



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 3-15-24

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Finalists Named for SMCCCD Chancellor

The San Mateo County Community College District has selected four finalists for its chancellor position. This announcement comes after a national search that fielded a highly qualified and diverse pool of candidates. A screening committee comprised of faculty, staff, students, administrators, a board member, and a community representative has recommended the following candidates to the Board of Trustees for consideration:

- Rudy Besikof, Ed.D., President of Laney College in Oakland (bio)
- Carlos Cortez, Ph.D., former Chancellor of the San Diego Community College District (bio)
- Melissa Moreno, J.D., Interim Chancellor of the San Mateo County Community College District (bio)
- Thuy Thi Nguyen, J.D., Partner at Garcia, Hernández, Sawhney LLP (bio)

Each finalist will participate in a prerecorded, one-hour moderated forum this week. These forums will allow the finalists to introduce themselves, share their vision and priorities, and respond to questions gathered from the campus community, including Academic Senate, Classified Senate, and Associated Students. To ensure equal access and flexibility, all four forum recordings will be posted and available by 5:30 pm on Friday, March 15, on the Chancellor Finalists & Forums webpage.

The Board of Trustees encourages you to watch the forum recordings to hear directly from the finalists about their preparation and vision for leading our District. Along with the recordings, links to a feedback form for each finalist will be available. Recordings and feedback forms will be available for viewing until 11:59 PM, Friday, March 22, to allow Board members time to review community feedback prior to their deliberations and decision-making. The Board of Trustees will announce the new Chancellor as soon as possible after conducting interviews and concluding their deliberations. Interviews are scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

If you have questions, feel free to contact:

- Chief Human Resources Officer Julie Johnson at johnsonjulie@smccd.edu, 650-358-6883
- RH Perry Search Consultant Jesse Thompson, jessethompson@rhperry.com

We look forward to your participation in this exciting final stage of our Chancellor search process.

Call for April 18 Flex Proposals – Responses Due Today!

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 today, March 15.

The Puente Team hosts ‘Make a Blanket Day’

Puente students and mentors created blankets to donate to Project Linus on Wednesday, March 6. Project Linus was founded in 1995 and has distributed more than nine million blankets since its founding, according to their official website. The students and mentors cut, sewed and created handmade blankets with different designs to give to ill and traumatized children who need comfort and extra love. The room was filled with workstations where everyone worked together through specific job roles to produce these blankets. The Puente Team would like to thank the Cultural Center team for their support in making this event happen. This activity brought awareness about Project Linus and its mission and showed the importance of giving back to the community.



Cañada in the Community

Last Thursday, our Outreach team and college partners visited East Palo Alto Academy where they connected with students and community members during East Palo Alto Community College and Career Fair. The event had a great turnout for a first-time event. Our Funeral Services Education team invited partner Marshall Johnson from Jones Mortuary to the event where he brought their funeral coach for photos and spoke with students and community members.



SFSU and Queer Liberation Equity Excursion

The Office of Equity, Cultural Center, Gender Sexuality Alliance Club, Undocumented Community Center, Brave Space Collective and COLTS-U Transfer Center came together for the Office of Equity: Equity Excursion Series to learn about Queer history and liberation movements in the United States. Students, faculty, staff and administrators started the day together meeting with Queer leaders at San Francisco State University (SFSU). First, the group met with Dr. Katie Lynch, Senior AVP for

Enrollment Management, whose team brought the group Queer SFSU swag, and who shared ways the university supports Queer students. The group then connected with Dr. Amy Sueyoshi, Provost and Vice President SFSU, a founding co-curator of the GLBT Historical Society Museum who shared their story, what it took to start the museum, and how Queer history is part of the SFSU curriculum. Next, the group of Cañadians met with the Safe Zone Ally Coordinating Committee Chair, Dr. Rick Nizzardini, where they learned about SFSU's training and professional development praxis and resources.

After their visit to SFSU, the Equity Excursion participants went to the GLBT Historical Society Museum, the first stand-alone museum of LGBTQ+ history and culture in the United States. The museum celebrates San Francisco's vast Queer past through dynamic and surprising exhibitions and programming. The group was particularly moved by the new AANHPI Queer family support gallery. After visiting the history museum, the group visited Queer Arts Featured (AF), the historic storefront that once housed Harvey Milk's Castro Camera. Queer AF features BIPOC 2SLGBTQIA+ spectrum art with a focus on minimizing financial barriers, and is a healing site of many Queer community events. The excursion ended with a visit to the famous Gay-owned business, Hot Cookie, a place founded on the principals of an open and accepting community that promotes sexual expression.

In students' post-Equity Excursion reflections, they shared how important it was to them to find community with fellow LGBTQ+ members of the campus as new and returning students. One student shared how they "were touched by how many people came through for us to share their experiences and to connect with us" noting how they feel supported at Cañada and how they felt they could be supported in their transfer experience. The Gender Sexuality Alliance hopes to be fueled by what they experienced in this Equity Excursion to propose a new Queer Liberation mural on campus.



Cañada Accreditation Self-Evaluation Kick-Off Workshop

Nearly 40 campus faculty, classified staff and administrators participated in a workshop led by two ACCJC Vice Presidents on Monday to launch the College's institutional self-evaluation process. 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.



Men's Baseball versus Skyline College

In their conference opener on Tuesday, Cañada College's baseball team faced a challenging 5-4 loss against rival Skyline College. Despite recording more hits than their opponents, defensive errors proved costly. Max Ross at right field and Ivan Herrera both had impressive performances at the plate, each going 2 for 4 with a double and a home run. John Paul Avila on left field also contributed with a home run in the bottom of the 8th inning, alongside Ross' homerun.



Interest Area Career Exploration Speaker Series: Alejandro Ramon Vilchez

At Wednesday's Speaker Series, Cañada College welcomed Alejandro Ramon Vilchez, a Chicano native to the Bay Area. He shared a transformative encounter with his teacher, Jim Smith, igniting his aspiration to become an educator. As a former alumni, Vilchez pursued Early Childhood Education classes on our campus. Reflecting on the 90s, a period marked by heightened gang violence, he embarked on a journey with Barrio Unidos. Establishing a local chapter in San Mateo, Vilchez's organization focuses on violence prevention, youth engagement and community development.



President's Student Leadership Award – Nominations Due March 22

At this year's Commencement Ceremony, one student will be recognized for outstanding scholarship and leadership. We welcome your nomination of a student whom you believe reflects the spirit of this award, embodies its positive attributes, and meets its criteria:

- has made meaningful contributions to the lives of students, his/her community, and/or Cañada College
- demonstrates outstanding academic achievement
- reflects a committed pursuit of educational goals
- demonstrates leadership qualities that represent the values and mission of the College
- achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher
- is a graduating student in Summer 2023, Fall 2023, or Spring 2024.

Please attach a Word document describing the nominee's involvement and accomplishments relevant to the award criteria. Please submit your completed nomination form with supporting page(s) attached, to the Office of the President by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024.

Student Services Spring Break Hours

Student Services offices will hold modified hours during Spring Break, March 25-29. We have created the attached sign for employees to post in their offices to remind students of the modified hours during Spring Break.

DAY

In-person/Virtual Business Hours:

Monday – Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday

CLOSED: Cesar Chavez Holiday

EVENING

In-person/Virtual Business Hours:

Tuesday – Wednesday

CLOSED: 4:30 – 7 p.m.

PATH 2 COMPLETION (P2C) PROJECT MicroGrant Opportunity

Cañada's Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institution (DHSI) Grant is excited to offer a project funding opportunity for our campus community committed to:

- Ensuring student access to relevant and transformative student services and programs
- Removing barriers to student access, success and completion
- Increasing the sense of belonging of our LatinX students
- Ensuring educational practices reflect the importance of individualized learning experiences, shared building of knowledge, and promotion of social justice at Cañada College.

The P2C Project leadership team has developed a form to collect proposals on an ongoing basis for the Spring 2024 semester. To learn more about Cañada's DHSI Title V Grant and the MicroGrant funding opportunity visit our website <https://canadacollege.edu/p2c/>



Save the Date: Employee End-of-Year Celebration – RSVP by May 9

Please join us for our Employee End-of-Year Celebration! The event will be held at the Cañada Vista Clubhouse on Thursday, May 16 from 12-1:30 p.m. All college employees are invited to celebrate the end of the year together. During the celebration, we will be honoring our retiring faculty and staff, faculty who have achieved tenure and our Classified Employee of the Year. The event flyer is attached. Please RSVP to tinyurl.com/EEOYC24 by May 9.



I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim