



A Message from Interim President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update 8-13-21

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

I enjoyed another very busy week on campus. Early in the week I met with the [President's Luncheon](#) Planning Committee and invitations will be sent out soon for our upcoming event on October 19 from 12-12:30 p.m. Please plan to attend this important virtual event. On Tuesday, I enjoyed seeing nearly 140 Cañadians on our first fall 2021 Town Hall. You can access the recording [here](#) and I have attempted to provide clarity on your questions below. I also met with our JobTrain partners and we are looking at additional ways in which we can further strengthen our relationship with this important community partner. I dropped by our first Vaccine Pop-Up Clinic in parking lot 1 and by mid-day, more than 30 people had received their first vaccine shot. Our Cañada Leadership Retreat, held on Wednesday and Thursday, inspired me and I can't wait to share the highlights on Flex Day. Please see more information below.

Return To Work with Flexibility and Clarity

I have heard from many folks throughout the College that the fall 2021 return to campus planning and communication has been confusing. I agree. I will strive to provide clarification as we return to our worksites over this upcoming year. As I mentioned in my weekly email last Friday, our intention is to allow more flexibility given the potential and real struggle we may have to get our lives back together to enable us to come to the workplace. I have asked that our supervisors work with each employee to develop a work schedule this fall that meets student needs and business operations as well as provides the flexibility needed to address real stressors such as childcare and relocation logistics. I have asked that supervisors provide you with a reasonable amount of time or hybrid work schedule that can ease the stress and adjustment of returning to the workplace. Please reach out to your supervisor/dean/VP to discuss your specific situation and let's work together in planning for our new work environment.

The "interactive process" is available for employees who have a [medical reason](#) for not returning to work this fall. The link to the form can be found [here](#).

What to Do if Someone Isn't Wearing a Mask Indoors on Campus

I have been asked this question many times and I will do my best to explain what I think we should do as a college community (since I believe mask wearing will be a part of our lives for quite some time). Currently, the District is conforming with the County of San Mateo Health Officer's order, which requires that everyone to wear a face covering (vaccinated and unvaccinated) while indoors in public areas on all district facilities. Surgical masks will be available at all division offices and your department can request additional masks through our Public Safety Office in Building 22-106 or (650) 738-7000. Similar to other district rules and regulations (like our no-smoking policy), if you see a person indoors without a mask, please inform them of our district policy and offer them a mask. If they do not comply, please inform your supervisor. If you are not comfortable approaching a person who isn't complying with our mask mandate, please inform your supervisor so they can communicate our mask requirements.

Communication and Enforcement of Student Vaccines

Students have been notified that vaccines are required and to stay tuned for more information on how to upload student vaccine information online. The District is in the process of creating student vaccine enforcement procedures. In the meantime, wearing a mask allows students to access campus and services.

Fall Hours Website

We continue to work together to ensure the health and safety of our community while Cañada begins its phased return to in-person student services. With this, we have created a [Fall Hours website](#) that provides an updated listing of campus-wide in person and remote services. In addition, we have created a sign (see attached) that will be posted around campus, directing students to the website. You are welcome to print the sign and share with your students. If your department hours have changed and need to be reflected on the [Fall Hours website](#), please send updates to canmarketing@smccd.edu.

Sad News for Cañada – Congratulations to Graciano Mendoza!

Graciano Mendoza, our Vice President of Administrative Services, will be leaving Cañada College after more than 2.5 years of service. Graciano has accepted a Vice President of Administrative Services position with Gavilan College where he will be closer to his home and family who reside in Salinas, CA. His last day at Cañada College will be September 1, 2021. I am working with the Academic Senate and CSEA leadership to appoint a small hiring committee to select an Interim Vice President of Administrative Services who will serve for the academic year. A full recruitment will be planned for next year.

Leadership Retreat

Faculty, staff, students and administrative leaders from across the campus just completed a two-day retreat to review college goals, strategic initiatives, data and metrics that benchmark our progress toward achieving our goals. More than 40 participants collaborated to identify strategic priorities for implementation during the coming academic year. I will share the key takeaways of the Retreat during the college-wide segment on Flex Day (August 17). More information about the Retreat can be found [here](#).

Enrollment Update and Persistence from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021

Cañada is experiencing deep enrollment declines this fall. Our headcount is down about 17% and enrollments are down about 18% compared to fall 2020. Our PRIE team presented more information during our August 10 [Town Hall](#) as well as during [Day 2 of our Leadership Retreat](#). Our fall to fall persistence rate overall is about 40% this year, but, among other groups, our Black Non-Hispanic, First Time Transfer and Returning Student groups are disproportionately not returning to campus this fall. Our Outreach Team and special program staff are working to reach out to students now and our counseling folks are offering drop-in hours. All Fall Hours of our student-facing services can be found [here](#).

Brown Act Virtual Meetings

As mentioned in our Town Hall, an Executive Order was recently announced for the expiration of various Executive Orders that had been issued over the pandemic, including Executive Order N-08-21 that sets a date of October 1, 2021 for public agencies to transition back from virtual to public meetings held in full compliance with the Brown Act. With recent announcements anticipating the end of certain COVID-19 related restrictions, questions have arisen as to whether flexibility to attend public meetings virtually will be continued. With this, the District is seeking guidance from County Counsel on the Brown Act extension and we will provide updates when we receive further information. Until then, we can continue our virtual format through September 30, 2021.

District Opening Day & College Flex Day

I look forward to seeing everyone at our District Opening Day and Cañada College Flex Day! District Opening Day will be held on Monday, August 16 and the day's agenda can be found [here](#). The College will hold its Flex Day on Tuesday, August 17 and the theme for the day is Recovery with Equity. With that focus in mind, the day will start with opening remarks from college leadership, reviewing our progress and ongoing challenges in addressing the needs of our students and community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The opening session will be held in a hybrid format: in-person from Building 23 as well as via Zoom.

For those who would like to join in person, there will be an opportunity to attend for opening remarks. Additional detail is included in the RSVP. All other Flex sessions will be offered through Zoom. For our morning and afternoon concurrent sessions, staff and faculty presenters have a diverse array of sessions planned. Please review the [agenda](#) and check the Flex Day [website](#) for updates.

Don't forget to RSVP!

District Opening Day, Aug. 16: [RSVP](#)
Cañada College Flex Day, Aug. 17: [RSVP](#)

Weekly Office Hours

I look forward to seeing all of you. Please join me for my weekly office hours. You can also contact me directly at lopezk@smccd.edu to set up an individual meeting.

President's In-Person Office Hour

In the President's Office, Room 8-207
Tuesdays from 3-4 p.m.

President's Virtual Office Hour

Thursdays from 3-4 p.m.
Zoom Link:

<https://smccd.zoom.us/j/86265480890?pwd=NVIjWnhML1FzeGplU2pDZFI5aVFxUT09>

I wish you all a restful weekend and look forward to seeing you, in person and virtually, next week.

Sincerely,

Kim