



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Flex Day Proposals Due Sept. 15

Employees are invited to submit proposals for presentations, workshops or activities for upcoming Flex Days on October 7 or January 15, 2027. Presenters may submit proposals for either date, both dates or a two-part series spanning October and January. This opportunity allows campus community members to share knowledge, highlight successful practices or introduce new ideas - whether presenting a fully developed session or an early-stage concept. Proposals are due by September 15. [Submit proposals here.](#)

Brothers Achieving Milestones Open House

On Wednesday, the Cañada Community gathered at the Cultural Center for the Brothers Achieving Milestones (BAM) welcome event. BAM fosters a community dedicated to helping men of color succeed through mentorship, academic support and brotherhood. Attendees of this event connected with peers focused on academic and transfer success to help guide their own educational journeys. It was an inspiring afternoon of connection, encouragement and shared purpose that set the tone for a year of growth and achievement ahead.



The Mirror: A Student Exhibition — Opening Reception

Last night Cañada College celebrated the opening of The Mirror, a student exhibition featuring 17 artists, with a reception in the Art Gallery. Each piece incorporated a mirror as a central element of the composition, not just as a reflective surface but as a physical object with its own edges, context, and presence, creating layered compositions that invited viewers to cycle in and out of each painting. Curated by Emilio Villalba, the exhibition was a striking showcase of student talent and creativity. The exhibition can be viewed in the Art Gallery (Building 9, Room 152) Mondays - Thursdays from 1-5 p.m.



Cañada College SPARK Club Launches Custom Math OER for Local Middle Schoolers

Cañada College recently launched a new open educational resource, the Cañada College SPARK Club Math OER for Ravenswood Middle School. Created by the Sharing Passion through Acts of Radiant Kindness (SPARK) Club in partnership with East Palo Alto (EPA) Tutors. SPARK Club Math OER is designed to address key gaps in foundational math concepts identified while tutoring local students. Features include: interactive activities, practice materials and video strategies tailored for grades 4–8. Principal Remixing Author Neve Willis led the project with guidance from Faculty Advisor Julie Manuel, Ravenswood Math teacher Harriette Huang and OER/ZTC Program Manager Sarah Harmon. Those interested in making a difference for local students can learn about becoming volunteer tutors through [East Palo Alto \(EPA\) Tutors](#).

Strengthening Campus Collaboration Through Equity-Focused Professional Learning

Leaders in faculty professional development and equity-focused professional development recently gathered to strengthen collaboration and communication across campus, guided by the Cañada Professional Learning Framework's intention to support existing opportunities and create pathways for further campus-wide professional learning. The discussion considered connections among the [Equity Profession Development Opportunities](#), the [Faculty Learning Program](#), [Faculty Teaching & Learning Lounge](#), [QOTL](#) and [ZTC & OER](#). Priorities included an easy-to-use communication process, centralized resources and flexible learning opportunities for faculty and classified professionals. The group will bring these priorities to the Professional Development Planning Committee on November 10 to strengthen collaboration and identify shared next steps.



ACCJC Evaluation Team Site Visit on September 28

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](#).

I wish you a wonderful weekend and I hope you enjoyed the first week of our Fall 2026 semester!

Sincerely,

Kim