



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 5-3-24

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

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.



Puente Southern California University Tour

The Puente Program had the pleasure of taking 13 Puente students and four chaperones to visit two university campuses: University of Southern California (USC) and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The three-day Puente Southern California University Tour was filled with academic workshops, student speakers, academic advisors and L.A. highlights. In addition to experiencing two vibrant college campuses, the Puente students enjoyed the peaceful gardens and fountains and wonderful artwork at the Getty Museum and the beautiful sunset at the Santa Monica Pier.



Cañada Speaker Series: Filmmaker Ron Diamond

Animation producer and head of Acme Filmworks, Ron Diamond, came to Cañada College last Thursday as part of the Cañada Speaker Series. Diamond talked about how he got into the film industry, his transition from live action to animation, and gave students valuable advice about getting their start in the entertainment industry. The session was lively, with Ron showing clips from some of the work he has produced and students asking questions about starting their own careers. Students were engaged throughout and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity after the presentation with many selfies taken. The event was initiated by Digital Art & Animation professor, Paul Naas, with Director of Student Support, Ron Andrade, handling the logistics of promoting and setting up the event. The Digital Art & Animation department is extremely grateful to Director Andrade and his team for their invaluable support in setting up the event.



Cañada College Honors Research Showcase

Cañada College Honors Transfer Program students successfully delivered meaningful presentations to a full room of engaged participants at the annual Cañada College Honors Research Showcase last Friday. Presenters and participants shared animated conversations and a delicious lunch catered at a generous discount by Les Goudy's French Cuisine. Honors Counselor, Gloria Darashi, was recognized for her outstanding

work in the Honors Transfer Program. Kudos to all who collaborated on the event and congratulations to the student presenters: Konatsu Okita, Gustavo Costa, Howard Qin, Luis Romero, Chen Liang, Mikael Cheng, and Nathan Tam!



Designer Exhibit and Retirement Celebration

Last Friday and Saturday, the Fashion Department hosted a Designer Exhibit where the campus and greater community had an opportunity to view garments from Chanel, Christian Dior, Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci, Oscar de la Renta, and Valentino from the collection of student Wendy Jade Hernandez. In addition to the Designer Exhibit, students, former students and community friends celebrated and thanked the Coordinator of the Fashion Department, Professor Ronda Chaney, and Professor Kathleen McCarney, who will both be retiring from teaching at the end of May 2024.



25 Years of Service Ceremony

On Tuesday, I had the wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate our Cañadians who achieved 25 years of service as SMCCCD employees! Congratulations to:

- Kristina Brower
- Rachel Corrales
- Gloria Darafshi
- Patty Hall
- Anjana Joshi
- Gloria Peña
- Vera Quijano
- Rafael Rivera

We appreciate each of you and your years of service to our students and community.



Community Listening Session

Also on Tuesday, the College hosted a Community Listening session at Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City. More than 35 community members and Cañada employees collaborated to build relationships and work together to create a seamless pathway for high school students transitioning to college, college students transitioning to university and all community members pursuing careers and lifelong educational opportunities, particularly in these communities. The evening resulted in wonderful feedback and takeaways from our community partners and the Cañada team will synthesize the feedback and share at the College Leadership Retreat in August.



Neurodiversity Awareness Month Panel Discussion

On Tuesday, the Cultural Center hosted a neurodiversity discussion panel, featuring students sharing their diverse disabilities and personal experiences. The event aimed to celebrate the courage of these students in sharing their stories. Additionally, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) provided a comprehensive list of resources available for students, some of which were highlighted by the panelists based on their own experiences with the DRC on campus. The panelists also graciously answered questions from the audience. Overall, the event served as a platform for fostering understanding, support and appreciation for neurodiversity within the campus community.



ESL Recognition Ceremony

Our ESL Department celebrated its students on Wednesday with its annual recognition event. ESL students and their loved ones joined ESL faculty and staff to celebrate the hard work completed by the students this year. Thank you to the ESL Department for hosting such a special celebration for our students!



Campus Photo Shoot

Did you see our students posing for the camera throughout campus yesterday? The Marketing Department organized its annual college photo shoot with our students, faculty and staff. To reflect the authenticity in Cañada's culture and community, the Marketing team only features Cañada students in its promotional material so updated images are important. The photos taken yesterday will be used in our upcoming fall enrollment marketing campaign, as well as for future promotional use, including on our website, social media posts, fliers, etc. The campus community will also be able to use the images (which will be posted on the [Cañada Flickr page](#) later this month) for their program use.



Swap Meet

On Thursday, the Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC) hosted its first swap meet which included a diverse marketplace filled with vendors showcasing an eclectic mix of goods, from chic fashion to artisan crafts. Students had a chance to engage with fellow students and local residents while enjoying delectable treats from our food vendors.



Star Party Tonight!

Cañada's Astronomy Club will host a Star Party tonight from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and members of the Cañada campus community and the public are invited to attend! The campus observatory, Building 24 (Parking Lot 10), will be open to view objects in the night sky with telescopes. The Astronomy Club will also provide food, refreshments and games.

Staff Support Needed for Commencement

Cañada's 56th Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 25 at 10 a.m. and there are a number of opportunities for staff to participate and help make this event a memorable one for our graduates and their families. To assist with this special event, please click the [commencement job assignment link](#). Commencement assignments

include: setup crew, graduate registration, getting grads ready, commencement usher, cleanup crew and more. Staff support on this day makes the graduation experience for students possible. Important: CSEA employees working at the Commencement ceremony are entitled to overtime compensation. This overtime must be preapproved by the employee's supervisor. Once approved, the employee may choose to receive either overtime pay or compensatory (comp) time. This is at the discretion of the employee. If you have any questions, please contact a member of CSEA Chapter 33 leadership. We hope staff will be a part of the Cañada Commencement team and appreciate your consideration.



I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim