



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Fall 2023 Welcome & Weekly Update: 8-18-23

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Welcome to the fall 2023 semester! I hope that everyone had some time to rest and relax over the summer. It's great to see our campus filled with students and employees!

Welcome Week

Our campus community provided our students with a warm welcome the first week of classes. Interim Chancellor Melissa Moreno joined me for a walking tour of campus and we also welcomed Trustee John Pimentel and former East Palo Alto Mayor and Current JobTrain Employment Specialist, Larry Moody. We are looking forward to strengthening our partnership between East Palo Alto and Cañada College.

More welcome events will continue next week! Please be sure to visit our [College Events Calendar](#) for the latest event updates. The campus community is also encouraged to add events to the college calendar and can do so [here](#).



District and College Opening Day

Thank you for joining our District and College Opening Days. My thanks to the teams who put much time and effort into planning and presenting during these important days. Follow up materials for both the District and College Flex Days are posted on the [Flex Day website](#). Please refer to this [site](#) for the most up-to-date details.

College Leadership Retreat

On August 10, more than 50 students, faculty, classified staff leaders and administrators joined together for Cañada College's 6th annual Leadership Retreat. Each year, the Retreat serves as a launching point for the College's implementation of its five-year [Educational Master Plan](#) (EMP). While there, retreat participants focused on four new EMP priorities for 2023-24: Megan, I removed the semicolons between each priority since there was no period after campus culture

- Expanding programs and opportunities to new community members in North Fair Oaks, Belle Haven, and East Palo Alto, especially BIPOC communities
- Reimagining how we support students' accessing career opportunities
- Strengthening transfer support services to increase transfers
- Creating and sustaining an inclusive, antiracist, and equity-minded campus culture

Retreat participants focused on each of these priorities during four facilitated sessions and related small-group discussions. This allowed campus leaders to develop a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities of each of these priorities as they organize their work on these important topics during the coming academic year. More information, including all of the materials and notes from the Retreat, may be found [here](#).



Super Saturday – 200 People Served!

On Saturday, August 12, Cañada College hosted its second Super Saturday single-stop registration event where 200 students were served! The goal of this event was to help anyone who attended to complete all enrollment steps and walk away registered for Cañada College's fall 2023 semester. More than 35 faculty, staff, administrators and student ambassadors were on hand to help students enroll, leave with a course schedule and/or have their questions answered for the fall semester. Thank you to the Cañada teams that provided on-site student support including: Admissions & Records, Welcome Center, Financial Aid, Counseling, Colts-U Transfer Station, Umoja, College for Working Adults, Office of Student Life & Leadership Development, EOPS/CARE/FYSI, Promise Scholars Program and Outreach, Paralegal & Business and Funeral Services Program. Community partners Upward Scholars and AchievAble, Notre Dame de Namur, were also present at the event, connecting with the community at resource tables. The Cañada team looks forward to welcoming its new students on the first day of the fall semester.



Enrollment Recap

Fall 2023 enrollment is healthy and strong. Below is the fall 2023 enrollment trend (purple line) in comparison with the past five fall semesters. We will continue offering courses with diverse modalities and various day and time to meet students' needs. Thank you to our dedicated faculty, division assistants, student services colleagues, the Marketing team and deans to support this important effort. Also, thanks to Alex Claxton for the amazing chart which can be viewed below and on this [link](#).



Visit Our New Cultural Center!

The entire campus community is invited to visit our new Cultural Center, located in Building 17, Room 107. Faculty are also invited to bring their classes to explore the new space. This week, Professor Kristina Brower took her students from ECE 210- ECE Principles on a tour of the new Cultural Center where they explored the space and enjoyed some delicious pan dulce. Students shared they felt the center was inclusive and welcoming. Professor Brower has also planned other tours for the next couple of weeks for students to get to know their campus.



Dr. Michiko Kealoha, Director of Equity

Please congratulate Dr. Michiko Kealoha as the College's inaugural Director of Equity! Dr. Kealoha has committed 15 years of service to higher education work in four-year public, private and community college systems. During this time, she has had the opportunity to serve in Student Life, Multicultural Affairs, Residence Life and Housing, Recreation and Orientation. Dr. Kealoha was also an adjunct professor in leadership studies within the Business, Design and Workforce Division at Cañada, and teaches in the graduate education program at the University of San Francisco.

In addition to leading the Center for Student Life and Leadership Development at Cañada College for the past 10 years, Michiko served as the President of the Board of Directors for The California Community Colleges Student Affairs Association (CCCSAA), a lead of the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Association (NASPA) Community College Division, and a board member on the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Program in Japantown. Her work in liberation and justice has been internationally recognized through TedX, the academic journal Educational Studies, the International Journal of Human Rights Education and her published book work with Information Age Publishing.

As a first-generation college student, one of Dr. Kealoha's favorite memories is crossing the graduation stage with her toddler in her arms to earn a doctoral degree from the University of San Francisco in International and Multicultural Education with an emphasis in Human Rights.

Michiko looks forward to working with the campus and community on ensuring every student has access to success.



Dr. Anniqua Rana, Interim Dean of Academic Support and Learning Technologies (ASLT)

Please give a warm Cañada welcome (back) to Dr. Anniqua Rana as Cañada's Interim Dean of Academic Support and Learning Technologies (ASLT). Many Cañadians may already know Anniqua as she started at Cañada as an ESL Faculty member in 1998 and later served as Dean of Athletics, Library and Learning Center (ALL), which is now the ASLT division.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Rana has been dedicated to equity in higher education. Her doctoral research focused on the implications of technology for women of Pakistan in higher education. She has worked as an educational administrator and consultant in the US and Pakistan. She has taught English as a Second Language, English, Creative Writing, and Multicultural Education at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, University of San Francisco, Lahore University of Management Sciences, UC Santa Cruz extension, and Stanford University.

Dr. Rana grew up between Pakistan and the UK and immigrated to the US in 1989. When she's not working as an administrator, she writes. Her debut novel, *Wild Boar in the Cane Field* was shortlisted for Pakistan's UBL Literary Award, 2020. She blogs on Tillism.com- Tillism: Magical Words from around the World. Her writings on gender and education have appeared in TNS, Naya Daur TV, International Education, Ravi Magazine, Bangalore Review, Fourteen Hills, The Noyo River Review, Delay Fiction, Listening to the Voices: Multi-ethnic Women in Education, and other publications. She is currently working on a travel memoir: *That These Should be Lies: Tilting at Windmills*.

Dr. Rana has received her Ed.D in International and Multicultural Education from University of San Francisco, MA in English Literature from San Jose State University, MA in English and Linguistics from University of the Punjab, Pakistan, BA in Philosophy, English Literature, and Arabic from University of the Punjab, Pakistan and Certificate TESOL from UC Berkeley Extension.



Support for Hawai'i

We continue to send our strength and support to the people of Hawai'i as they begin to confront and rebuild from the vast and devastating damage from wildfires. Our partners at NCORE (The National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education) has been in contact with the Native Hawaiian community and have recommended the following mutual aid organizations for those who would like to support relief efforts: [Hawai'i Community Foundation](#) and [Maui United Way](#). Amid these heartbreaking and uncertain times, we stand in solidarity with the Hawaiian community and our thoughts are with all those affected by this crisis.

As we conclude the first week of the fall 2023 semester, I wanted to share a fun throwback photo from Cañada's first day of the fall 2015 semester. Pictured with me (from left to right) is Michiko Kealoha, Megan Rodriguez Antone, Chialin Hsieh and student leaders Magnolia and Alexander.



I look forward to seeing all of you throughout the fall semester. Please stop by my office to say "hi" or contact me to schedule a time to chat.

Sincerely,
Kim