



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

### **Weekly Update 1-23-26**

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

#### **Cañada College Connect Expands Community-Based Support**

Cañada College is expanding its community outreach through Cañada College Connect, bringing college services directly into local communities to better support prospective students and families. As part of this initiative, College Recruiter Maggie De Paz Fernandez will be available at multiple community locations to assist with application support, program referrals, course registration and more. Current locations include: Cañada College at Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks at both the Fair Oaks Community Center and the PAL Center. The team is also actively working to establish additional Cañada College Connect sites in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto, further strengthening Cañada's commitment to accessible, community-based support. For specific times and locations, visit: <https://canadacollege.edu/outreach/connect.php>



## 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.

## Rhythm Collective: Drumming for Solidarity and Health

The Rhythm Collective took place on Tuesday, creating a welcoming space for students to connect through rhythm, movement and shared experience. Led by Professor Michael Hoffman, the session invited students of all backgrounds to participate. Students bonded while learning about the rich cultural and historical roots of drumming and its role in community, healing and collective expression.



## Honors Research Symposium Preparation Workshop

The Honors Program recently hosted a workshop introducing students to the Bay Area Honors Research Symposium, the most prestigious community college Honors conference in California, taking place this year at Stanford University. The session created a welcoming space for students to learn what it takes to participate; how strong research presentation supports transfer goals and why opportunities like this are so valuable academically and professionally.

Led by Professor Rebekah Taveau, the workshop highlighted the benefits of presenting research, reviewed proposal expectations and encouraged students to take full advantage of high-impact honors opportunities.



## EOPS Open House Supports Student Success

On Wednesday, the EOPS program welcomed students to an Open House focused on connecting them with essential resources and personalized support. Students applied on the spot, met with EOPS staff and learned about available services, including book vouchers, transportation and food assistance, laptop loans and CSU/UC application fee waivers. The event provided a supportive and informative space that reinforced Cañada College's commitment to helping students thrive.





**Cañada College Art Gallery Presents Guy Diehl: A Retrospective**

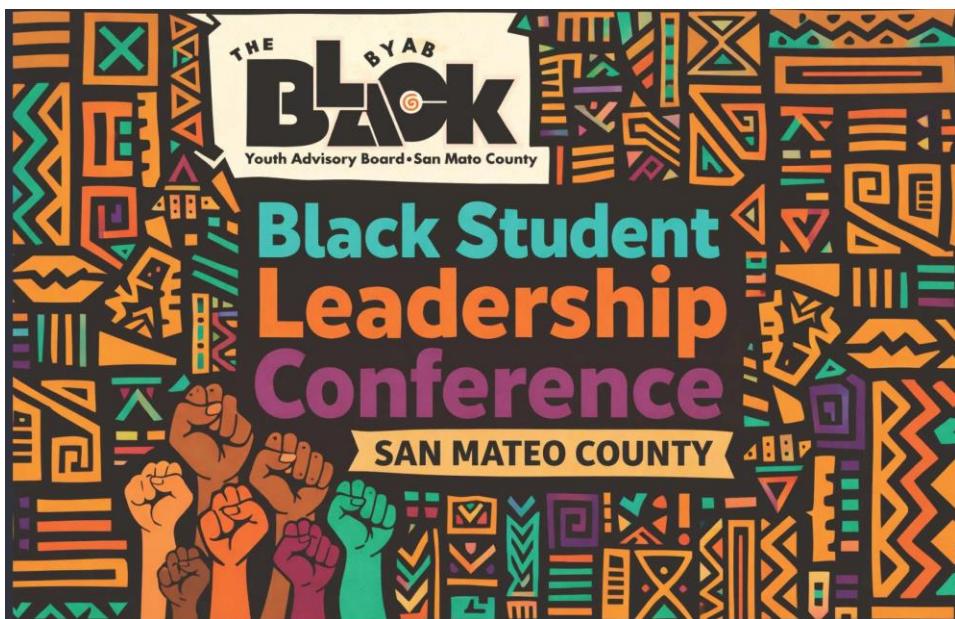
Last night, the Cañada College Art Gallery was buzzing as students, staff, faculty and community members came together to celebrate the opening of *Guy Diehl: A Retrospective*. With Guy Diehl himself in attendance, the reception felt especially meaningful, offering guests the chance to connect directly with the artist and one another while engaging with nearly seven decades of his work. The room was filled with conversation, curiosity and connection as visitors explored Diehl's masterful still lifes and reflected on the depth and evolution of his artistic practice. It was a powerful reminder of how art brings our campus and community together in shared experience. The exhibition is on view January 22 through March 19, 2026, at the Cañada College Art Gallery (Building 9, Room 152). Gallery hours are Monday–Thursday, 1–5 p.m. All are welcome.





## **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