of appreciation by students and their mentors. I've so enjoyed spending time this year with my Puentista, Johanna Garibay. Many students credited Puente with keeping them in college and giving them the confidence to continue their education.



Promise Scholars Program Graduation

Also on Wednesday, our Promise Scholars Program hosted their annual End-of-Year Celebration! Promise scholars, friends, family and the Cañada campus community gathered to celebrate our graduates as well as our continuing students. It was a festive celebration filled with joy, delicious food and lively music.



Classified School Employee Appreciation

Yesterday we honored our Classified colleagues with a special breakfast to celebrate Classified School Employee Appreciation Week! Our Classified staff are the unsung heroes who play key roles in creating a warm, welcoming and supportive environment that contributes to the success of our students. Thank you for everything that you do!



Middle College Celebration

Cañada College and our partners at Sequoia Union High School District recognized our graduating Middle College students at a special celebration. I enjoyed honoring our Middle College students and our faculty who were recognized for their outstanding support throughout the year. Congratulations Sarah Harmon, Evan Innerst and David Eck!



Thank you, Lesly Ta!

At Wednesday's Board Meeting, we had the opportunity to recognize and celebrate Cañada College student Lesly Ta, who completed her year as our SMCCCD Student Trustee. Lesly is a fierce and passionate advocate for our students throughout the District and I am grateful for everything she has done for our students and College.

We will recognize Lesly at our Commencement Ceremony tomorrow morning!



OYE Latinx Conference Recognized with Award

The OYE Latinx Conference recently received an award from the California Parks and Recreation Society District 4 for its outstanding contributions to the community. The OYE Conference celebrated its 11th annual conference in March at Cañada College. Many Cañada students, alumni and employees collaborated with the OYE Planning Committee to build a memorable and inspiring event for our community. OYE provides opportunities for local teens, young adults and their families to explore and express Latinx culture and identity. Participants engage in finding tools to overcome challenges, educational and career pathways to the future, and strategies to strengthen our communities.



Upcoming Events

Please visit our [College Events Calendar](#) for an updated listing of campus events. The campus community is also encouraged to add to the college calendar and can do so [here](#). Upcoming events include:

Friday, May 26

Commencement [Rehearsal](#)

2-3 p.m.

Upper Lawn – Between Buildings 9 and 13

[50th Anniversary of Interior Design Celebration](#)

5 p.m.
Building 6, Room 101/102

Saturday, May 27

[Commencement](#)

10 a.m.
Upper Lawn

Saturday, June 10

[Lavender Grad Drag Brunch](#)

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Building 23 Rooftop

This will be my last Weekly Update for the academic year and I will resume Weekly Updates when the Fall semester begins. We will share important and timely information as needed during the summer. Thank you for all of your passion and hard work over this past year. I wish you and your loved ones an enjoyable and relaxing summer and I look forward to continuing our work together in the new academic year!

Sincerely,
Kim