Cañada College

A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update 10-30-26

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Save the Date: 2027 Commencement

Cañada's 59th Commencement Ceremony will take place on Friday, May 28, 2027, at 10 a.m. Please note that this year's ceremony will be held on a Friday, shifting from our traditional Saturday schedule. Moving forward, whether future commencement ceremonies fall on a Friday or Saturday will remain contingent on the academic calendar for each given year. Visit the Commencement website for the latest updates.



Honoring Tradition and Community at Día de los Muertos Celebration

Last night, the Cañada College Cultural Center, in collaboration with ASSC and Casa Círculo Cultural, hosted a vibrant Día de los Muertos Celebration. Students, families, faculty and community members gathered to honor loved ones who have passed and to celebrate life through art, music and tradition.

The evening opened with moving performances by Casa Círculo Cultural in the Main Theater. Rich with color, reflection and unity, the night was a true celebration of culture, remembrance and community spirit.







Supervisor Feedback Available in Nuventive Today after 5 p.m.

Programs submitting comprehensive program reviews, annual updates and/or resource requests this year: feedback from Supervisors, Deans or Vice Presidents will be available in Nuventive by the end of the day today, October 30. Programs have one week to address this feedback and make any final changes to their submittals before the final deadline of Friday, November 6 at 5 p.m. Questions? Please contact the PBC Program Review Sub-Committee: canprogramreview@smccd.edu.

Ribbon Cutting: Pat Hanada Memorial Bench

Classified staff and administrators gathered yesterday for the ribbon cutting of the Pat Hanada Memorial Bench. Friends and colleagues shared cherished memories, honoring Pat's lasting impact on the campus community and the students she championed.

Pat’s memory lives on through this bench and the Pat Hanada Scholarship - and in true spirit of her favorite holiday, festive Halloween treats were shared.







Men’s Basketball Student-Athletes Named to CCCMBCA Academic All-State Team

Congratulations to former Cañada College Men’s Basketball student-athletes Jake Skaggs and Shawn Acosta who have been recognized as members of the 2025–2026 California Community College Men’s Basketball Coaches Association (CCCMBCA) Academic All-State Team. In addition, Jake was one of three student-athletes to receive a $750 scholarship award from the CCCMBCA. This honor highlights their outstanding academic performance, discipline and dedication both in the classroom and on the court.



CARES Team Raises Awareness with “CARE Bears” Campus Walk

Yesterday, the CARES Team walked around campus dressed as CARE Bears to raise awareness about the CARES Team, sharing information and gummy bears with staff and students. Cañada College is committed to the health and safety of its students, faculty and staff and to maintaining a safe environment. In doing so, the College has established a CARES Team - Cañada Assessment, Response and Evaluation of Students - to provide assistance to anyone on campus. The CARES Team includes an Academic Counselor, a Personal Counselor, the Director of Disability Resource Center, the Dean of Counseling, Dean of Enrollment Services, Public Safety Representatives and the VPSS Executive Assistant.

When should you file a CARES report?

- Personal safety is a concern
- A student’s behavior suggests acute personal distress
- There is a pattern of disruptive or concerning behavior

Link to file a CARE Report: https://www.canadacollege.edu/cares/filereport.php. The campus community can also reach out to the Vice President of Student Services for support at (650) 306-3318 or canvpss@smccd.edu.



The Red Door Escape Room Visit - Puente Edition

Cañada College’s Puente Project recently organized its annual team-building field trip to the Red Door Escape Room in San Mateo. This team-building activity uses escape rooms to foster communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills in a fun, immersive environment. The students worked together in teams to solve puzzles and clues to "escape" a themed room within a time limit, strengthening relationships and

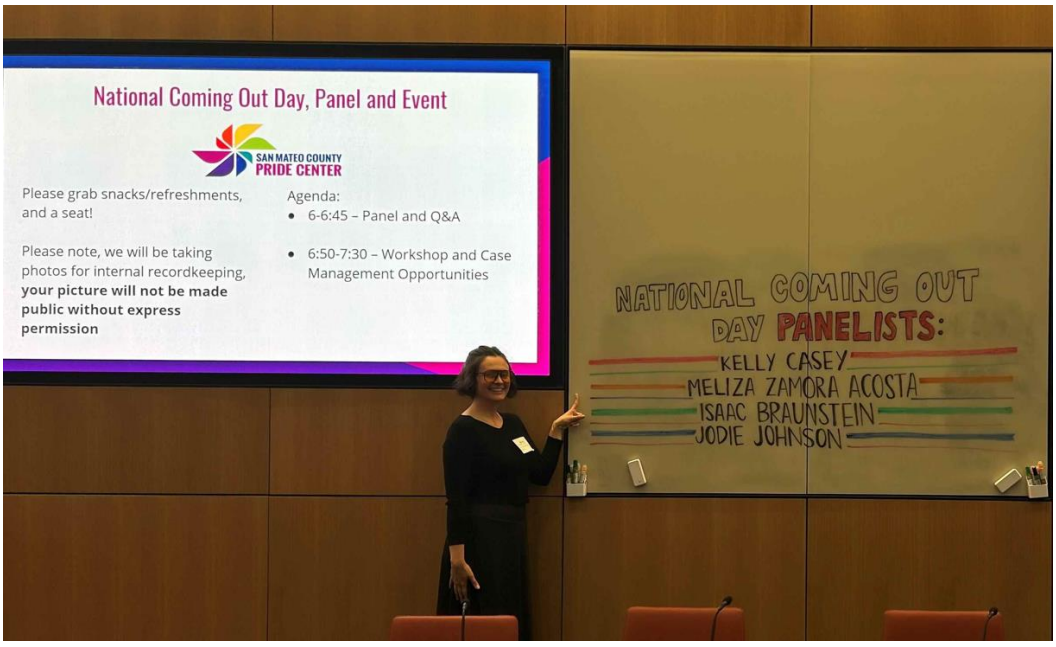
building trust by requiring effective communication and coordination. The students learned how to take risks, delegate tasks, make decisions, and, most importantly, build connections with each other, which reflects Puente's commitment to providing students with meaningful experiences beyond the classroom.





Pride Center Collaboration for County-Wide National Coming Out Day

Pride Center Ambassador Meliza Zamora had the opportunity to serve as a panelist and speaker at the National Coming Out Day event hosted by the San Mateo Pride Center. Panelists shared their experiences within the community alongside their coming-out stories. Reflecting on the event, Meliza shared, "The question I liked the most asked speakers about the resources we have searched for and found in this process. It reminded me of the supportive presence provided throughout the College, Dr. Kealoha and the safety of the Cultural and Pride Center, which has been a crucial and empowering part of this puzzle I call a Queer Life."



Cañada Connects with Community at Dia De Muertos Preview

Members of the Cañada College team joined community partners and attended the Casa Circulo Dia De Muertos Preview Party last Thursday. In addition, the College will a hold an informational table at the upcoming Dia De Muertos event held in downtown Redwood City on November 8.





Behind the Threads: Cañada College Fashion Students Explore Sustainable Textiles at Fibershed

Cañada College Fashion students recently visited Fibershed in Point Reyes Station alongside Professor Jaleh Naasz. During the visit, students learned about natural dye plants, regional fiber production and wool processing, gaining valuable insight into how sustainable fashion connects local ecosystems, agriculture and textile production. The Fashion Department is appreciative of Fibershed for sharing their expertise and giving Fashion students a deeper understanding of regional fiber systems and sustainable fashion practices.





The EOPS Team Attended & Presented at Annual Statewide Conference

The EOPS team recently attended the California Community College Extended Opportunity Program and Services Association (CCCEOPSA), the annual statewide conference, in Long Beach to demonstrate how high-impact engagement can transform EOPS into an engine for economic mobility. Four outstanding Cañada EOPS students presented a workshop on their leadership experiences and the transformative impact of programs like study abroad and internships. The EOPS team extends its gratitude to ASCC and MESA for sponsoring the students who made this achievement possible.





STAR Learning Community Represent at APALI SLAY Conference

Last Saturday, students and staff from the Office of Equity and STAR Learning Community represented the College at the APALI SLAY Conference. The Student Leadership Academy for Young Adults (SLAY) brings together students, faculty, staff and administrators from across the state for a day long training and workshops to ensure Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students are seen, validated, motivated, informed and confident in their leadership.



Frames of Remembrance

In preparation for Dia de Los Muertos, ASCC and the Cultural Center's Shanda worked with the Office of Equity and the Undocumented Community Center team to host an event where students, faculty and staff could gather to talk about their loved ones lost

and the significance of Dia de Los Muertos while making special resin frames of their loved ones.



Cañada College Hosts Spanish-Language Info Night for SUHSD Families

On Tuesday evening, Cañada College hosted a successful "Noche de Info" event in Spanish for students and their families at the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) Office. Eager students from Sequoia High School, Woodside High School and Menlo-Atherton High School attended to learn more about higher education pathways. It was a full house, with parents and grandparents showing enthusiastic interest in attending Cañada College themselves after discovering the ESL Pathway. A special thank you to the Counseling, ESL Pathway, Outreach, Promise Scholars Program, SparkPoint and Undocumented Community Center teams for presenting and supporting these community outreach efforts.



Students Explore Health Careers at UC Davis Pre-Health Conference

In partnership with the Science and Technology Success Team and the Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC), a group of Cañada College students attended the UC Davis Pre-Health Conference, where they connected with admissions representatives and current health professions students to explore program requirements. Through workshops and professional panels, attendees explored diverse health career pathways, including Optometry, Dentistry, Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant programs. Several students also participated in interactive, hands-on workshops featuring CPR and AED training, eye exam demonstrations and medication plan optimization. Overall, the conference provided an invaluable opportunity for students to gain direct exposure to healthcare fields and build professional connections.



I wish you a wonderful and safe Halloween weekend.

Sincerely,
Kim