



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Please mark your calendar for the ACCJC Evaluation Team Site Visit

On Monday, September 28, a five-member visiting evaluation team from the Accreditation Commission for Junior and Community Colleges (ACCJC) will be visiting our campus. This is a critical step in our accreditation process and it is an important opportunity for you to participate in that process and connect with our peer reviewers. There will be two opportunities for you to participate:

Open Forum

12 – 1 p.m.

Building 6, Room 101/102

The Open Forum will be an in-person opportunity for faculty, staff and students to speak openly with the peer review team about your experiences at the College, our programs and our campus environment. Your voice and perspective are an important part of the accreditation process. We encourage you to attend and participate in this important conversation.

Please note, SMCCCD Board Members, College President and senior leadership team will not be attending this open forum so that community members may feel free to speak candidly and directly to the members of the peer review team.

Exit Report

2 – 2:30 p.m.

Building 6, Room 101/102

The Exit Report is a verbal briefing given by the visiting evaluation team to a College's leadership, faculty, staff and students at the conclusion of their official accreditation site visit. This report acts as a high-level summary of the team's preliminary findings before they submit their final, formal written report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). This will be the moment when we learn the results of our comprehensive institutional evaluation process and our accreditation status. Questions? Please contact [Dean Engel](#).

Grand Opening of the Cañada Pride Center

On Wednesday, students, faculty, staff and administrators gathered together to celebrate the ribbon cutting of Cañada's first Pride Center. Students and staff shared their stories of what a Pride Center means to them, as well as what it took to make this center happen. Attendees danced, ate, played Queer Kahoot trivia, painted, made bracelets and learned more about the LGBTQ+ community through Queer Flag hxstory and button making. The Pride Center offers LGBTQ+ support events, LGBTQ+ trainings, gender-affirming clothing resources, connections to gender-affirming care, Queer hxstory equity excursions, QTPOC speakers and more. The Pride Center is supported by dedicated staff, including Allen Ocampo, PSC of the Pride Center; Dr. Michiko Kealoha, Director of Equity and SB1491 Designee and two incredible Pride Center Ambassadors, Mel and Cristopher. The Pride Center is located in Building 17, Rooms 107 and 109, where space is shared with the Cultural Center as intersectional work continues to build community across identities and experiences. To learn more about the hxstory of LGBTQ+ support at Cañada, [explore the LGBTQ+ Support Timeline and check out upcoming Fall 2026 Pride Center events.](#)



EOPS, CARE, NextUp and FYSI Open House

The EOPS, CARE, NextUp and FYSI programs came together on Wednesday to host an Open House to highlight the comprehensive support services available to eligible students beyond the classroom. Attendees learned about vital resources, including monthly food and transportation assistance, CSU and UC application fee waivers, laptop lending, personalized counseling and more. With the support of these programs, students are empowered to overcome personal doubts, achieve high grade point averages, and successfully transfer to four-year universities. Flautas were also served during the event, bringing students together as they discovered dedicated resources available to support their academic success.



Cañada in the Community: August Outreach Highlights

Throughout August, the Cañada College Outreach team actively connected with future students, alumni and local families across several key community events. The team shared college resources at the Ravenswood Health Fair, volunteered during the PAL Center's National Night Out and assisted incoming students directly with application and registration support at Hoover Elementary. Additionally, representatives engaged in long-term community planning at the Welcoming Redwood City retreat alongside key regional partners. Finally, at Assemblymember Marc Berman's Youth Town Hall in Palo Alto, staff represented the College while listening to local youth share their perspectives on climate change, mental health and education.





I wish you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Kim