



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Celebrate Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month! Celebrate by honoring the achievements and contributions of women throughout history and check the [college calendar](#) for upcoming events. Show your support by using a special [Zoom backgrounds](#) designed by Cañada Students in the Menlo Studio program.



April Flex Day Submission Proposals Due Today!

Proposal submissions for April 16 Flex Day are due today! You can submit your proposal by using the [Cañada College Flex Day Proposal Form](#). The theme for this Flex Day is De-escalation. We welcome session proposals that explore strategies, practices and approaches relevant to this theme, as well as those that support our broader professional learning goals.

Please Join Our Accreditation Virtual Open Forum – March 11, 2026 from 2 – 3 p.m.

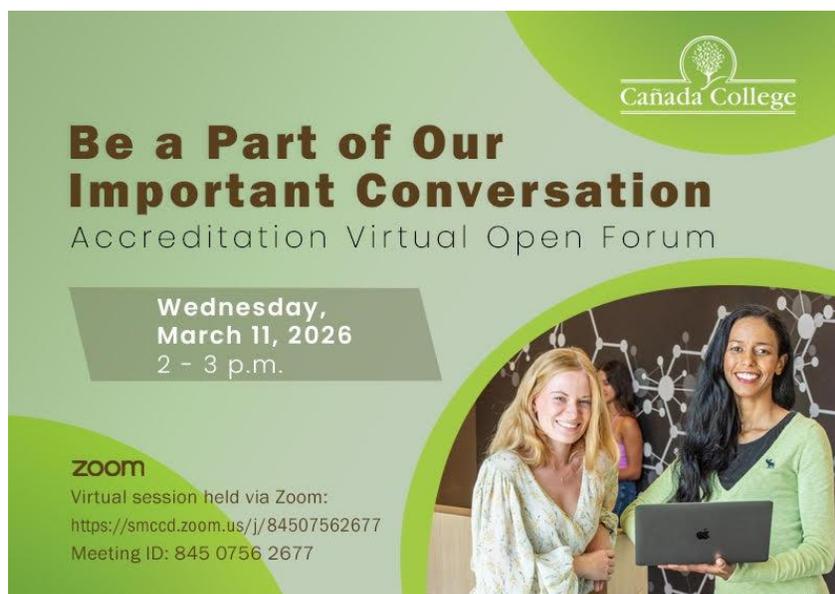
As part of our current comprehensive institutional accreditation review, the 5-member peer review team has requested time to meet in an open, virtual setting with members of the Cañada campus community. You are invited to participate in a Virtual Open Forum with the ACCJC peer review team on:

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
2-3 p.m.
Virtual session held via Zoom:

Zoom Link: <https://smccd.zoom.us/j/84507562677>

Meeting ID: 845 0756 2677

This is a great opportunity for faculty, staff and students to share their experiences at the College with the peer review team in an open and welcoming setting. Your voice and perspective truly matter and play an important role in the accreditation process. We encourage you to join and be part of this meaningful conversation. Please note that SMCCCD Board Members, the College President and the senior leadership team will not be present, allowing community members to speak openly and candidly with the peer review team. Thank you for being engaged and for helping strengthen our College community.



Puente Team Attends Spring Gathering

The Cañada College Puente team recently attended the Puente Annual Conference to celebrate 45 years of community college programming.

During the event, student leader Lupita Segura shared her journey on a panel while Cañada College Puente faculty were recognized for serving for the past 10 years as co-coordinators. The conference also highlighted Puente Co-Coordinator Sandra Mendez, who transitioned from a Puente student to a faculty member and counselor, further amplifying the spirit of the Puente community.



Redwood City Lunar New Year Celebration

February closed in community at this year's Lunar New Year Celebration in downtown Redwood City. The Outreach team connected with residents by holding an information table to share resources about Cañada's programs and services. It was an amazing event celebrating the Year of the Horse! A special thank you to Cañada's International Student Center and S.T.A.R. program for joining the effort to engage with the community and provide outreach.



Trustee Visit to Menlo Park Site

Trustee John Pimentel recently stopped by the Menlo Park Site and had the opportunity to see the latest updates to the space. Staff member Mercedes White Gomez shared how the site continues to expand in-person programming and connect students to certificate and credit pathways at Cañada College, including the upcoming Business Information Worker (BIW) and Entrepreneurship for Spanish Speakers courses this fall. Trustee Pimentel also saw the refreshed student lounge area, featuring new furniture and informational displays where students can learn about programs and connect with staff. The Menlo Park Site team remains focused on building momentum and welcoming an increased student population this fall.



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.

I wish you a restful weekend,

Sincerely,
Kim