



Annual Plan for Strategic Priority Projects and Strategic Planning

Approved by the Planning & Budgeting Council

September 16, 2026

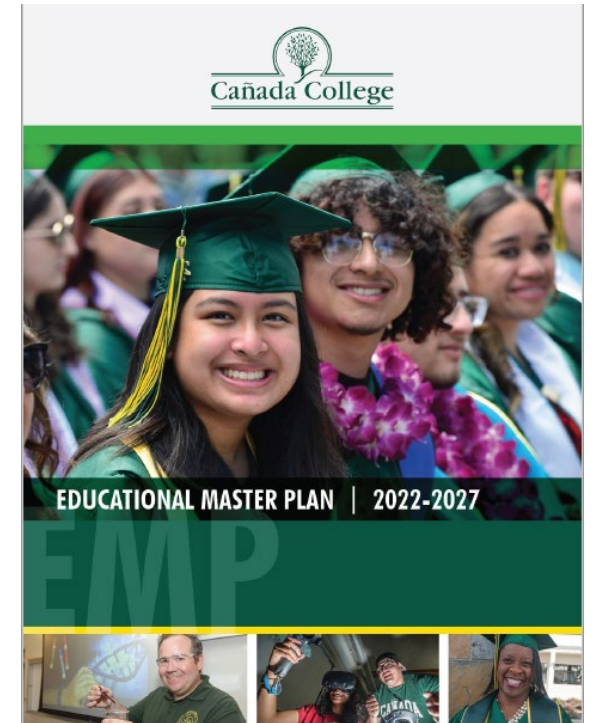
2026 Leadership Retreat Update

- ✓ 60+ students, faculty, classified staff and administrators participated
- ✓ 8 breakout sessions focused on “inquiry topics” for 2026-27 to help prepare or “plan to plan” for our new Educational Strategic Plan
- ✓ Check <https://canadacollege.edu/plans/leadership-retreat.php> for more info



Change in focus: planning to plan

Thanks to our hard work on our 2022-27 Educational Master Plan, the Leadership Retreat attendees propose that we prioritize planning to create a new “educational strategic plan” during the 2026-27 academic year by conducting inquiry into various important topics shaping Cañada’s future.





Proposed Inquiry Topics for 2026-27

- **Accessibility**
- **Artificial Intelligence**
 - Instructional
 - Student Services
 - Operational
- **Intentionally Strengthening Enrollment**
- **Mental Health**
- **Regional Workforce Alignment**
- **Reimagining the Performing Arts Center – Building 3 (tentative launch in spring 2027)**
- **Student Educational Journey and Opportunity**
- **Work-based learning**



Inquiry Group: Accessibility

INFORMATION FOR ACCESSIBILITY INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

The Accessibility Inquiry Group will examine accessibility practices and needs across instruction, technology, communications, and student services.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Anniqua Rana, Dean of Academic Support & Learning Technologies (ASLT)
Allison Hughes, Instructional Designer and Academic Senate Co-President

Plans for Inquiry Process:

Review current accessibility practices, gather campus input, identify accessibility gaps, and coordinate with PDPC, DEAC, the Technology Committee, and other relevant groups..

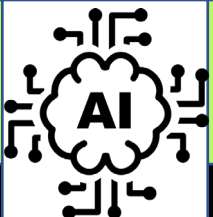
Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

Recommend priorities, resources, training, and practical steps to support accessibility efforts across the college.
Recommend strategies for sustaining accessibility efforts beyond the 2027 Title II deadline.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

We will dedicate one or two sessions for this topic at the following committee meetings

- [Professional Development Planning Committee \(PDPC\)](#)
- [Distance Education Advisory Committee \(DEAC\)](#)
- [Technology Committee](#)
- [Instructional Planning Council \(IPC\)](#)
- This group will also host sessions on Flex Days in October and April.



Inquiry Group: Artificial Intelligence - Instruction

INFORMATION FOR AI - INSTRUCTION INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

Explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can responsibly support our work, teaching, and student learning at Cañada College and develop recommendations for a local AI teaching and learning framework.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Chialin Hsieh, Vice President of Instruction
Diana Tedone-Goldstone, Librarian, Academic Senate Co-President

Plans for Inquiry Process:

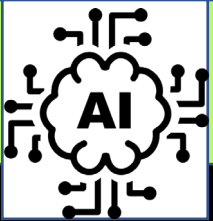
1. Assess current AI practices and needs.
2. Examine AI's impact on work, teaching, learning, and assessment.
3. Identify AI literacy and equity needs for both faculty and students
4. Develop recommendations for a local AI teaching and learning framework.

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

1. **Clear understanding of current AI use, opportunities, and challenges** in teaching and learning at the college.
2. **Recommended principles and guidance for responsible AI use** that distinguish college-level expectations from faculty decisions about individual courses and assignments.
3. **Recommendations for faculty and student AI literacy and professional development**, including responsible use, critical thinking, academic integrity, equity, accessibility, privacy, and workforce preparation.
4. **A set of actionable recommendations for the college's AI teaching and learning framework**, including areas that may require continued consultation through Academic Senate, participatory governance, technology/accessibility review, or other appropriate processes.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

The Instructional AI Group will meet during [Academic Senate meetings](#) and during the [Instructional Planning Council meetings](#).



Inquiry Group: Artificial Intelligence – Student Services

INFORMATION FOR AI – STUDENT SERVICES INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

The student services Artificial Intelligence (AI) sub-group will explore practical AI tools, ethical considerations, and strategies to streamline operations and improve student support.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Wisseem Bennani, Dean of Enrollment Services
SSPC Members

Plans for Inquiry Process:

Identify AI literacy and equity needs for staff.

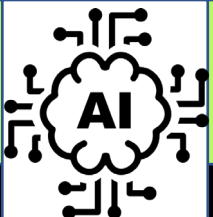
The Student Services AI inquiry group will allocate time for Student Services staff to share impactful tools, with the Instructional Technologist present to gather feedback and offer insights.

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

Equip Student Services professionals with practical AI skills and ethical frameworks to streamline administrative tasks, enhance student support, and improve overall campus engagement.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

The Student Services AI group will meet during [SSPC meeting times](#).



Inquiry Group: Artificial Intelligence – Operational

INFORMATION FOR AI-OPERATIONAL INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

The operational group Artificial Intelligence (AI) sub-group will assess current and potential uses of AI in college administrative operations, with a focus on improving efficiency, service delivery, and employee productivity.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Ludmila Prisecar, Vice President of Administrative Services

Plans for Inquiry Process:

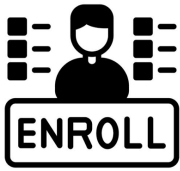
The group will identify appropriate AI tools and practices while considering data privacy, security, accessibility, records management, compliance, and responsible use. The group will also explore opportunities to streamline routine processes and develop recommendations and guidance for employees using AI in their work.

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

- Identify practical AI applications that can improve administrative efficiency and service delivery.
- Develop guidance for responsible and appropriate AI use in college operations.
- Address privacy, security, accessibility, compliance, and records-management considerations.
- Identify training needs and opportunities to help employees use AI effectively and consistently.
- Recommend areas where AI could streamline routine processes while maintaining appropriate human review and accountability.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

The Operational AI Group will meet during the Division Business Office and Executive/Division Assistants Monthly Check-in meetings.



Inquiry Group: Intentionally Strengthen Enrollment

INFORMATION FOR STRENGTHENING ENROLLMENT INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

This inquiry group focuses on examining 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.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Lizette Bricker, Vice President of Student Services
Wisse Bennani, Dean of Enrollment Services
Megan Rodriguez, Director of Marketing
Michiko Kealoha, Director of Equity

Plans for Inquiry Process:

Meets monthly throughout the fall and spring terms, periodically engaging community guests to gather external perspectives. Report progress directly to the SSPC and integrate their strategic feedback.

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

1. Data-driven recommendations to adapt programs and services to current and projected demographic shifts.
2. Action plan detailing strategic initiatives, resource needs, and timelines to enhance community outreach and partnerships.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

Monthly - TBD



Inquiry Group: Mental Health

INFORMATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

This group will explore the mental health needs of Cañada College students.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Max Hartman, Dean of Counseling
Dr. DeVon Scott, Personal Counseling Center (PCC) and Disability Resource Center (DRC) Director

Plans for Inquiry Process:

This group will explore the mental health needs of Cañada College students and opportunities to provide additional on campus resources and/or of campus resources provided by community partners.

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

To determine if we, as a college, would like to pursue additional mental health supports for our students, and to begin to identify opportunities for increased support and partnership.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

Dedicated time for inquiry will be scheduled during regular CARES meetings, Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00. We will invite members of the campus community who could assist in this inquiry to attend these portions of the meetings if they are not already a part of the CARES team.



Inquiry Group: Performing Arts – New Building 3 (**pending**)

INFORMATION FOR PERFORMING ARTS INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

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.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Dr. David Eck, Dean, Humanities & Social Sciences
Ludmila Prisecar, Vice President, Administrative Services

Plans for Inquiry Process:

Step 1: actively recruit the groups that would be most impacted by a New Building 3 and put out a call to college community for anyone else interested in participating.
Step 2: share all of the proposed plans and feedback that have already been collected related to Building 3, such as in the Facilities Master Plan feedback process and the Bond proposal process. Also share different possible timelines for the design and construction work stages.
Step 3: consider possible performing arts centers to review or even visit to help with planning ideas.
Step 4: solicit feedback both on the preliminary plans up to this point as well as offering members a chance to share new ideas/plans for a new performing arts center.

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

1. Ensure that all of the programs and employees in Building 3 are aware of the plans to rebuild Building 3.
2. Better learn about what worked in the existing Building 3 and what could be substantially improved in a new building.
3. Ensure that all of these programs and all community members have a chance to inform plans for a new Building 3.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

This inquiry group is tentative – pending voter approval of the Capital Improvement Bond this November.



Inquiry Group: Regional Workforce Alignment

INFORMATION FOR ACCESSIBILITY INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

This inquiry group examines how our career education programs align with regional economic realities and needs. We plan to focus on developing flexible, modular Career Technical Education (CTE) programs and career pathways that directly connect students to family-supporting, regional living wages.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Alex Kramer, Dean of Business, Design and Workforce
Karen Engel, Dean of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness

Plans for Inquiry Process:

Our inquiry process will center on active dialogue with internal campus groups, regional industry partners, and community members. Through collaborative sessions, we will analyze local labor market data and gather cross-sector perspectives to design scalable, career-aligned instructional models for implementation.

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

We would like to develop a set of implementable, high-impact program models that connect modular career education training directly to regional living-wage jobs. This includes a clear strategy co-designed with Financial Aid, Counseling, Outreach, and others to streamline student entry, retention, and funding, as well as actionable recommendations for college leadership.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

Monthly - TBD



Inquiry Group: Student Educational Journey & Opportunity

INFORMATION FOR ACCESSIBILITY INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

This inquiry group examines how we know whether students are satisfied with their experience at Cañada

Inquiry Group Leads:

Chialin Hsieh, Vice President of Instruction
Ameer Thompson, Dean of Science & Technology

Plans for Inquiry Process:

1. Literature Review-Help refine and contextualize our local inquiry into what happens to students from entry to post-graduation?
2. Gather data—completion rates, transfer outcomes, post-graduation outcomes, alumni feedback.
3. Analyze trends—identify barriers or successful patterns. Consider students' sense of belonging.
4. Hold discussions to make sense of findings.
5. Produce clear recommendations—whether it's improving

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

1. Identified gaps in course access and a plan to address them
2. Clear data on student transfer and employment outcomes
3. Recommendations (to strengthen advising, career partnerships, or transfer pathways)
4. A timeline to monitor progress in student outcomes.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

This group will meet during the Instructional Planning Council (IPC) meeting times. Those times and agendas are posted on the IPC website [here](#).



Inquiry Group: Work-based Learning

INFORMATION FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING INQUIRY GROUP

Description of Inquiry Group

This inquiry group will examine how best to integrate meaningful career exploration into Cañada's academic pathways. We aim to explore hands-on career development, industry awareness, and practical skills directly into course design and curriculum, helping students connect their academic learning to real-world career success from day one.

Inquiry Group Leads:

Max Hartman, Dean of Counseling
Alex Kramer, Dean of Business, Design and Workforce

Plans for Inquiry Process:

The Work-based Learning Inquiry Group plans to collect an inventory of existing work based learning opportunities with existing programs and to begin to investigate additional work based learning opportunities.

Desired Outcomes of Inquiry Process:

To determine if we as a college would like to pursue additional work-based learning opportunities in partnership with our academic programs, and to begin to identify potential programs for partnership.

Meeting Dates & Times during 2026-27:

Monthly - TBD

How do we sign up?

1. Contact the Inquiry Group Leads to let them know of your interest and availability
2. Check the [Cañada Collaborates](https://canadacollege.edu/prie/canada-collaborates.php) website for their contact and related info:

<https://canadacollege.edu/prie/canada-collaborates.php>

