



August 17, 2020

Dear Cañada Community:

Welcome Back! I am proud to welcome you all back to the 2020-2021 academic year.

Now in my fifth year as Cañada's President, I remain deeply impressed by the strong, shared commitment we have to our College Mission: to provide our community with a learning-centered environment, ensuring that all students have equitable opportunities to achieve their transfer, career education, and lifelong learning educational goals. The College cultivates in its students the ability to think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, reason quantitatively, and understand and appreciate different points of view within a diverse community.

Your commitment to our students and community has been clearly demonstrated over the past five months as we have not only navigated a pandemic, but quickly learned to pivot and support our students, and each other, in our virtual environment. Thank you!

Appreciating Our Accomplishments

I would like to celebrate some of the major accomplishments we achieved together as a campus community during the 2019-2020 Academic Year. Together, we:

- Transitioned the College into a Virtual Campus in a matter of days!
 - Everyone came together quickly to launch virtual classes.
 - Welcome Center staff and others collaborated to address urgent student needs during the transition to a remote campus.
 - Departments collaborated to launch events including Virtual Connect to College, Virtual Town Halls and Critical Conversations.
- Facilitated the launch (with the guidance of the Guided Pathways Steering Committee) of:
 - Interest Areas
 - [Program Mapper](#) (clearer academic program maps online)
 - Success Teams (in process)
- Received a full [re-accreditation](#) from the ACCJC, earning 2 commendations and receiving *no* recommendations for compliance with the standards
- Achieved great progress in narrowing equity gaps in transfer-level math and English placement, success and throughput thanks to the tireless efforts of our math, English and Counseling faculty to successfully implement AB 705 (more soon on the PRIE website)
- Hosted the 2nd Annual President's Luncheon and 3rd Annual Awareness Summit
- Celebrated the opening of Building 23 - our new Science & Technology Building

- Celebrated the Topping Out of Building 1 - our new Kinesiology & Wellness Building

Thank you to all who made these campus-wide initiatives a reality!

Cañada College Stands Against Racism: Black Lives Matter

I am so proud of the tremendous support and engagement of our community in the critical work of addressing racism on our campus. On June 9, 2020, I made our support for Black Lives Matter clear in [this letter](#).

This year, we will continue to have regular [Critical Conversations](#) about race. We will be launching a “community read” and invite all of you to join us as we read and discuss Ibram X. Kendi’s, *How to be an Antiracist*. In addition, we have joined the [USC California Community College Racial Equity Leadership Alliance](#) and will be sending teams to participate in their monthly e-convenings. Thank you for joining me in doing this important work.

Looking Ahead

The coming academic year promises to be a year like no other. The challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the persistent racial, social and economic disparities in our society that it has resurfaced, require us to be as resilient, adaptable, and constructive in our outlook as we have ever been.

To help organize our thinking, as well as the strategic actions we hope to take during the coming year to address these challenges, our campus leaders came together last week for a [two-day Leadership Retreat](#) via Zoom. Students, faculty, and classified staff leaders and administrators collaborated in teams representing all of our campus constituency groups. This Retreat has become part of [our annual planning cycle](#). Participants helped shape a draft Anti-Racist Framework for our college and refined six strategic priorities that emerged from our [Education Master Plan](#) and [Strategic Enrollment Management Plan](#). Both the Framework and the strategic priorities will be further discussed on Flex Day as well as at the first meeting of the [Planning and Budgeting Council](#) on September 2, 2020. The draft commitments to Anti-Racism and the six strategic priority areas include:

College Commitments to Anti-Racism (draft)

We are Cañada College, a community of scholars and practitioners. As a collective and as individuals we commit to:

- critically examine our behaviors and college practices for the conscious and unconscious ways in which we contribute to systemic racism;
- uplift stories and data about the impact of anti-Blackness, oppression, poverty, and racism in our communities;
- reimagine and build a community of learning and service based in anti-racism, social justice, and liberation;

We welcome and invite these commitments as essential components of an anti-racist and socially-just community for the students we serve, the community where we work, and the world we live in.

Strategic Priority Areas

- Improve student completion by developing and implementing a comprehensive college-wide approach to enrollment management, student retention, and course scheduling
- Collaborate with K-12 and Adult School partners to promote relationships, seamless transitions, and alignment of pathways
- Expand and enhance marketing and effective communication of opportunities for students
- Establish a robust college-wide professional learning program that engages campus constituents while creating opportunities for innovative practices that support student success and promote equity
- Promote a campus culture that fosters a climate of inclusivity
- Institutionalize effective structures and best practices of Hispanic-Serving and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions in order to reduce the obligation gap. [NOTE: These will include related Guided Pathways and Student Equity and Achievement Plan initiatives].

To create greater transparency around these conversations and our decision-making processes generally, please find the following helpful resources: [Cañada Collaborates](#) provides information about our strategic priorities as well as contact information for our key College Councils, Senates, and Committees; and the PBC's [Participatory Governance Manual](#) also contains important information about how we work together to achieve college-wide goals and objectives. There will also be a Flex Day session on these topics led by Dr. Pérez and Dr. Engel.

Updating our Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. ADA provides comprehensive civil rights protections to qualified individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, State and local government services, and telecommunications. Over the past year, the District and Colleges have been updating their respective ADA Plans. The draft report will be available on the Colleges and District websites for students, faculty, staff, general public and any interested groups to review and comment on the plan in September and October 2020. There will be two public webinars in early October 2020 to further explain the draft ADA Plan and solicit public comments and questions. The Colleges and District marketing departments will be providing more information in the next few weeks.

President's Luncheon

In addition, please save the date for our [Third Annual President's Luncheon](#), held virtually, on Tuesday, October 20. Due to COVID-19, we felt it is important to respond to the immediate basic needs of our students and their families. Funds generated at this year's President's Luncheon will contribute to student's daily basic needs such as groceries, food vouchers, Chromebooks and hot spots.

Virtual Office Hours

The President's Office will be holding virtual office hours on Tuesday/Thursday, from 3 -4p.m. for the fall 2020 semester. Please contact Linda Bertellotti at bertellottil@smccd.edu to schedule a time to connect during the open office hour. If this time does not work for you, please contact Linda to set up a meeting.

The **Office of the Vice President of Instruction** is holding office hours on Tuesday/Thursday from 11 a.m. -12 p.m. Please set up a Zoom meeting and Dr. Robinson will join you. Or, you can [email](#) her and she can set it up. Thank you.

The **Office of the Vice President of Student Services** will be holding virtual office hours on Wednesdays from 11AM – 12PM for the fall 2020 semester. **Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.** The Zoom room for each office hour session will be an open dialogue format for all guests. If you would prefer an individual meeting time, please email canvpss@smccd.edu and we will accommodate your request accordingly.

The **Office of Administrative Services** is holding office hours weekly every Wednesday from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Please contact Vice President Mendoza [directly](#) to schedule a visit and he will send a Zoom link.

I hope you join me in my excitement for all that the 2020-2021 academic year will bring. Welcome back, and I look forward to seeing you, virtually!

Sincerely,
Jamillah Moore, Ed.D.
President