



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 2-23-24

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Students Participate in Club Rush

Last week, ASCC kicked off the Spring 2024 Club Rush, unleashing a wave of excitement with incredible clubs like Black Student Union (BSU) and Earthly Allies taking center stage. The event buzzed with energy as music echoed through the air, setting the perfect tone for students to discover and engage with various clubs. The Spring 2024 Club Rush featured music, diverse clubs and Caribbean food to create an unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance.



Cañada Connects with Students at Black College Expo

Last weekend, members of the Cañada Community, including the Umoja team, connected with students and their families at the 21st Annual Black College Expo in Oakland. The event drew thousands of high school juniors and seniors as well as college students looking to transfer, who were able to talk with more than 50 college representatives including historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).



Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula College Week at Cañada

In partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP), Cañada hosted College Week for nearly 60 BGCP middle school students this week. The special programming is a part of the MOU Cañada College holds with BGCP to build a seamless pathway for middle school, high school and college students in Southern San Mateo County. This week, the BGCP middle school students participated in a drum circle and kite-making art project with the Cultural Center team, took in a Yoga class in Building 1 with Professor Vera Quijano, and explored campus through a scavenger hunt. They also met Professors Ana Budd, Emanuela Quaglia and Attila Elteto to learn about courses in Drama, Digital Art and Astronomy. You can view a video highlighting the first day's activities [here](#).



Interest Area Career Exploration Speaker Series: Mel Condos

Mel Condos, a talent acquisition leader at Open Core Ventures, was the featured speaker at Wednesday's Interest Area Career Exploration Speaker Series. Committed to recruiting transformative leadership for startups, she discussed the importance of establishing and maintaining networks. Mel, a former community college student, navigated through building teams, legality and startup challenges. Her journey included working at a radio station, attending school during the day and working at night, and transferring undeclared and graduating in linguistics from San Francisco State University. With a diverse background, including six years as a writer in a travel agency, Mel delivered compelling stories and valuable experiences.



Scholarship Reviewers Needed - Respond by March 1

The Financial Aid Services Department is seeking Cañada faculty, staff and administrators who would like to serve as scholarship reviewers for the 2024-25 Cañada Scholarship Program. Each reviewer will be assigned anywhere between 20-40 scholarship applications to review between March 4 – 18 in Academic Works, the online scholarship application platform used by the three SMCCCD colleges. The time commitment should not exceed 6-8 hours and is one of the most rewarding ways to get to know our students. This is strictly on a volunteer basis. Reviewers will be provided with comprehensive instructions and a scoring rubric. Please reply by March 1, 2024 to [Jackie Flores](#) if you can be a part of this year's review team.



Classified Employee of the Year Award - Respond by March 1

Each year, the Board of Governors, along with the State Chancellor's Office, seeks nominations from each community college district for their Classified Employee of the Year Award. In our district, the three colleges and the District Office *each* nominate one classified employee. The Board of Trustees reviews the resulting four nominations received and makes the final selection of the nominee to be forwarded to the State. Considerations for the award include a commitment to high standards of job performance and professionalism, demonstrated leadership, collaboration, knowledge, and other criteria.

I encourage and invite all members of the Cañada Community (students, faculty members, and classified staff) to nominate a classified employee for our college's award. If you wish to nominate someone, please review the award criteria and complete the attached nomination form. Please note that there are five questions requiring a narrative reply. I realize that you may not have all the information about the employee you wish to nominate, but please try to complete the form as best as you can. Because of the very short time we have to provide our nominee to the Board of Trustees, all nominations must be *received by Friday, March 1 at 4:30 p.m.* Please submit your completed nomination form to the Office of the President at CANPresident@smccd.edu. The College Cabinet will then review the nominations and make a final selection by March 6 to ensure that we meet the deadline for submitting our nominee to the District.

Student Survey Launched

During the month of March, students will have an opportunity to respond to [an important survey](#) about their engagement with instructional and student services programs at Cañada. Please encourage them to respond by clicking on [this link](#). Any student who completes the whole survey will be entered in to a raffle for one of four \$50 gift cards (cash)! Questions? Please ask [Dean Engel](#).



**Dear Cañada Students:
Your Voice Matters!**

Faculty Survey Launched

Faculty will have their own opportunity to respond [an important survey](#), asking about their opinions and perspectives about student engagement in March as well. Faculty, please see your email for your link to the survey and be sure to respond in full by April 5 for your own chance to win a \$50 gift card (cash)! Questions? Please ask [Dean Engel](#).

Cañada Accreditation Self-Evaluation Kick-Off Workshop March 11

Cañada is officially launching a new, comprehensive, institutional self-evaluation for accreditation purposes! Please join us for a fun and lively workshop with Virginia May, Interim Vice President and ACCJC staff liaison to Cañada who will be our featured facilitator. This will be a good opportunity to learn about the [new ACCJC standards](#)! Everyone in our Cañada community is invited. The workshop will take place Monday, March 11, 2024, from 2-5 p.m. in Room 6-101/102. Snacks and drinks provided. More information can be found on our [college accreditation website](#), or feel free to reach out to [Dean Engel](#), our Accreditation Liaison Officer with any questions.

Call for April 18 Flex Proposals - Respond by March 15

The Professional Development Planning Committee is calling for presentation proposals for the April 18 Flex Day. [Please submit your proposal here](#). The deadline for proposals is March 15.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim