



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

### Weekly Update: 5-16-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

### Staff Support Needed for Commencement

Cañada's 57th Commencement Ceremony is quickly approaching on Saturday, May 24 at 10 a.m., and immediate staff support is needed to ensure this milestone event is a success for our graduates and their families. There are still key roles to be filled and your participation is vital. To assist with this special event, please click the [commencement job assignment link](#). Important: CSEA employees working at the Commencement ceremony are entitled to overtime compensation. This overtime must be preapproved by the employee's supervisor. Once approved, the employee may choose to receive either overtime pay or compensatory (comp) time. This is at the discretion of the employee. If you have any questions, please contact a member of CSEA Chapter 33 leadership. We hope staff will be a part of the Cañada Commencement team and appreciate your consideration.



### Show Some Love for the Class of 2025 with Custom Zoom Backgrounds!

With Commencement almost here, it's time to show our grads some love and celebrate the Cañada Class of 2025! You can view and download the backgrounds [here](#). Visit the [Commencement website](#) for the latest updates.

## **Calm Before Finals: Therapy Dogs in the Library**

Thanks to the Pet Assisted Therapy program volunteers at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, the Cañada Library was filled with warmth and wagging tails on Monday as the Library team continued its Finals Week tradition. The Library welcomed three therapy dogs - one who found a cozy resting spot, another who eagerly engaged with students and staff and the third who looked on peacefully. Their visit helped create a welcoming atmosphere and reminded us to pause, breathe and find comfort during this busy time.



## **Celebrating a Year of Excellence in Education & Human Development**

Congratulations to the Education & Human Development (EHD) students for a remarkable year! The students had a great time showcasing their work from the Curriculum and Practicum classes, culminating with the exciting debut of "Corralee's World," which was a true highlight.



## **Puente End of Year Celebration**

On Monday, the Puente community came together to celebrate the success of its students in a heartfelt gathering.

The event recognized the academic achievements and personal growth of Puente scholars, with families, faculty and staff in attendance. Attendees enjoyed food, refreshments and meaningful moments that highlighted the power of culture, community and perseverance.



## AANHPI Graduation and Recognition Ceremony

The AANHPI S.T.A.R Program and the Cultural Center hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration on Tuesday where we celebrated graduating students from Cañada College, Sequoia High School and Woodside High School. This year's event included a cultural showcase with *Pandanggo sa Ilaw*, *Baba Karam*, *Tapa Tini* and *Koi Kahe Kehte Rahe* dance performances. The AANHPI S.T.A.R. (Success, Transfer, Access, Relevance) program also received a City Proclamation from the Mayor of Redwood City, Elmer Martínez Saballos, in celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month and Vice President of Instruction, Chialin Hsieh, Principal Karen van Putten from Woodside High School, Instructional Vice Principal Tara Charles from Sequoia High School offered heartfelt messages to the graduates.





### **Final Ruck n' Walk of the Year**

The Veterans Resource and Opportunity Center (VROC) team closed out the final Ruck n' Walk of the school year on Wednesday with good company, fresh air and meaningful conversation. Students, staff and faculty showed up together to bond, de-stress and make memories with the VROC community before summer begins. Thank you to the VROC team for creating space to build community in such an intentional way.



## Latinx Graduation Recognition Celebration

The 4th Annual Latinx Graduation Recognition Ceremony (LGRC) was celebrated on Wednesday, recognizing students graduating, transferring and/or obtaining a degree/certificate. The celebration was kicked-off by Cañada's very own Folklorico class! The energetic performance set the stage for a night that included alumni speakers Jeison Velasquez and Brittney Samora Delgadillo, along with student speakers Alexis Arevalo Murillo and Adelina Rosa Palacio Sarmiento who all shared their journeys and experiences at Cañada. The ceremony closed by honoring 54 graduates and sashing them as they crossed the stage! The ceremony was followed by a vibrant and colorful reception at The Grove where family, friends, staff and professors gathered for delicious food, drinks, photobooths and music!



## Employee End of Year Celebration

Yesterday's Employee End-of-Year Celebration brought colleagues together at the Cañada Vista Clubhouse for an afternoon of appreciation and community. Attendees honored many colleagues including: retired faculty and staff, newly tenured faculty, 25-year service milestones and outstanding award recipients recognized by the Academic Senate.



The event was a heartfelt sendoff to the academic year and a celebration of the many contributions across our campus.



### ESL 912 Final Project

Students from ESL 912 showcased their language skills and creativity by hosting a campus event as part of their final project. This reading, listening and speaking course encourages students to engage in real-world English practice by planning and executing every part of the event — from securing funding and designing promotional materials to leading interactive activities. The event brought the campus community together and was a powerful reminder of the importance of supporting language learners through authentic and inclusive experiences.



I wish you a wonderful weekend and I hope to see many of you at Commencement next week!

Sincerely,  
Kim