



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update 10-23-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Art, Activism & Storytelling with Juana Alicia

Cañada College recently welcomed renowned muralist Juana Alicia for an inspiring conversation on art, activism and the power of storytelling in our communities. Hosted in honor of Latinx Heritage Month, the event highlighted how creativity can drive social change and cultural pride. We are deeply grateful to Juana Alicia for sharing her wisdom and artistry with our students and campus community.



Menlo-Atherton & Woodside High Schools Visit Cañada College

This week, Cañada College welcomed two high school groups - 31 students from Woodside High School and 50 from Menlo-Atherton High School - for an engaging campus visit. The students were greeted by Dean of Enrollment Services, Dr. Wissem Bennani, before learning about Cañada's academic programs and student support services from the Outreach Team.

Campus Ambassadors led a guided tour that included a special stop in the Fashion Design program, where students observed a live class and heard from Professor Jaleh Naasz in the Fashion Lab.



Cañada Joins United Against Hate Week with Community Dialogue and Open Mic

The Outreach Team partnered with Redwood City Together and the Cultural Center to host a United Against Hate Week event. Cañada student and Redwood City Together Public Relations Intern, Mercedes A., joined Executive Director Rafael Avendaño in leading a heartfelt discussion about life's challenges and the importance of community support. Following the dialogue, participants shared powerful poems and reflections during an open mic, fostering connection, empathy and collective healing.



Author Talk with Dr. Mora: Centering Community and Resistance

The Womxn of Color Collaborative and Office of Equity came together with Ethnic Studies to host a Radical Feminists Zapatistas workshop with Profesora Mariana Mora of Mexico City. Participants learned how over the past two decades, Zapatista indigenous community members have asserted their autonomy and self-determination by using everyday practices as part of their struggle for *lekil kuxlejal*, a dignified collective life connected to a specific territory.

Profesora Mora shared her solidarity work in Chiapas, with Tseltal and Tojolabal community members and how Zapatista kuxlejal (or life) politics unsettle key racialized effects of the Mexican neoliberal state. To learn more about the central spheres of Zapatista indigenous autonomy, particularly governing practices, agrarian reform, women's collective work and the implementation of justice, as well as health and education projects a copy of her book is available in the Cultural Center.



Health & Wellness Fair Promotes Community Care

On Wednesday, Cañada College hosted its annual Health & Wellness Fair at The Grove, bringing students, staff and community members together to focus on personal and collective well-being. Attendees received free blood pressure screenings, flu shots and STI testing while exploring a wide range of mental and physical health resources from campus departments and community organizations. The event fostered a welcoming, informative space to learn about services that support wellness year-round, underscoring the College's commitment to prevention and community care.





Día de los Muertos Celebration Honors Memory and Community

Students, staff and faculty came together for a meaningful Día de los Muertos celebration hosted by ASCC and the Cultural Center. Participants brought photos of loved ones, decorated frames in their honor and added them to the campus ofrendas - creating a vibrant display of remembrance and community. The event provided space to share stories, reflect and celebrate life through creativity while enjoying snacks and connection with others. Note: This was a cultural celebration honoring Día de los Muertos traditions, not associated with Halloween. Frames will be available for pickup one week after the event.



I wish you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim