



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Honoring Our Recent Retirees

As we settle into the new academic year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated team members who recently retired from Cañada College. Their years of hard work, passion, and commitment have left a lasting mark on our campus community, and we wish them the absolute best in this next chapter.

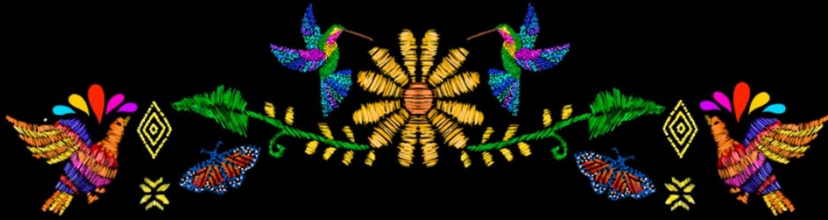
- Rachel Corrales, Senior Accounting Coordinator
- Calvin Eng, Senior Maintenance Engineer
- Edith Flores, Admissions and Records Assistant III
- Bob Haick, Program Supervisor (Career Center)
- Jose Romero, Program Services Coordinator (EOPS)
- Gordon Tong, Chief Engineer

This is just the beginning of our farewells as we have more valued colleagues retiring throughout the year. We look forward to gathering as a community to honor all of our 2026–2027 retirees together at our annual Employee End-of-Year Celebration in May 2027. Stay tuned for more details as the event approaches.

Cañada College Celebrates Latinx Heritage Month (LHM)

Cañada College will be filled with music, food, stories and celebrations that honor the beauty and diversity of our Latinx community. Come connect, learn and celebrate together as we highlight cross-sectional culture, traditions and identities. [Please visit the college events calendar](#) to view workshops and events for the campus community and the broader Redwood City community to amplify Latinx voices and identities. [Download the LHM Zoom background here.](#)

Cañada College



Celebrates Latinx Heritage Month
September - October

Inquiry Groups Launch

This week, the Planning & Budgeting Council (PBC) and President Lopez approved [eight areas of strategic inquiry](#) for this academic year. These groups will conduct research and discuss the important aspects of: Accessibility, Artificial Intelligence (AI) (with three subgroups: instructional, student services and operational), Intentionally Strengthen Enrollment, Student Mental Health, Regional Workforce Alignment, Reimagining the Performing Arts Center, Student Education Journey and Opportunity, Work-based Learning. For more information or to engage in one or more of these groups, please visit the [Cañada Collaborates website](#) and contact the appropriate Inquiry Group leads.

Program Review Deadlines

Please be reminded that our program review and resource request process is underway. This year's deadlines are:

1. Submit your complete Comprehensive Program Review or Annual Update **before October 16, 2026** in Nuventive.
2. Deans and VPs [complete feedback of all program review materials](#) and send out **before October 30, 2026**.
3. Review your supervisor's feedback and incorporate it into your program review **before November 6, 2026**.

Need help? Check the [Program Review Website](#) and feel free to contact PBC's Program Review Sub-Committee: canprogramreview@smccd.edu.

Cultural Center Kicks Off Latinx Heritage Month with Music, Movement and Community

The Cultural Center kicked off the start of Latinx Heritage Month with a bang. Led by Cultural Center student Elizabeth, campus celebrated the diversity of Latinx cultures. The event hosted a full series of lessons and performances: an Afro-Brazilian Capoeira martial art workshop, Samba dance and a drumming practice. The Cultural Center's Angel also led a student performance group, La Venganza, that played songs of Northern Mexico.



Central American Independence Day Celebration

In celebration of Latinx Heritage Month, the Student Life Office and the Associated Students of Cañada College hosted an event in The Grove honoring Central American Independence Day through art, music and food. Central American-identified staff organized the event at Cañada College, creating a special moment shared with students and the campus community.



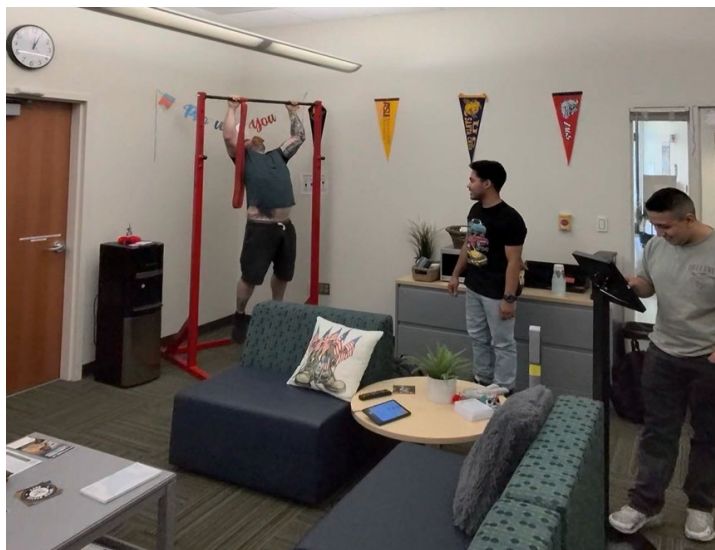
ASCC Hosts Fall Club Rush

The Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC) welcomed clubs, offices and departments to campus for the Fall Club Rush, an event filled with community and music. The gathering brought together the Cañada community to connect and highlight the many student organizations and department resources on campus.



VROC Team Open House

The Veteran Resource & Opportunity Center (VROC) hosted its Fall semester Open House, giving students the chance to meet the staff who support student veterans and dependents at Cañada. The event offered a space for veterans, dependents and the campus community to connect with the VROC team and learn more about available resources.



Cañ I Kick It? Lawn Events Offered Throughout the Fall Semester

The Student Life Office invited the campus community to gather on the Upper Lawn for "Cañ I Kick It?", an event featuring games and music. Held every other week through December 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the series gives students a chance to unwind, connect and enjoy time on the Upper Lawn.



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](#).

Whistleblower Reporting System

SMCCCD has introduced a confidential third-party system for reporting fraud, waste or abuse. Reports can be made at (833) 416-6409 or through the [Whistleblower Portal](#). Workplace or discrimination concerns should be reported to HR or the Title IX office.

I wish you a wonderful!

Sincerely,

Kim