

## **Outstanding Faculty Award Nomination**

**Nominee:** Nadya Sigona, Full-Time Counseling Faculty

**Nominator:** Jenna French, Learning Disability Specialist / DRC Counselor

I am honored to nominate Nadya Sigona for the Outstanding Faculty Award in recognition of her exceptional commitment to student success, distinguished counseling practice, and sustained contributions to the mission and goals of Cañada College. Nadya consistently embodies the College's mission to *"engage and empower students in transforming their lives and communities through quality education"* through her daily work with students and her leadership across campus initiatives.

As a counselor, Nadya consistently demonstrates excellence through her depth of knowledge, thoughtful approach, and ability to connect meaningfully with students. She serves as Lead Counselor for the Business Interest Area, where she collaborates closely with Business Division faculty, conducts classroom visits, and provides targeted academic and career counseling that supports students' educational pathways. Her counseling practice is marked by clarity, empathy, and responsiveness to students' individual needs.

Nadya also serves as Lead Counselor for ESL students, acting as a primary point of contact and working closely with the ESL department to support both on campus and off-campus students with registration, transition, and academic planning. Through this work, she actively engages and empowers multilingual students, helping them build confidence and navigate pathways that transform their academic and personal futures.

Nadya's dedication to student success is especially evident in her leadership within Early Alert and retention efforts. As Lead Counselor for the Early Alert Committee, she collaborates with the Early Success Team (CREW), faculty, and campus partners to provide targeted interventions for students identified through early alert systems.

Her work also reflects a deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. By supporting ESL students, students on probation or dismissal, and those identified through early alert systems, Nadya prioritizes historically underserved and disproportionately impacted populations. She ensures that counseling services are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to a wide range of student experiences, empowering students from diverse backgrounds to thrive and succeed.

Nadya's contributions extend well beyond her direct counseling responsibilities and reflect a strong commitment to the College's mission in action. She co-led efforts for the Counseling Program Review (2025–2026) and has served on multiple tenure evaluation committees and hiring committees, strengthening institutional quality and equity in hiring and evaluation practices.

She embodies a strong cooperative and college spirit, demonstrated through her active engagement in committees and campus initiatives. Nadya contributes meaningfully to the CARES Committee, supports Super Registration Events, presents at Flex Day and the High School Counselors Luncheon, and participates in districtwide outreach such as the Sequoia District Families ESL Pathway. Through these efforts, she extends the College's mission beyond the classroom by supporting students, families, and the broader community.

Through her distinguished counseling practice, unwavering advocacy for students, deep commitment to diversity, and collaborative spirit, Nadya Sigona clearly exemplifies the mission and values of Cañada College. She engages and empowers students every day, helping them transform their lives and communities through education. I strongly and enthusiastically recommend her for this well-deserved recognition.



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## Letter of Support for Nadya

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**From** Zapien-Navarro, Ruby <zapiennavarroi@smccd.edu>

**Date** Wed 5/6/2026 1:12 PM

**To** French, Jenna <frenchj@smccd.edu>

Hi Jenna,

I'm happy to share my support for Nadya as part of her nomination for the Outstanding Faculty Award. I had the opportunity to work closely with her in the Welcome Center, where I assisted in booking her appointments with students, and I consistently witnessed her dedication and exceptional approach to student support.

Nadya truly goes above and beyond for her students. She does not simply provide information about campus programs. She takes the extra step to personally guide students to these resources and introduces them to staff members. This level of care makes a meaningful difference in helping students feel connected, supported, and confident navigating campus services. Because of this, many students specifically requested to rebook with her, a clear reflection of the trust and impact she builds.

She is also one of the few bilingual counselors on campus, and the work she does to support our ESL students is incredibly impactful. She helps bridge language barriers, ensuring students fully understand their options and feel comfortable asking questions. Her ability to connect with these students on both a linguistic and personal level greatly enhances their experience and success.

In addition to her work with students, Nadya is an outstanding team member. She regularly checked in at the front desk, offering support, a friendly conversation, or even something as simple as a cup of coffee to brighten someone's day. Her presence contributes to a positive, collaborative environment that benefits both students and colleagues.

Nadya demonstrates excellence in her role through her commitment, empathy, and proactive approach to student success. I strongly believe she is highly deserving of this recognition.

Kind Regards,



**Ruby Zapien**

Financial Aid Technician

Building 9, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor | (650) 306-3172

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