



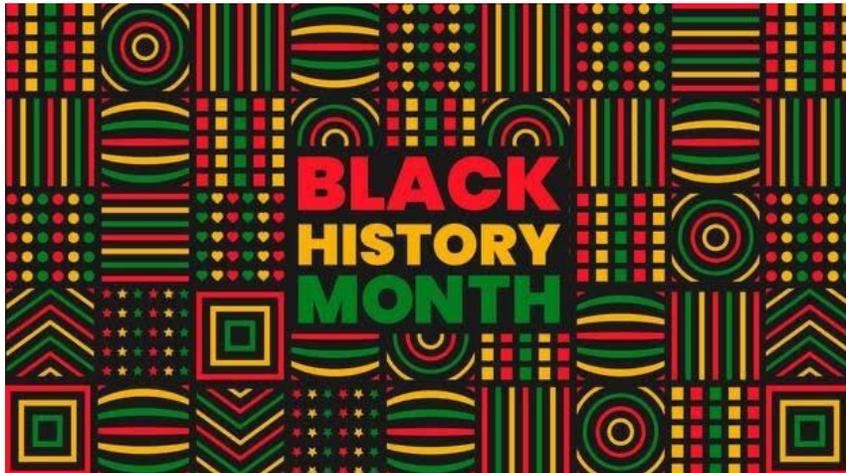
A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update 2-12-26

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Black History Month

February is Black History Month and Cañada College is hosting events to honor the rich cultural heritage, remarkable achievements and lasting contributions of the Black community. A current list of events is below and attached. Be sure to check the [college calendar](#) regularly, as new [events](#) will be added throughout the month. Additionally, [Zoom backgrounds](#) are available for download to join in the celebration.



Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, February 17

[Guest Speaker: Bakari Clark](#)

2:30pm

Building 3, Room 104

Wednesday, February 18

[Black Inventors](#)

2:30pm - 4:30pm

Cultural Center, Building 17, Room 107

Thursday, February 19

[Poetry Night with BSU](#)

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Building 2, Room 10

Belle Haven Community Campus Black Liberation Month Celebration

Thank you to our partners at Belle Haven Community Campus for inviting Cañada to participate in last Saturday's inspiring Black Liberation Month Celebration. The event began in the gym with a powerful decade-by-decade exhibition highlighting Black history, followed by community time featuring delicious burgers, fresh salads and meaningful conversations. The Cañada team engaged in community discussions, games and festivities and attendees were excited to connect, ask questions and learn how to begin their educational journey with Cañada. The event marked a wonderful start to the partnership as the College launches its monthly Cañada College Connect hours at Belle Haven Community Campus which is open the second Thursday of each month from 2–6 p.m., beginning today, February 12.





Cañada College & BGCP Host Personal Narrative Writing Workshop for SUHSD Juniors

Last Saturday, Cañada College partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP) to host a Personal Narrative Writing Workshop for 85 juniors from across the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD). Held on campus, the workshop gave students a supportive college setting to jump-start their personal statement essays while strengthening their postsecondary goals and confidence. Cañada is grateful to BGCP for their continued collaboration and commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for local students.



Black Jeopardy

In celebration of Black History Month, Umoja hosted Black Jeopardy, bringing students and staff together for an interactive game that tested participants' knowledge of influential Black figures, history and culture. The event fostered learning, friendly competition and a shared celebration of Black excellence in a fun and engaging atmosphere.



Cultural Center Hosts Third Annual Carnival Celebration

On Tuesday, the Cultural Center hosted its third annual Carnival celebration. Led by Cultural Center Ambassador, Meliza Zamora, the event featured an educational workshop on Afro-Latinx history in Colombia and the Barranquilla Gay Carnival. Attendees also enjoyed a lively dance workshop led by Cañada's own Sandra Cano and delicious food from Colombian restaurant Hoppyta. A special thank you to Professor Julie Carey for bringing her class to join the celebration!





Art Workshop Amplifies Latinx Voices Through Creative Expression

Yesterday, students gathered for an art workshop that used creativity as a platform to uplift Latinx voices and reflect on the impact of deportation in their communities. Using canvases, paint and an airbrush machine, participants created powerful pieces that will be shared on Instagram to spread messages of solidarity and empowerment. Students also enjoyed making their own fruit bowls topped with Tajín, chamoy and chips, helping to create a vibrant and welcoming space centered on community, creativity and self-expression.



ASCC Club Rush Connects Students to Campus Community

ASCC hosted Club Rush, bringing energy and connection to campus. Students had the opportunity to meet club leaders, explore the wide range of student organizations and learn more about the meaningful work happening across campus. Throughout the event, students connected with peers, discovered new interests and found opportunities to get involved in leadership, advocacy, cultural organizations and academic clubs. The space was filled with conversation, curiosity and community spirit.



Staff Supported Needed for Commencement

Cañada's 58th Commencement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 23, at 10 a.m. We invite staff to participate in making this a memorable milestone for our graduates and their families. Please note that employee hours for this event will be funded through the VPSS commencement budget.

Important: CSEA employees working at the Commencement ceremony are entitled to overtime compensation. To participate you must sign up by clicking on the [Cañada College Commencement Support Signup form](#). The employee will receive overtime pay but may opt for compensatory (comp) time. This is at the discretion of the employee. There are a limited number of spots available. If you have any questions, please contact a member of CSEA Chapter 33 leadership.



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.

Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day

In honor of Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day, no classes will be held and offices will be closed from Friday, February 13 through Monday, February 16. Campus will reopen during normal operating hours on Tuesday, February 17.

I wish you a wonderful weekend,

Sincerely,
Kim