



Cañada College President's Advisory Council

September 16, 2026, 12 – 1 PM, Via [Zoom](#)

MINUTES

President's Advisory Council Members

Alicia Aguirre, faculty/Councilmember, Cañada College/City of Redwood City
Amy Buckmaster, President & CEO, Chamber San Mateo County
Barrie Hathaway, President & CEO, JobTrain
Cassandra Jackson, Program Manager, BACHAC
Crystal Leach, Superintendent, SUHSD
David McLain, Executive Director of Community & Government Relations, SMCCCD
Diana Viscarra, Program Director, Upward Scholars
Elizabeth Wells, Executive Director, Foundation for a College Education
Elmer Martinez Saballos, Director of Communications/, Child Care Coordinating Council (4Cs) of San Mateo County
Dr. Esme Ortiz, VP, High School & Post-Secondary Success Programs, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula
Gina Sudaria, Superintendent, Ravenswood City School District
Ivan Martinez, Executive Director, PAL Center
John Pimentel, Trustee, SMCCCD
Juanita Croft, Workforce Development Program Manager, Street Code Academy
Larry Moody, Government Affair & Community Liaison Director, JobTrain
Lisa Hicks-Dumanske, Executive Director, Redwood City Library
Foundation Dr. Lynne Mahoney, President, San Francisco State University
Olatunde Sobomehin, Chief Executive Officer, Street Code Academy
Pam Jones, Former Faculty/Community Member, Cañada
College Patty Hall, Former Faculty/Community Member,
Cañada College Rafael Avendaño, Executive Director,
Redwood City Together Rosanne Foust, President & CEO,
SAMCEDA
Shawneece Stevenson, Program Manager, Primary School & BACHAC
Wade Painter, President & CEO, Monterra Credit Union
Dr. Wei-ting Chen, Executive Director, Stanford
Medicine

Kim Lopez, President, Cañada College
Lizette Bricker, VPSS, Cañada College
Ludmila Prisecar, VPAS, Cañada College
Chialin Hsieh, VPI, Cañada College
Karen Engel, Dean of PRIE, Cañada College
Megan Rodriguez Antone, Director of Community Relations & Marketing, Cañada College

Attendance: Rosanne Foust, John Pimentel, Barrie Hathaway, David McLain, Elizabeth Wells, Wei-ting Chen, Patty Hall, Rafael Avendaño, Amy Buckmaster, Wade Painter, Shawneece Stevenson, Lisa Hicks-Dumanske, James Clark, Esme Ortiz, Diana Viscarra, Larry Moody, Cherie Kabob, Kim Lopez, Chialin Hsieh, Lizette Bricker, Ludmila Prisecar, Karen Engel, Wissem Bennani, Megan Rodriguez Antone, Autumn McMahon

Topic	Discussion Lead(s)
Welcome	President Kim Lopez opened the meeting, welcomed the group and shared the meeting agenda.
Leadership Retreat Update	President Lopez, provided an update on the 2026 Leadership Retreat. 60+ students, faculty, classified staff and administrators participated. The focus of the retreat was on eight breakout sessions focused on “inquiry topics” for 2026-27 to help prepare or “plan to plan” for our new Educational Strategic Plan.
Educational Master Plan (EMP) Wrap Up and Next Steps	Dr. Karen Engel, Dean of Planning, Research & Institutional Effectiveness, provided an overview of Cañada’s 2022-27 Educational Master Plan, the institutionalization of 63 strategic initiatives, and the launch of Inquiry Projects. Eight Inquiry Projects will help Cañada write a new five-year Educational (Strategic) Master Plan based on which topics will have an impact on the College in the future. Next Steps for these Inquiry Projects are: • PBC Approved Inquiry Process on September 16, 2026 • Inquiry Team meeting information posted on Cañada Collaborates website • Inquiry Teams share progress at PBC throughout the year Dr. Engel invited the President’s Advisory Council to join an Inquiry Group or suggest other topics: canadacollege.edu/prie/canada-collaborates.php Proposed Inquiry Topics for 2026-27 Accessibility Examine accessibility practices and needs across instruction, technology, communications, and student services. Artificial Intelligence • Instructional • Student Services • Operational Intentionally Strengthening Enrollment Examine evolving community demographics to better align educational services with emerging needs, while actively identifying and developing new community partnerships to expand organizational reach and impact. Mental Health Explore the mental health needs of Cañada College students. Regional Workforce Alignment Examine how our career education programs align with regional economic realities and needs. Reimagining the Performing Arts Center If the SMCCCD proposed capital improvement bond passes this November, this group would launch in spring 2027 to re-imagine the Performing Arts Center with the community in mind. Student Educational Journey & Opportunity Examine how we know whether students are satisfied with their experience at Cañada. Work-based Learning Examine how best to integrate meaningful career exploration into Cañada’s academic pathways.
Community Partnership Updates	Lizette Bricker, Vice President of Student Services, shared that Cañada now has a three-year MOU Partnership with Pal Center and shared-use agreement. Vice President Bricker then highlighted the impact of Pal Center middle schoolers summer camp at Cañada, this provided the students with hands-on college experience. Pal Center students shared how this on campus experience encouraged them to try new things and envision themselves in college.

Pal Center: Three Year MOU Partnership

- **Cañada College now provides onsite outreach at Pal Center**, offering one-on-one support and helping youth learn how to attend Cañada College for free.
- **Pal Center brought 60 middle school students to campus** through a new four-week summer camp, giving them a hands-on college experience.
- **Cañada College launched targeted alumni marketing videos**, including two videos featuring Pal Center employees.
- **Through a new shared-use agreement**, we hosted Pal Center's Youth Concert in our Main Theatre, welcoming more than 200 community members to campus.



Dr. Wissem Bennani, Dean of Enrollment Services, provided updates on the recent College interactive registration support events and partnerships with:

- Pal Center
- Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP)
- Belle Haven Community Campus

Dr. Bennani also highlighted the following upcoming events: Street Code Tech Tournament, Black Student Leadership Conference, Boys & Girls Club.

Community Partnerships: Youth on Campus

- PAL Center:
 - PAL Summer Program at Cañada College
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP):
 - Future Grads Summer Academy
 - Middle School Summer BGCP
 - BGCP Be Great Conference
- Belle Haven Community Campus:
 - Summer Camp at Cañada College



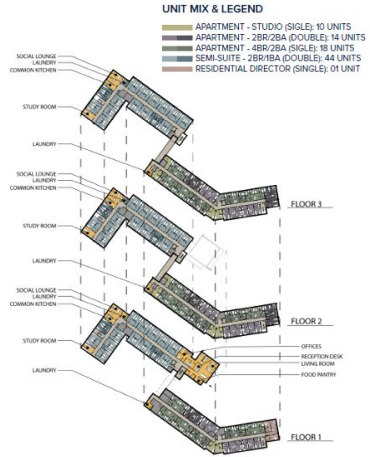
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Capital Improvement Updates	Dr. Chialin Hsieh, Vice President of Instruction, shared updates on the Child Development Center (CDC) tied to the College's EMP. • This project has been over 20 years in the making • CDC aims to support both students and the local community • Eligibility/Waitlist Form Opens September 2026 • Construction Completion: Expected by December 2026 • CDC Faculty Coordinator Onboarded January 2027 • Teachers Onboarded March – April 2027 • Facility Opening May/June 2027 Cañada College Child Development Center (CDC) Construction Schedule: • December 2025 – March 2026: <i>Permitting/Bidding</i> • April – December 2026: <i>Construction</i> • January – April 2027: <i>Activation/Move-In</i> Launch Schedule: • September 2026: <i>Eligibility/Waitlist Form Opens</i> • January 2027: <i>CDC Faculty Coordinator Onboarded</i> • March – April 2027: <i>CDC Teachers Onboarded</i> • May - June 2027: <i>Center Launch</i> Information & Eligibility Waitlist: www.canadacollege.edu/childcenter Vice President Bricker provided an update on the Districtwide Student Housing at College of San Mateo. Housing at CSM will be available to students from Cañada College, CSM and Skyline College. The goal is that students will move in the summer of 2028. State funds were secured for this development. The housing will include 316 beds at below market value pricing. There are plans for student housing developments to be built next at Skyline, then Cañada.
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Districtwide Student Housing at CSM

- Design / DSA / Bidding / Board Approval / State Financing Final Approval: May 2023 – March 2026
- Construction: April 2026 - March 2028
- Building Activation: March – June 2028
- Students Move-in: June / July 2028

<https://www.smccd.edu/facilities/projects/dw/dwstudenthousing.php>



Accreditation
Visit:
September
28, 2026

President Lopez shared with the Council the positive feedback received from the Accreditation Zoom Open Forum in Spring 2026. During this Forum, PAC members actively participated, discussing college goals and projects. President Lopez thanked the Council for their active participation in the important event.

President Lopez shared the agenda for the next step in Cañada's Accreditation process, the site visit on Monday September 28, 2026 beginning in Menlo Park at the JobTrain site then to the Cañada College Campus. The official Accreditation Report will be released in February 2027. President Lopez invited the President's Advisory Council to join the Open Forum on September 28th in person from 12-1 p.m.

Closing
Comments

- Rosanne Foust, President & CEO, SAMCEDA, shared that during the SAMCEDA Board Meeting there was unanimous support for the Bond Extension and expressed strong support for both workforce and student housing. She also invited Dr. Engel to present Cañada's 8 initiatives at a future SAMCEDA meeting.
- Barrie Hathaway, President & CEO, JobTrain, shared appreciation and congratulations for the success of the College Strategic Plan
- Rafael Avendaño, Executive Director, Redwood City Together, commended Cañada College leadership for leaning in and understanding the housing needs of our community.
- Larry Moody and Barrie Hathaway encouraged Cañada College to participate in the Shared Prosperity Council.
- Shawneece Stevenson thanked the College for supporting the Black Student Leadership Conference. Shawneece Stevenson with connect with Lizette Bricker Vice President of Student Services to strengthen supports for black students and families in foster care and promoting financial literacy.

Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m. Next Meeting: The next President's Advisory Council meeting will be held in March 2027, Timed Around our CDC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Calendar Invite to Come
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