



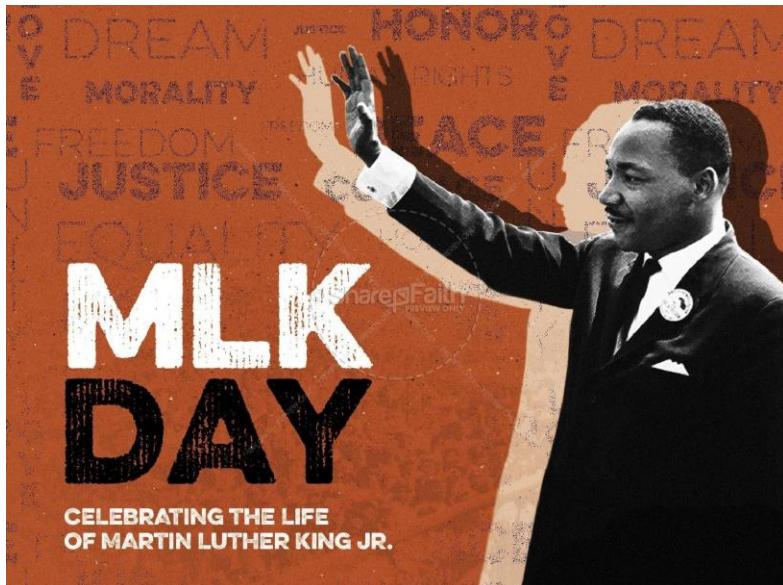
A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update 1-16-26

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Monday, we honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His dream of equality, justice and unity continues to challenge us to break down barriers, foster understanding and stand up for what is right. In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no classes will be held, and offices will be closed from Saturday, January 17 through Monday, January 19. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, January 20.



Welcome Back, Colts!

During the first days of the Spring 2026 semester, the campus was full of energy as students returned to Cañada College. Programs and departments came together to welcome new and returning students, share resources and offer friendly hellos across campus. From answering questions to helping students get oriented for the semester ahead, the collective presence made the start of the term feel supportive and inviting.

Thank you to all of the Cañadians who showed up to help set a positive tone for the semester. Your outreach and warm welcomes play an important role in helping students feel connected and ready to succeed as we begin the new semester together.



Flex Day Follow Up

I hope you enjoyed the fantastic workshops provided by our colleagues and thank you to our Professional Development Planning Committee for organizing last Friday's Flex Day. If you haven't already, please complete the [Flex Day Feedback Form](#) to help us know what we can do to better support you! Recordings, handouts and other resources from this and past Flex Days can be found on the [Flex Day Resources](#) page.



Roborant Review Highlights Back to School Student Exhibition

The Roborant Review, a media outlet dedicated to highlighting individual artists and art galleries, published a wonderful review of the Art Department's recent student exhibition, *Back to School: A Group Exhibition - Fall 2025*. You can read the article [here](#). The writer's thoughtful reflections and beautiful photographs highlight each student's work and the strength of the exhibition. A special thank you to Emilio Villalba, Assistant Professor of Studio Arts, for bringing such energy to the gallery and for the immeasurable opportunities he creates for our students. Stay tuned for information on the upcoming exhibition, *Guy Diehl: A Retrospective — Works from 1957-2025*, which is scheduled to open later this month.



Power of the Peers Prepares Student Leaders to Support Campus Community

The Power of the Peers, a collaboration of student-facing programs across campus, recently hosted an engaging training for student mentors and ambassadors. The session prepared participants to support their peers through inclusive, informed practices and featured interactive workshops on the Disability Resource Center (DRC), pronouns and identities, and effective communication. Students especially valued the DRC presentation for its practical guidance on accommodations and support services and appreciated the knowledgeable facilitators and interactive format. Overall, participants shared that the training strengthened their confidence and readiness to serve as peer mentors on campus.



Prevention in Action Conference Highlights Youth and Community Impact

The Prevention in Action: Schools, Communities and Youth Voices Conference was recently held at College of San Mateo and was a strong success. Hosted by the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, the inaugural event brought together nearly 200 professionals to focus on system-impacted youth. Cañada College's Project Change presented on its districtwide work and community impact. Project Director Maria Huning and Project Change students Paul and Mary-Lu shared firsthand experiences transitioning from facilities to education and the workforce. The conference also included a networking session with 30 community-based organizations to build connections and expand opportunities for youth.



International Student Center Welcomes New Spring Cohort

The International Student Center welcomed 16 new international students to Cañada College during Spring Orientation. The event introduced students to key campus resources while fostering community, connection and guidance as they begin their journey. Representing 11 different countries, this diverse group brings global perspectives to our campus. The International Student Center looks forward to welcoming them to the Cañada community and supporting them throughout the semester.



Update on Access to Canva and Adobe Express

Beginning this semester, current students now have free access to Canva Enterprise and Adobe Express to support coursework, presentations, and creative projects. Employees currently using college-funded Canva accounts are being migrated to Canva Enterprise as part of a districtwide rollout. [Learn more about Canva Enterprise and how to request a license.](#)

ITS Spring 2026 Evening Support

The ITS Support Technicians will be available for evening support for the first two weeks of the Spring 2025 Semester. These services will be available Monday through Friday until 10 p.m., through Friday, January 23. The preferred method of contacting ITS is through a [web service request](#). You can also contact ITS at (650) 574-6543.

The following are just some examples of issues we can help you with:

- Connections to the projector
- Air Media issues
- Wi-Fi issues
- Printer issues
- Zoom issues
- Document Camera Issues
- Neat board Issues

Reviewers Needed for SMCCCD Scholarship! Please Respond by January 30.

The Financial Aid Services Department, in partnership with the SMCCCD Foundation, is inviting faculty, staff, and administrators from Cañada to serve as scholarship reviewers for the 2026-27 Cañada Scholarship Program. Reviewers will be assigned between 20 to 40 scholarship applications to evaluate from February 4 to February 23 on AcademicWorks, the online platform used by the three SMCCCD colleges. The time commitment is expected to be no more than 6-8 hours, offering a rewarding opportunity to connect with our students. This role is purely voluntary. Reviewers will receive detailed instructions and a scoring rubric. If you're interested in this enriching experience, please reach out to [Christopher Wardell](#) by January 30.

Cañada College Hosts Black Student Leadership Conference in Partnership with BACHAC

Cañada College will host the Black Student Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 7, in partnership with the Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council (BACHAC).

This free event, themed “The Power of Our Voice, If Not Me, Then Who?” empowers middle and high school students through leadership development, motivational speakers, and culturally affirming programming. Taking place from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., the conference will feature breakout sessions, live entertainment, parent workshops and a community resource village. Please see the attached flyer for registration details.



Whistleblower Reporting System

SMCCCD has introduced a confidential third-party system for reporting fraud, waste or abuse. Reports can be made at (833) 416-6409 or through the [Whistleblower Portal](#). Workplace or discrimination concerns should be reported to HR or the Title IX office.

I wish you a restful weekend,

Sincerely,
Kim