

SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

Combined Report of the District Chancellor and College Presidents



Photo: San Francisco Examiner

Supervisor David Canepa Announces \$2M Grant by San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to SMCCCD Promise Scholars Program

SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AWARDS \$2M GRANT TO SMCCCD PROMISE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Grant Provides Full Scholarship for 500 Local College Students



The San Mateo County Community College District announced today that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has funded a \$2 million grant to the Promise Scholars Program at the San Mateo County Community College District. The grant pays for two years of tuition, books and fees for 500 local college students to attend Cañada College in Redwood City, College of San Mateo in San Mateo, or Skyline College in San Bruno. The grant is being allocated from County Measure K funds.

"We are investing in college and career training for 500 students in our county," said San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President David J. Canepa. "This funding sends people to college, trains them for jobs, and helps accelerate the recovery of our economy."

The Promise Scholars Program combines financial support with intensive counseling in a program that has been proven to increase college graduation rates. The program is available for first-time, full-time students at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. Students receive full tuition and fees, as well as credit for \$750 in books per year. The students also meet monthly with counselors who keep the students on track and arrange for other support if necessary. Participants in the Promise Scholars Program are more than twice as likely to graduate in two years than students not in the program.

The \$2 million from County of San Mateo Measure K Funds expands the program to 2,500 students districtwide. The program currently previously had capacity for only 2,000 students at the three colleges.

"The County has given a big vote of confidence in our community colleges and especially in our local students," said SMCCCD Chancellor Michael Claire. "We know this program works, and we know this funding will help educate critical workforce for San Mateo County."

The application for the fall 2021 Promise Scholars Program is open on [WebSMART](#), and prospective students can find information about eligibility and applying to the program on the [Promise Scholars Program webpage](#). Students must first apply to the college.

Photo by Arianna Cunha from Daily Journal

DR. JENNIFER TAYLOR-MENDOZA NAMED NEXT PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO

Begins new role on July 1, 2021



San Mateo County Community College District Chancellor Michael Claire announced that he will recommend Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza to the District's Board of Trustees as the next president of College of San Mateo. The Board of Trustees will take formal action on Dr. Taylor-Mendoza's appointment at their meeting on April 28.

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“Dr. Taylor-Mendoza is positioned to lead College of San Mateo through its centennial year and beyond,” said Claire. “Her passion for educational equity, and her skill as an innovator and collaborator, make her the ideal person to lead College of San Mateo into its second century.”

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza will be the third woman president and the first person of color to lead the 99-year-old College of San Mateo. Her selection comes after a national search that began in November 2020.

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza brings over 20 years of educational experience in both instruction and student services. A longtime leader in the San Mateo County Community College District, she has been vice president of instruction at Skyline College in San Bruno since 2017. Prior to this, she served as founding dean of Academic Support and Learning Technologies (2014-2017) and the founding director of the Learning Center (2011-2014) at College of San Mateo.

“I am honored to work alongside CSM’s talented students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to continue the college’s rich history of educational excellence,” said Dr. Taylor-Mendoza. “CSM has been the vehicle for upward economic mobility for generations of San Mateo County residents. I pay tribute to the great work of my predecessors by continuing to build on this important mission, ensuring equitable access and outcomes for all students.”

Prior to joining SMCCCD, Dr. Taylor-Mendoza served as a tenured counseling faculty member and part-time psychology instructor at San Bernardino Valley College. She began her career as a part-time counselor at Pasadena City College.

A first-generation California Community College student, Dr. Taylor-Mendoza earned an associate’s degree in liberal arts from El Camino College, a bachelor’s degree in psychology from CSU Los Angeles, a master’s degree in counseling from CSU Northridge, and a doctor of philosophy in education from Claremont Graduate University.

In 2021, Dr. Taylor-Mendoza was named a winner of the Carter Doran Leadership Award, given to recognize leadership among statewide community college vice presidents of instruction. She

is an Aspen Institute Presidential Fellow for Community College Excellence (2019 – 2020). Dr. Taylor-Mendoza serves locally on the Board of Directors of HIP Housing, and she is actively engaged with the NOVA Workforce Board.

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza will start her new position on July 1, 2021. Her selection is subject to approval of a written contract, the terms of which will be available for public review prior to the April 28 board meeting.



STEM SPEAKER SERIES REIMAGINED TO OFFER STUDENTS VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

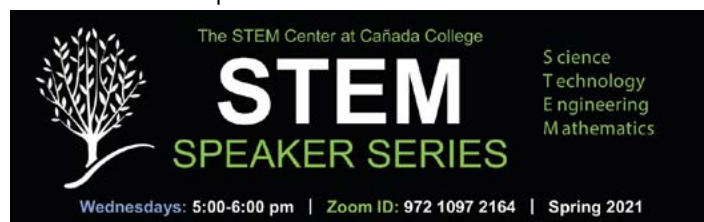
The STEM Center at Cañada College was created to cultivate the study of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to support students pursuing a career in this competitive field. The STEM Center offers extensive programs, services, and academic support for all students taking STEM-related courses. The STEM Speaker Series, hosted by STEM Programs Relationship Coordinator, Rance Bobo, has been a staple event at Cañada and has recently undergone a transition from in-person to virtual.

Although managing online formatting during the pandemic has been a learning experience for all Cañada students and staff members, surprisingly many STEM Speaker attendees feel the event has become more intimate and interesting. Rance says, “I decided to make this event more interpersonal through a late-night tv show interview format instead of the traditional presentation format. Because students are sitting/watching lectures all day, I wanted to ensure the STEM Speaker Series felt unique and more interactive.”

The student’s response to this new format has been nothing short of positive! A stellar feature of this new format that students enjoy has been the webinar question and answer

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section where STEM Speaker Series host Rance asks the viewers to send in questions to be answered live. The webinar format allows the students to participate while simultaneously assuring the audience does not interrupt or ask inappropriate questions that have not been screened. Cañada College student Francisco Espinoza says, "The new STEM Speaker Series format has made me feel more comfortable interacting with such renowned speakers. The tv show interview format has made me feel more engaged with the speaker and excited to virtually ask questions at the end of their presentation."



FEBRUARY	3		Finding ways to steady the course during a Pandemic Panel of Cañada Students Who Utilized Virtual Means to Stay Viable
	10		Vera Quijano - Cañada Alumni Assistant Professor, Cañada College "Hypothesis: Practicing Yoga Compels Wisdom and Well-Being Scientific Proof That Humans Can Self-Heal"
	17		Esther Chan - Cañada Alumni Quality Manager - Materials Engineers, NAVAIR Self-Care in the Time of Coronavirus
	23		Melissa Ibarra - Cañada Alumni Communicable Disease Investigator, County of San Mateo Tracking the Corona Virus in San Mateo County

MARCH	3		Tamara Dorian - Cañada Alumni NetSuite Functional Consultant, Zenardy The Challenges of Finding a Job Straight Out of College Especially in the Midst of a Pandemic
	10		Andres Cabrera - Cañada Alumni Staff Design Engineer, Samsung Austin Reseach Center The Importance of Internships and Networking to Obtain Early Exposure to Your Career Work Environment
	17		Marleny Ramos - Cañada Alumni Lab Accessioner, Color How to Persevere!
	24		Julie Luu Associate Biological Instructor, Cañada College "Successful College Journeys: Mine, My Students, and Yours"

Rance describes successful STEM Speaker moments as the way in which the students word their questions and the specificity of them. Rance shares, "To me, this is an indication that the students are paying attention, have been inspired, or have an interest in the topic." Other interesting STEM Speaker moments

that stuck with Rance include a motivated presenter who worked as a tow truck driver while attending school, a selfless presenter who works directly tracking COVID-19 cases in San Mateo County, and a passionate presenter who spoke profoundly of Cañada, the STEM Center, and getting more involved on campus.

If students are undecided on a STEM career choice they should attend the STEM Speaker Series events and listen to former Cañada alumni who are now professionals. The presenter's insight and real-world experiences can and will bring much-needed enlightenment to all Cañadians! To view the upcoming Spring speaker events, register, and find more information go to www.bit.ly/stemcanvas.

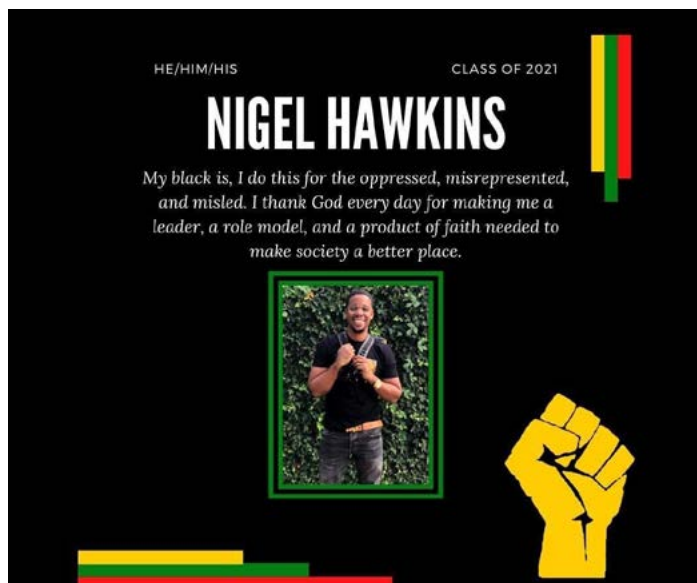
BLACK STUDENT UNION PRESENTS: BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE - PAST AND PRESENT



On April 13, Cañada's Black Student Union (BSU) hosted a panel of current and former Black Cañadians sharing their experiences as college students. The panel featured two current students who will graduate this semester as well as former students, one who graduated the year prior and one who graduated 10 years ago and now works at the college.

Moderated by current Engineering student, Isaiah, the panelists were asked to include the moment they knew they were "Black" in their introduction. Nigel Hawkins, current BSU President and

Cañada Class of 2021, spoke truth to power when he reminded us that white supremacy has a hold on our country, and is the main cause of hardship for minoritized peoples, including his introduction to his “Blackness.” Jade Shonette, BSU Treasurer, SMCCCD Student Trustee (and SMCCCD’s first Black student to hold the Student Trustee position) and Cañada Class of 2021, had a different experience. She spoke about growing up around so many Black people that she wasn’t aware of the weight of her “Blackness” until her family visited Florida for vacation, and they received stares and were followed in stores.



Dontario Beverly, former BSU President and Cañada Class of 2020, knew that he was “different” because of how he was treated in school; how he would get in more trouble for behavior that other students exhibited, as well, but received much less harsh discipline. Finally, Candice Johnson, former BSU President, current Cañada employee and Cañada Class of 2011, noted that she gradually understood her “otherness” in elementary school, particularly when slavery was introduced during her Fourth grade Social Studies class. She was tokenized throughout the unit.

The event concluded with the panelists answering questions from the audience, such as what changes toward antiracism the panel would like to see at Cañada College. The event was recorded and can be viewed [here](#).

College of San Mateo

CSM HONORS PROJECT STUDENTS RECOGNIZED WITH EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Five Honors Project students presented virtually the weekend of March 27 at the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC) conference, held at UC Irvine ([event program](#)). Two of these presenters, Kelsey Takaha and Isabelle Antaran, applied for and were awarded the HTCC Exemplary Achievement Scholarship Award.

The criteria for receiving this scholarship award includes “excellence or extraordinary improvement in your academic performance, especially if related to performance in your honors/scholars program” and “progress toward your personal goals or objectives, especially your commitment or perseverance in overcoming obstacles to success in college and/or your honors/scholars program.”

Here are brief overviews of the presentations in the students’ words:



Kelsey Takaha

My presentation at HTCC Research Conference was titled, “Still a Man’s World: How Masculine Gender Performance Perpetuates the Patriarchal Workplace Culture.” Using Judith Butler’s theory of gender performance as a foundational lens, I analyzed various communicative styles that have marginalized women in the

workplace, and proposed solutions that would shift the behavior paradigm in an effort to achieve gender equality.

Although this conference was virtual, it was an amazing opportunity to present my findings to the larger California CC honors community and interact with my peers and faculty through a live Q&A chat box.

I was so honored to receive the Exemplary Achievement Scholarship for it reaffirmed my hard work over the past two years, as well as the growth I've had as a student researcher in the Honors Project. I couldn't have done it without the nomination from Film Professor David Laderman, and the support from English Professor Sarah Mangin, Communications Professor Briana Avila, and the Honors Project community at large.



Isabelle Antaran

My research "An Analysis on Low Voter Turnout" aimed to analyze the nature of the country's low voter turnout from the perspective of non-voters. In line with the upcoming elections at that time, I was motivated to work on this topic as the country has a statistically low record of voter turnout compared to international standards with other developed democracies.

I am beyond thankful to have the opportunity to share my work at a research conference, and it was truly enlightening to learn more about various issues that other students presented. My key takeaway from the event is that I don't have to wait for the future when I can call myself an expert in the field before I share my voice. I realized that I learned so much, while simultaneously having so much more to learn. Even with the gap of knowledge that I have as an undergraduate freshman, I am more humbled and motivated to pursue my studies. With my passion and interest in conducting research, I am looking forward to learning and contributing more to this field of knowledge.

Finally, I would also like to thank my foundation instructor Dr. Jeremy Ball for his guidance, and the support of the Honors Project community—especially to English Professor Sarah Mangin and Film Professor David Laderman.

COMPETITION BEGINS FOR CSM'S ATHLETIC TEAMS



On April 10, CSM opened its 99th season of Bulldog Sports with a doubleheader softball sweep of Diablo Valley College (DVC). The Lady Bulldogs, ranked first in Northern California and fourth in the State in the preseason Massey Ratings, extended their two-year winning streak to 11 games—on the first day of permissible 2021 "Spring II" competition. This was the first official sports competition at CSM in the 2020-21 academic year. The path to this point developed in fits and starts. In September 2020, CSM's Athletics programs began the gradual return to competitive play under a cloud of the COVID pandemic. Following strict health and safety protocols for students and staff, including weekly COVID testing, student-athletes returned to the CSM campus for socially distanced physical conditioning only.

As the safety plan demonstrated effectiveness and San Mateo County moved from the Purple to the Red Tier, Athletics got the green light to engage in sport-related activities toward the end of the fall semester. Unfortunately, as fall progressed, COVID restrictions tightened up again, and the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) announced that fall competition would not occur. Looking ahead to spring, the Association broke the Spring 2021 semester into two phases,

Spring I and Spring II. Fall sports competition would occur in the Spring I phase and spring sports competition during the Spring II phase.

With COVID restrictions not easing until the middle of the current semester, fall sports were unable to compete. Now that most of the State is in the Orange Tier, competition for Spring II sports has begun. Baseball, softball, beach volleyball, and track are now actively competing. Football will be engaging in padded practice to acclimate students back into contact drills (the CCCAA restricts contact activities for football out of season) and men's and women's basketball will engage in two scrimmages each.

While Athletics remains on high alert and safety protocols continue to be enforced at all times, the return to competition has been a welcome change to CSM's student-athletes and coaches. Volleyball Coach Katie Goldhahn sums it up by saying, "The volleyball program has so much gratitude being able to get back to playing the sport they love. This means stability in our athletic schedule, academics, mental and emotional health, and well-being. It has provided purpose and an outlet during the trying times of this pandemic."



SKYLINE COLLEGE STUDENTS ON ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC TEAM



Two Skyline College students, Noreen Singh and Anthony Yu, were selected for the 2021 All-California Academic Team first team. In addition to the All-California Team, Noreen also selected for the Coca-Cola Academic Team.

Noreen Singh is a Psychology major at Skyline College. She is Vice President of Communications of the Beta Theta Omicron Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Noreen will transfer to California State University to study psychology and plans to earn her Ph.D. Noreen works as a community tutor, providing support and help to children K-12. During the pandemic, Noreen created "Hope Kits" and delivered them to the children in her community who were struggling with the transition to online learning. Noreen serves as a Multiplying Good Think Big Team member on the youth advisory board. She is passionate about education and equity for minority groups. Noreen strives to empower and inspire others to make a change in their community and accomplish their goals and dreams no matter what may come.

Anthony Yu is a student at Skyline College who is currently studying Business Administration. He is the President of the Beta Theta Omicron chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for 2020-2021. He is also the Co-President of the

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Alpha Beta Chi chapter of the Kappa Beta Delta International Business Honor Society and serves as a Student Council Senator for the Associated Students of Skyline College. Anthony will be transferring to a four-year university after two years at Skyline College in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Personally, Anthony enjoys traveling, listening to music, writing and spending time with his family. Along with his future endeavors, Anthony will continue to give back to his community.

Article by Chris Case

ASSC HOSTS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS THROUGHOUT MARCH



The Associated Students of Skyline College held an impactful calendar of Women's History Month events which incorporated 3 speakers series events with STEM and Businesswomen professionals from our own campus for the first speaker series which featured:

- Soledad McCarthy, Professor of Business, Hospitality, Tourism Management (HTM); Department Coordinator of – Business, Hospitality, Tourism and Business Computer Management
- Herlene Grace Beltran, Faculty/Professor BS International Business, BS Business Management
- Emilie Hein, Physics Professor

The ASSC continued the next day with a discussion panel which featured the Arts, Languages & Communication Society and Education Meta Majors which featured:

- Rika Yonemura-Fabian Professor of Sociology
- Pia Walawalkar Associate Professor and Outreach and Equity Librarian
- Dr. Liza Marie Suyat Erpelo Professor, English and Coordinator, Kababayan Learning Community at Skyline College

On the 3rd and final day, the ASSC featured Executive Women in leadership which featured:

- Michelle Batista, Director of Student Support and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
- Dr. Melissa Moreno, Skyline College President
- Andrea Vizenor, Dean of Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Development

The speakers series was eye opening, a great chance for panelists to share their stories and experiences and a chance for panel participants to learn from the women professionals on campus. The ASSC Women's History Month also included a series of social media posts about women student professionals, former and current student council members sharing their stories.

If you'd like to learn more about the events, link to our padlet which includes information on activities and resources. A full video of the three-day speaker series is on our ASSC YouTube channel and social media posts. Links are below:

ASSC Women's History Month Padlet: <https://padlet.com/999x24k/asscwhm21ss>

Day 1: <https://youtu.be/Fsnwe8oHkSg>

Day 2: <https://youtu.be/aRp4clN8Ugl>

Day 3: <https://youtu.be/1oBLFGGiqzc>

ASSC IG: <https://www.instagram.com/skylineassc>

Article by Felagot Desta, Center for Student Life & Leadership