



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

President's Student Leadership Award Nominations: Due TODAY, 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)

Register for Flex Day: Thursday, April 16

[Flex Day](#) is coming up on Thursday, April 16, offering a full day of professional development and community connection for faculty, staff and administrators. The agenda features a fantastic lineup of sessions, including culturally responsive and trauma-informed de-escalation trainings, a workshop on purpose-driven engagement, presentations on immigration policy updates, a student-led UndocuAlly training, a poetry

swap and a rooftop somatic closing session. [Please register](#) to support planning. Visit the [Flex Day website](#) for the full agenda and registration details.

Fourteenth Annual Orgullo y Educación (OYE) Conference Hosted at Cañada College

Cañada College proudly hosted the 14th Annual Orgullo y Educación (OYE) Conference, welcoming hundreds of local youth (ages 12–22) and their families for a dynamic and inspiring day. The event featured engaging workshops, powerful artistic expression and community resource sharing, creating a meaningful space for participants to explore identity, purpose and belonging. Keynote speaker, Dr. Manuel Alejandro Pérez, delivered a moving message grounded in equity, lived experience and community empowerment. Overall, OYE 2026 was a vibrant celebration of culture, connection, and opportunity, reflecting Cañada College's ongoing commitment to supporting and uplifting the communities it serves.



Cañada Academic Senate Hosts Regional Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Meetings

Cañada's Academic Senate hosted its regional (Area B) meeting in March, bringing together approximately 25 faculty members from across the state to workshop 11 resolutions for the ASCCC to review and vote on at the plenary. The group repeatedly commented on the beauty of the Cañada campus and enjoyed lunch catered by local favorite, Mazra! The Academic Senate will host two more regional ASCCC events this spring:

- [ASCCC Regional CTE Meeting: Saturday, April 18 9am – 3pm in 6-101/102](#)
- [OERI LibreText Workshop: Saturday, April 25 8:30am – 3:30pm](#)

Both of these events are free for Cañada faculty, include lunch and are eligible for Flex credit.



How Well Do You Think our College Participatory Governance is Working?

Please take a few minutes to respond to PBC's [annual survey evaluating how well our participatory governance processes](#) are working for each constituency group (faculty, staff, students and administrators) at Cañada this year.

Accreditation Update

Cañada's Annual Fiscal Report and Annual Report for 2025-26 were submitted and accepted by the Accrediting Commission for Junior and Community Colleges. All of these reports are available on the [College's accreditation website](#).

Cañada College Showcases Promise Scholars Success at 2026 CUNY ASAP Convening

Cañada College, along with SMCCCD Promise Scholars Program colleagues, attended the March 2026 CUNY ASAP National Replication Collaborative Convening in New York, sharing how college programs have adapted the ASAP model to support Promise Scholars. Cañada counselors Kassie Alexander, Danny Lynch and Jose Manzo, along with student panelists Nisha Rao and Mary-Lu (Maria de Lurdes) Hernandez, facilitated sessions highlighting their journeys and experiences in the program. The Cañada College Promise Scholars Program team was grateful for the opportunity to engage in cross-state and cross-role conversations.



Beta Zeta Nu Shines on the International Stage with Multiple High-Level Honors

Congratulations to Cañada's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Chapter, Beta Zeta Nu, who recently earned multiple high-level international honors at PTK's annual Catalyst Convention, reflecting both Chapter excellence and strong institutional support!

Chapter-level awards:

- Beta Alpha Continued Excellence Award, recognizing sustained, multi-year distinction as a top-performing PTK chapter.
- Top 100 Chapter designation out of more than 1,300 chapters worldwide, marking Beta Zeta Nu as one of the society's premier chapters.
- Distinguished Honors in Action Award for outstanding scholarly research and service under the Honors in Action Program.
- Honors in Action Theme: "The Way Stories are Told," highlighting a research-based project that examined how narratives shape community and then translated that research into action on Campus. This theme-based recognition indicates the Chapter's project ranked among the top submissions internationally for intellectual rigor and impact.

Individual and team recognitions:

- Distinguished Advisor Team: Advisors Paul Roscelli and Autumn McMahon were honored for exceptional leadership, mentoring, and sustained support of student scholars in Beta Zeta Nu.
- Distinguished College Administrator: Vice President Chialin Hsieh was recognized for outstanding administrative advocacy and support for Phi Theta Kappa and honors education at Cañada College.

These honors reinforce Cañada College's reputation as a campus where academic excellence, leadership and community engagement are actively supported and nationally visible. The international recognition at PTK Catalyst strengthens transfer opportunities, recruitment for the honors program and the College's profile among two-year institutions.





Transformative Experience for Project Change Student at PTK Conference

Miguel Infante hit the ground running as he returned to complete his degree following incarceration. He reconnected with Project Change and began rebuilding and strengthening his community after his time away. Miguel joined the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society's Beta Zeta Nu Chapter, where he recently had the opportunity to travel to Baltimore, Maryland, for the Catalyst Conference. Miguel found the experience rewarding and connected with universities such as Columbia and Johns Hopkins, which shared that they offer support programs for justice-involved students - something he said is important to him. When connecting with the President of PTK, he learned that the organization has been actively supporting students like him; PTK membership has been open to those who are incarcerated or on parole since 2017. The Cañada PTK team received awards and distinctions for their work, and Miguel cherished the moment when he joined them on stage. As a final reflection, Miguel shared, "Humans are creatures of habit, and sometimes we need to put habits aside to create growth."

International Trans Day of Visibility with Community Partners

On International Trans Day of Visibility, Tuesday, March 31, the Cultural Center partnered with the San Mateo County Pride Center, Outlet, the LGBTQIA+ Commission, and a local queer representative on the Redwood City Council to host a community-wide event in support of Trans loved ones. The event featured music and dancing, food, community resources and a special drag performance by Dot Comme.



The Grove Came Alive for Spring Job Fair

On Wednesday, the Career Center brought together students, alumni, and a diverse group of employers at The Grove for the annual Spring Job Fair. Over the course of two and a half hours, attendees had the opportunity to engage in direct, one-on-one conversations with company representatives eager to share what they are looking for and what their organizations are all about. The in-person format made a real difference, allowing for authentic exchanges that went beyond a job listing or online application. The Career Center team did an excellent job creating an accessible and welcoming environment, and the energy in the room was a testament to how much students value these opportunities.



Ruby Ibarra & The Balikbayan Ignite AANHPI Heritage Month Opening

Ruby Ibarra and the Balikbayan brought incredible energy on Wednesday to opening of AANHPI Heritage Month. Funded by District Antiracism Council and ASCC, the AANHPI Heritage Month Planning Committee, AANHPI STAR and Cultural Center organized an opening that brought together students, staff and faculty to the event. Ibarra, a Filipina rapper and spoken word artist first gave an inspiring talk about finding spoken word and rap as a way express your culture, identity and heritage where she didn't see it reflected in the mainstream.

Ruby and the Balikbayan then played a set including popular hits like Bakunawa, Someday and Playbill\$. Please check more [AANHPI Heritage events](#) in April and May.



Strange / Familiar: A New Exhibition Now Open at Cañada College

Last night, the Cañada College Art Gallery celebrated the opening of *Strange / Familiar*, a solo exhibition by Oakland-based painter Wardell McNeal. Staff and community members gathered to view the work and meet the artist, marking a vibrant start to a memorable show.

McNeal's paintings draw viewers into layered figurative worlds set against abstract landscapes, where color and form blur the line between figure and ground. Working in acrylic on canvas, he builds up surfaces that create a compelling push and pull between the human presence and its environment — work that rewards a slow, close look. The exhibition remains on view through May 14, and we warmly invite all staff to stop by and experience it firsthand. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday, 1–5 p.m., in Building 9, Room 152.



Take a 2-Minute Needs Assessment for April Flex Day Presentations

To best serve you and address the current needs of our campus, we have invited Dr. Sita Pillay and Jarrett Klein from the Hanna Center to host a plenary session and two breakout workshops during Flex Day on April 16. They will support our campus community with culturally responsive, trauma-informed de-escalation strategies—and they want to hear from you! They have created [this needs assessment](#) to better understand how you are doing so they can tailor their presentations to your needs. Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete it.

I wish you a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,
Kim