



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

### **Cañada Passes Peer Review for Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) and all other Accreditation Standards**

On Tuesday, the ACCJC Peer Review Team who reviewed Cañada's [Institutional Self Evaluation Report](#) (ISER) as well as a sample of the College's online courses in Canvas let us know that they have no specific areas that need further clarification, investigation, or evidence (known as "core inquiries"). This indicates that our ISER was thorough and provided enough evidence for the Team to conclude that Cañada meets [ACCJC Accreditation Standards](#) without needing additional clarification. It also means that at least 85% of the courses the Team reviewed for RSI met the RSI criteria.

This is a remarkable achievement and is due to the excellent work happening across the College every day – and to our collective effort to tell our story in our ISER. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the ISER. And a special shout out to all of Cañada's faculty teaching online, as well our fabulous Distance Education Team (Nada Nekrep, Allison Hughes and Lindsey Irizarry), for working so hard to ensure all of our online instruction meets the highest standards of excellence. The next step in our Accreditation process will take place on September 28, 2026 when the five members of the Peer Review Team will visit Cañada in person. Please contact [Dean Engel](#) with any questions.

### **President's Student Leadership Award Nominations: Due Friday, April 10, at 4 p.m.**

Each year, the [President's Student Leadership Award](#) is presented to a graduating student who demonstrates exemplary leadership and scholarship. The recipient is selected from nominations received from faculty, staff and students of the Cañada community and will be recognized during the Commencement Ceremony and in the official program. The nomination period is now open **through Friday, April 10, 2026 at 4 p.m.**

We look forward to your thoughtful nomination of an individual graduate you believe exemplifies the spirit and purpose of this award and meets the following criteria:

- has made meaningful contributions to the lives of fellow students, their community, and/or Cañada College,
- develops, pursues, and achieves personal educational goals,
- demonstrates leadership qualities aligned with the values and mission of the College,
- has achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher,
- is a graduating student in Summer 2025, Fall 2025, or Spring 2026.

Any member of the Cañada community - faculty, staff and students - may nominate for this award. The selection committee will consider all complete nominations received, so please make sure your submitted form includes an attachment supporting your nomination. Remember to submit complete nomination form with attachment by Friday, April 10, at 4 p.m. to the [Office of the President at canpresident@smccd.edu](mailto:canpresident@smccd.edu)

### **Cañada College and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula Partner to Bridge the Path to Higher Education**

Last Saturday, Cañada College hosted a high-impact workshop in partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP), welcoming 79 high school juniors to experience life in a college classroom. The event was a resounding success, with every student finishing or making significant progress on their UC Personal Insight Questions. The day served as a powerful motivator where many students shared that being on the Cañada campus left them feeling re-inspired to pursue their college degrees. A huge thank you to the BGCP and Outreach teams for the support in making this meaningful partnership possible!



### **Celebrating Holi: A Festival of Color, Culture and Community**

Cañada College came alive with color and energy as students, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate Holi, the vibrant Hindu Festival of Colors that welcomes the arrival of spring. The event offered an opportunity to learn about the cultural and spiritual significance of Holi, while also inviting participants to fully immerse themselves in the celebration. Attendees enjoyed music and dancing and took part in the joyful tradition of throwing colored powders, creating a lively and unforgettable atmosphere. Thank you to dance teacher Aman Barboza for bringing in energy and leading the dance workshops!

The celebration fostered a sense of connection, cultural appreciation and pure joy, bringing the campus community together in a meaningful and festive way.



### **Fashion Department Clothing Swap Builds Community Through Sustainable Style**

The Fashion Department, in partnership with the Cañada Fashion Club, hosted a Clothing Swap at the Cañada College Amphitheater. Students, faculty and staff came together to share gently used clothing and explore new styles. Attendees donated items and discovered unique pieces while connecting through a shared commitment to sustainability. The event also provided fashion students with the opportunity to source materials and gain inspiration for future upcycling projects.



### **Community Gathering Celebrates Women's History Month**

The Womxn of Color Collaborative hosted its monthly Community Gathering in honor of Women's History Month, bringing together students and community members to reflect, connect and celebrate. Participants shared stories and honored the legacies of women who inspire them, creating a space rooted in community, storytelling and empowerment.

The gathering also featured art activities, offering a chance to relax, express creativity and foster meaningful connections in a supportive environment.



## Honoring Women Service Members

The campus community came together to honor the achievements and limitless potential of women who have served, are currently serving and will serve in the United States Military. The event featured a thoughtful presentation highlighting their contributions, resilience and impact, along with an opportunity for attendees to connect over food and shared reflection. It was a meaningful gathering that celebrated service, leadership and the powerful role women continue to play in the military.



## **EOPS Club Empowers Students Through Field Trip Readiness Workshop**

The EOPS Club recently hosted a “Field Trip Requirements and Title IX Certification Workshop” to help students prepare for upcoming campus visits. During the workshop, club members assisted students in completing required paperwork and guided them through the Title IX certification process. This student-led effort helped clarify the process and make it more accessible, removing barriers for students who want to participate in these opportunities - particularly in preparation for the upcoming CSU Monterey Bay field trip and aquarium visit. Thank you to the EOPS Club for leading with intention and for its continued commitment to supporting student success and engagement across campus.



## **Welcoming Spring: A Vibrant Nowruz Celebration at the Cultural Center**

The Cultural Center welcomed students, staff and community members for a vibrant Nowruz celebration. The event honored the Persian New Year, a 3,000-year-old tradition that marks the arrival of spring and a time of renewal. Participants spent the afternoon painting eggs, playing games and enjoying delicious food while learning about the cultural significance of Nowruz. The room was filled with energy, color and connection as the community came together to celebrate the new season. A special thanks to the Cultural Center and the S.T.A.R. Program for their collaboration in bringing this meaningful celebration to campus.



## Fashion Students Complete Intensive Industry Immersion in Los Angeles

Cañada College fashion students recently returned from a two-day industry immersion in Los Angeles where they gained exceptional firsthand insight into the fashion field. Led by Professor Jaleh Naasz, the experience offered students rare behind-the-scenes access to multiple facets of the industry. Throughout the trip, students engaged in hands-on learning and professional exploration. Activities included visual merchandising and garment quality analysis along Melrose Avenue, as well as a private showroom visit with designer Natalia Fedner, where they examined innovative textile techniques and design processes. Students also attended educational seminars at the LA Textile Show, with a focus on sustainability and emerging industry practices. Additional highlights included an after-hours tour of ASU California Center, a curated 1990s fashion exhibition, and visits to leading industry sites such as Mood Fabrics, Saitex and TUKAtech. These experiences exposed students to the full spectrum of fashion - from sourcing and production to sustainability and digital innovation. Students are now preparing to share their insights with the broader fashion program, extending the impact of the trip to their peers. This short but intensive experience provided meaningful industry exposure and reinforced the program's commitment to career-connected learning.



## 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.



## New WebSMART Login Page Starting April 1

As part of the required upgrade from WebSMART 8 to WebSMART 9—following the vendor (Ellucian) ending support for WebSMART 8 in December 2025—the final component of this transition is the launch of an updated login landing page.

The new login page includes:

- A modern, streamlined design with a centralized layout for easier navigation
- Stronger ADA accessibility features, including improved contrast, clearer text, smoother keyboard navigation, and enhanced support for assistive technologies
- A faster, more intuitive starting point for your daily tasks

Please note: Once logged in, WebSMART will continue to function exactly as you are accustomed to.

*Attend a Live Demonstration:*

All employees and students are invited to attend one of the following preview sessions to see the updated experience before it goes live:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday, March 23, 2026	2:00–3:00 pm
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	9:00–10:00 am
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	3:00–4:00 pm
Thursday, March 26, 2026	2:00–3:00 pm
Friday, March 27, 2026	9:00–10:00 am

All sessions will be held via

Zoom: <https://smccd.zoom.us/j/89572453270?from=addon> No registration is required.

Simply join the session that best fits your schedule.

For assistance, please contact:

- Students: [Contact the Help Desk](#)
- Employees: [Contact ITS](#)

I wish you a wonderful weekend,

Sincerely,  
Kim