



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

### **Black Student Leadership Conference**

Last Saturday, Cañada College partnered with the Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council (BACHAC) and the Black Youth Advisory Board (BYAB) to welcome youth, parents and community members to the first-ever Black Student Leadership Conference of San Mateo County. This groundbreaking conference was designed specifically for middle and high school students across the county. The conference theme, “The Power of Our Voice: If Not Me, Then Who?,” set the tone for a day filled with empowerment, connection and inspiration! Together, attendees celebrated identity, cultural pride and the power of student voices while building the leadership skills needed to create meaningful change in schools and communities.





## **Vietnamese Refugee Narratives: A Workshop on Heritage and Healing**

The English Department, AANHPI STAR Program and the Cultural Center recently hosted a talk and writing workshop inspired by *The Best We Could Do*, an illustrated memoir by Thi Bui, with nearly 100 students in attendance. Tri Nguyen shared his personal refugee story of how he and his family fled Vietnam during the fall of Saigon. The talk was followed by a writing workshop and lunch from May's, a local Vietnamese restaurant, with lunch funded by ASCC.



### Threads of Innovation: A Fashion Showcase at The Grove

On Wednesday, students stopped by The Grove for Librarian on the Loose, a special fashion-themed pop-up highlighting books from the Library's collection. Fashion Club member Kengo Lake and Library Student Assistant Jeovanny Carlos brought style to The Grove, showcasing a selection of new fashion books from the Library's collection. The display celebrated the legacy of Cañada College's Fashion Design & Merchandising Program, which has been a leader in fashion education since 1968. Students explored titles on design, textiles, branding, fashion history, sustainability and more, discovering resources that support both creative inspiration and academic learning. With just a G-number, students were able to browse and check out books on the spot, connecting their ideas and creative vision with the many fashion resources available through the Library.



## **BAM Hosts Financial Literacy & Wellness Workshop for Students**

Also on Wednesday, Brothers Achieving Milestones (BAM) hosted a financial literacy and wellness workshop in the Cultural Center, presented by Christopher Wardell, Program Services Coordinator of Financial Aid Services. The session aimed to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of personal finance while equipping them with practical tools to begin their journey toward financial independence. Topics included the process of choosing a bank, how to begin investing, building credit and creating a spending plan. The next BAM workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 12:30 p.m. and will focus on professional development, including creating a LinkedIn profile and building a strong resume.



## **Film Screening & Dialogue on the Experiences of Immigrant Womxn and Families**

The Womxn of Color Collaborative partnered with the Undocumented Community Center (UCC) and the Cultural Center to host a film screening and discussion exploring the experiences of immigrant womxn and children crossing the southern border of the United States. The UCC also provided resources and activity guides to support continued reflection and discussion among participants.



## **PTK and EOPS Collaboration Strengthens Student Success**

This semester, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and Cañada College's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) partnered to strengthen connections and create meaningful opportunities through workshops and discussions that promote student success. PTK presenter Ashley joined via Zoom to share insights from the PTK Edge Course, which focuses on helping students strengthen transfer opportunities and prepare for academic success beyond Cañada College. Special thanks to PTK members Stephanye, Miguel and Steven for their contributions to the event's success, as well as to Delvin for his creative work on the promotional materials. This collaboration highlights how campus partnerships can foster inclusive excellence and empower students to grow both academically and personally.



## 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.



I wish you a wonderful weekend,

Sincerely,  
Kim