



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Alex Claxton, Cañada College Classified Employee of the Year

At Wednesday's board meeting, I had the pleasure of recognizing Alex Claxton, who logged in remotely, as Cañada College's Classified Employee of the Year. While we often discuss "Vision 2030" and "equitable student outcomes" as high-level goals, Alexander Claxton, our Senior Planning & Research Analyst, is the person who turns those concepts into reality.

Alex has spent seven years with our District. In that time, he has become the "data conscience" of Cañada College. He doesn't just pull numbers; he translates them into meaningful action. He works across every learning community, from EOPS and the Veterans Center to our Undocumented Community Center, providing the disaggregated data that helps our staff identify and dismantle systemic barriers.

In 2019-2020, Alex led the development of Cañada's Program Mapper tool, making complex academic requirements accessible and understandable for every student. More recently, he spearheaded our "complete-ability dashboard," a vital tool that helps leadership ensure our schedules actually allow students to finish their degrees on time.

Beyond his technical brilliance, Alex is a leader of people. From 2023 to 2025, he served as Cañada's Classified Senate President, acting as a vital bridge between staff, the College President and the District Chancellor. Whether he is chairing Cañada's Planning & Budgeting Council or serving on the District Participatory Governance Council, the College Anti-racism Planning Task Force and the Guided Pathways Steering Committee, Alex ensures that the voices of all constituencies, especially our classified staff, are heard and respected. His dedication is further proven by his willingness to step up wherever needed, whether serving as a Building Captain for campus safety or giving guest lectures on data visualization to Digital Art & Animation students.

Alex's influence also extends far beyond our local institution. He is an active leader in the Research and Planning (RP) Group and the California Association for Institutional Research (CAIR). He has even co-presented statewide research on the "Recipe for

Student Success". And, in his personal time, he serves as Vice President of the Silicon Valley Curling Club and is currently competing in the sport at a national level.

What truly sets Alex apart isn't just his resume - it's his character. He is known for leading with kindness. He helps us see the "big picture" and reminds us that behind every data point is a student striving for a better life. Alex, thank you for your seven years of dedicated service, your unwavering ethics and your commitment to making Cañada College and SMCCCD a more equitable place for every learner.



Strengthening the Transfer Pipeline: ARC Collaboration Celebrates 3rd AANAPISI Day

San Francisco State University hosted the 3rd AANAPISI Day last Friday as part of the ARC (Access, Relevance and Community) collaboration with Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College. Students from all three colleges had the opportunity to meet San Francisco State peer mentors from the ARC program, learn about the resources available to transfer students, experience a lecture from San Francisco State Ethnic Studies professors and tour the university. It was a day of community and collaboration.



ASCC Student Senators Advocate for Change at Federal Academy

Members of the Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC) recently attended the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) Federal Advocacy Academy in Washington, D.C. The Student Senators joined a community of more than 250 students from across the California Community College system. The four-day academy provided a vital space for students to voice their concerns while offering the opportunity to meet with members of Congress and Congressional staffers. This memorable and powerful experience equipped the participating senators with the tools and inspiration to bring meaningful change back to the Cañada College campus.



Career Conversations That Matter

On Tuesday, the Career Café team hosted its third professional conversation gathering, continuing to create space for meaningful dialogue around careers and student growth. The event brought together students, staff, and faculty for engaging conversations and an opportunity to learn more about Career Services at Cañada College. A special thank you to Cañada's Personal Counseling Center and Allcove for taking the time to connect with students and share their valuable insights. These conversations continue to make a meaningful impact in helping students explore their paths and feel more confident about their next steps. Join us for the final Career Café of the semester on Tuesday, April 28.



"The Right Girls" Screening Honors Trans Day of Visibility and Womxn's Hxstory Month

In honor of Trans Day of Visibility and Womxn's Hxstory Month, the Cañada community gathered for a powerful screening of *The Right Girls*, a documentary following three transgender womxn who traveled over 2,400 miles with the migrant caravan in search of safety, dignity and the freedom to live as themselves. The film offered a profound reminder that immigration is about far more than crossing borders — it is about survival, identity, resilience and hope.

Following the screening, attendees came together for an open and heartfelt dialogue, holding space for reflection and practicing empathy while exploring the intersectional experiences of Trans immigrant womxn. Thank you to all who joined in this meaningful conversation and helped foster a supportive and inclusive community at Cañada College.



Oodles of Love: Therapy Pets Bring Joy to the Library

The Cañada College Library was filled with warmth and wagging tails as Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA returned to campus with their beloved therapy pets. Students and staff had the pleasure of meeting Noodles the cat for the very first time, while welcoming back the ever-popular Otis the dog, both accompanied by their dedicated trainers. The midday visit drew a crowd of smiling faces offering a much-needed moment of joy and relaxation in the middle of the week. A big thank you to Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA and their furry ambassadors for spreading some love at the Library!



Celebrating Eid al-Fitr at Cañada College

The Cañada community came together to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the joyful Muslim holiday marking the end of Ramadan, in a vibrant and festive gathering. Attendees enjoyed traditional food, festive music and engaging storytelling while learning about the rich practices and traditions of Eid al-Fitr from cultures around the world. The event was a wonderful opportunity to honor and share in this meaningful celebration with colleagues, students and friends across campus.



Brothers Achieving Milestones Hosts LinkedIn & Resume Workshop

Brothers Achieving Milestones (BAM) welcomed students to an informative and hands-on workshop focused on designing a standout LinkedIn profile and crafting a strong resume to help land their dream job. Attendees left with practical tools and confidence to present themselves professionally in today's competitive job market, all while enjoying snacks and light refreshments. BAM, a community dedicated to empowering and supporting male identified students of color in their academic, personal and career growth, continues to provide invaluable resources and mentorship to help students persist, graduate and thrive at Cañada College and beyond.



BINGO! Bayanihan | FilipinX Club's First Bingo Social Was a Winner

The Bayanihan | FilipinX Club brought the fun and good vibes to the Cañada Club Cultural Center yesterday as students gathered for the club's very first Bingo Social. Attendees made new friends, enjoyed a plate of delicious food and tried their luck for a chance to win prizes. It was a fantastic afternoon of community, laughter and connection.



The Disability Resource Center Celebrates Its New Space

Also yesterday, the Cañada College community came together to celebrate a milestone moment as the Disability Resource Center (DRC) officially welcomed everyone into its new space in Building 9, first floor. Staff, students and colleagues stopped by to tour the new space, meet the DRC team and raise a celebratory glass of cider in honor of this exciting new chapter — one that follows the DRC's transition from Building 5 back in Fall 2024. While the address may be new, the DRC's unwavering commitment remains the same: ensuring equal access to all educational programs and supporting students with physical, visual, hearing and speech disabilities, mental health conditions, learning and intellectual disabilities, chronic or temporary health conditions, acquired brain injuries, autism, ADHD and more.



Celebrating AANHPI Heritage Month at Cañada College

In 1990, Congress officially designated May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. May was chosen to honor two significant milestones: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant, Nakahama Manjiro, to the U.S. on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the first transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869—a project built in large part by Chinese immigrant laborers. Cañada College is proud to be an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI). Among our student body, 15% identify as Asian, 6% as Filipinx and 1% as Pacific Islander. Cañada's AANHPI community reflects a rich diversity of ethnicities, cultures, identities, languages and immigration stories - contributing to the broader AANHPI population, which includes more than 45 distinct ethnic groups across the United States. Recognizing that May is a busy time with finals and end-of-year activities, Cañada College is celebrating AANHPI Heritage Month across both April and May. Be sure to check out the [calendar of events](#), which will culminate in the AANHPI Graduation Celebration on May 12. The campus community can download AANHPI Zoom backgrounds [here](#) and flyers for the events can be access [here](#).



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)

I wish you a wonderful Spring Break! My next Weekly Update will be sent on Friday, April 10.

Sincerely,
Kim