



SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College*

# Combined Report of the College Presidents

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## CAÑADA COLLEGE HOSTS ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT



On August 11, 48 students, faculty and classified staff leaders and administrators joined together for Cañada College's annual Leadership Retreat. Held both in-person and on Zoom this year, the event involved participants from each of the stakeholder groups that represent the College's [participatory governance framework](#). The Retreat has become part of the College's annual planning cycle.

Throughout the day, the group participated in six breakout sessions focused on key initiatives from Cañada's new Educational Master Plan. The six priority areas are:

- Make registration easier and increase the percentage of students applying for financial aid (include discussion of Basic Needs)
- Create a student-first course schedule (and a campus culture that supports completion in three years)
- Create a hub for evening and weekend students
- Reach new community members in North Fair Oaks, Belle Haven and East Palo Alto, especially BIPOC communities
- Institutionalized Support for Teaching and Learning
- Develop the College Cultural Center (Multicultural Center)

The Planning & Budgeting Council (PBC) will review and approve the next steps for operationalizing Cañada's new Educational Master Plan. Responsible individuals along with College Councils, Senates, Committees and operational groups will move to action and report regularly to PBC this year. More information, including all of the materials and notes from the Retreat, may be found [here](#).

To create greater transparency around these conversations and the College's decision-making processes generally, please find the following helpful resources: [Cañada Collaborates](#) provides information about Cañada's strategic priorities as well as contact information for key College Councils, Senates and Committees. The PBC's [Participatory Governance Manual](#) also contains important information about how the campus community works together to achieve college-wide goals and objectives.



## CAÑADA COLLEGE CELEBRATES ¡ESO! ADELANTE STUDENTS' TRANSFER TO SFSU



As part of the San Francisco State University (SFSU) - Cañada College partnership under the ¡ESO! Adelante Grant, members from the SFSU and Cañada College communities hosted the Transfer Welcome Reception and Luncheon to celebrate Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 Cañada graduates and their families. This event, held at SFSU on Friday, August 12, was the very first such event hosted at SFSU to welcome recent transfer students and 25 were in attendance including students, staff and administrators from both San Francisco State University and Cañada College. Members from the SFSU and Cañada communities also attended the reception to honor the students, including: Cañada College President Kim Lopez; Vice President of Student Services Manuel Alejandro Pérez; Interim Vice President of Instruction Chialin Hsieh, Middle College Executive Director Stephen Redmond; Director of Post-Secondary Success and the University Center Mary Ho and ¡ESO! Adelante Program Services Coordinator Nimsi Garcia.

¡ESO! Adelante is a Title V Federal Grant funded program that supports Latinx, high-need, high-potential, low-resource students in their transfer pathway to San Francisco State University through transfer support programs at Cañada College. Since the ¡ESO! Adelante Program launch in 2016, approximately 300 students have participated in the program and more than 70 ¡ESO! Adelante students have successfully transferred from Cañada College to SFSU. The goals of the ¡ESO! Adelante program, which align with Cañada College's institutional goals, are: improve academic preparedness for entering Hispanic (Latinx) students and current Hispanic (Latinx) students, improve transfer knowledge to San Francisco

State University and improve bi-institutional transfer and baccalaureate completion rates.

In addition to the ¡ESO! Adelante program, the work to increase partnerships for college preparation opportunities has also been expanded upon through the recent [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#), which strengthens the existing relationships with Sequoia Unified High School District (SUHSD), SFSU and Cal State East Bay. To celebrate this partnership and their students, on August 17, members of the SUHSD visited Cañada College and joined the Cañada team to welcome the Cañada Middle College High School students on the first day of school. The students felt the support of their high school and college leaders as they started the new school year.



## College of San Mateo

### JAZZ ON THE HILL'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN

College of San Mateo's centennial year celebration continued with the triumphant return of Jazz on the Hill. CSM hosted the free festival for the San Mateo County community on its beautiful campus on Saturday, July 23. The spectacular event drew almost 2,000 attendees for a full day of live music, dancing, and community in the perfect weather. Jazz on the



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Hill 2022 was the culmination of close collaboration between KCSM 91.1 FM, the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation, and College of San Mateo, focusing on fundraising for CSM's Promise Scholar Students through the Foundation.



*The John Santos Sextet gets the crowd up dancing during a sunny day of music, food, and fun at Jazz on the Hill 2022.*

Last held in 2016, this year's event featured arts and craft vendors, non-profit booths, food trucks, and an engaging musical lineup headlined by the Marcus Shelby Orchestra featuring Tiffany Austin for a unique two-part program. Part one focused on the rich history of Black baseball, while part two featured national rising star vocalist Tiffany Austin in a program of original arrangements by Shelby of music by Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, and George Shearing. Other performers for the day included The John Santos Sextet, Lady Bianca, Patrick Wolff and the CSM Faculty/Alumni All-Star Sextet, and KCSM's DJ Harry Duncan spinning between the live sets.

For the first time in the event's history, KCSM live-streamed the entire day's performance garnering over 19,000 listeners online in addition to the 50,000 radio listeners who were also tuned in to 91.1 FM. "The turnout at this year's Jazz on the Hill really highlighted the passion our local jazz fans have for this special event. We greatly appreciate the support of everyone involved who made the day such a success—our fans, the Foundation, CSM, and our sponsors, San Mateo Credit Union and Bay Meadows," says KCSM Manager Dante Betteo.

To view additional photos from the event, visit our [Centennial Events Jazz on the Hill](#) webpage.



*KCSM-FM Manager Dante Betteo makes an on-stage announcement at Jazz on the Hill.*

### NYT BESTSELLING AUTHOR HEATHER MCGHEE SPEAKS AT CSM'S FLEX DAY



The energy and excitement in the air as employees reconnected, engaged, and learned together during CSM's August 16 Flex Day was palpable. The morning began in the Theatre with a welcome and introduction from President Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza to hundreds of attendees. First, she introduced CSM's draft [CSM Forward 2028](#) education master plan and encouraged the campus community to provide feedback on it.



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Next, she brought the Associated Students, Academic Senate, and Classified Senate presidents on stage to offer opening remarks.



The first session continued with introducing new faculty, staff, and managers hired over the past academic year and transitioned into a ceremony honoring employees with 10, 20, and 30 years of service. After bringing all the honorees to the stage except one, SMCCCD Chancellor Mike Claire took the podium to present President Taylor-Mendoza her 10-year service award (11 years in the district). Taylor-Mendoza thanked Claire for serving CSM and the District and congratulated him on his recent retirement announcement.



Throughout the summer, CSM employees had been reading and discussing the book [\*The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together\*](#). The culmination of that investment was the opportunity for everyone to hear directly from the author, Heather McGhee. An expert in economic and social policy, McGhee is the former president of the inequality-focused think tank Demos and now chairs the board of Color of Change. Her keynote focused on the major

themes of her book, primarily how racism is the common factor of many of our country's most challenging problems and how working together through multiracial coalitions, we can generate a "solidarity dividend" that benefits all.



Following her keynote, audience questions were gathered and used during a panel discussion featuring McGhee and Taylor-Mendoza, Director of Equity David Galvez, and Academic Senate President/English Professor Jeramy Wallace. The questions and conversations that followed delved into how to incorporate McGhee's thoughtful work into institutional change that can benefit CSM students. The discussion was engaging and informative and left many employees noting that it was one of the best opening days they've ever attended.

The morning concluded with a book signing and opportunities for attendees to engage one-on-one with McGhee and each other.





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### OPENING DAY LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MELISSA MORENO TO CAMPUS (EXCERPT)

It is remarkable to think that 2022-23 is already upon us. We show up with you on Opening Day and everyday thereafter with an enormous sense of gratitude for your investment of time and energy in moving Skyline College forward and serving our students.

As an administration, we have heard numerous requests for no new major initiatives. In response, this academic year we will honor your collective requests by focusing on completing the major initiatives we have started, and the work to institutionalize them. We will also take the much-needed time to appreciate our students and each other. The following major items will be the focus of this academic year:

- Celebrating the People
- Improving the Divide in Access and Completion for our Hyper-Marginalized Populations
- Integrated Strategic Planning in Action – Launching a New Educational Master Plan, a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, an Equity Plan, and a Technology Plan
- Institutionalizing the People's College Initiative and Intergroup Dialogue
- Completing the Comprehensive Redesign
- Piloting our first "Bring Skyline to the People" Community Presence
- Reimagining Communication from Administration

This past year, together, we worked through the uncertainty of returning to campus and now we are reorienting with greater confidence that we can safely serve our students in-person and effectively manage the changing dynamics of what Covid may continue to bring. We have been through unprecedented times and I know we are stronger for it – but we have all experienced

something that took its toll on our well-being – whether it was loss, illness, burn out, or something else; and more than ever before, now is the time to show each other some love, compassion, and appreciation – so people are cared for, seen, and heard.

- **Celebrate the People!** It is in this spirit that we bring a theme to this academic year: Celebrate the People! We are planning a monthly calendar of Celebrations – where programs, departments, and divisions can share with our campus a creative and cultural presentation to honor, love and appreciate our students, your teams, and your work.
- Honoring Our Student Accomplishments and Breaking the Barriers

Our "why" is always our students. We come to work every day to serve students knowing that everything we do is meant to help our students succeed. And, through the unprecedented challenges of the past two years, our students have worked so hard and continued to succeed! While we celebrated all of their accomplishments at the most inspiring outdoor commencement – the first in Skyline College's history – let's keep up the appreciation and encouragement of our students and find new ways to break down our barriers to their success.





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### WELCOME WEEK EVENTS FOSTER CONNECTION FOR STUDENTS



The Fall Semester has started, and Skyline College has a ton of events planned as part of Welcome Week, from August 22 – 26. These events are a great way for new and returning students to connect with others and find where they belong at Skyline College – plus we'll be sharing free food and Skyline swag.



Welcome Week events will all take place at the Campus Quad or the Fireside Dining Room in Bldg. 6 and include the following:

- **A Campus Navigation Meetup & Free Breakfast** that will support students to find classes, resources, and meet their Skyline Community. This will include providing free breakfast for students who stop by!
- **A "Find Your Communities" day that explores how college is about finding yourself and where you want to go.** Students can find communities that will support them on their journey and empower them to find their people and where they fit in!
- **A day dedicated to financial aid and scholarships to help students pay for college.** They'll be able to connect with on-campus resources and programs to lessen the cost of college.
- At these events they'll also be able to discover programs and courses that reflect their interests and passions, and finally on Friday there will be a day dedicated to resources that can foster a healthy well being – plus ice cream!

Skyline College is also hosting a series of Welcome Week Sessions for various affinity groups on campus.

Students who identify as Black, Latinx, Filipinx, or are a First Generation College Student, can attend short 45-minute mixers that are a great opportunity to find community at Skyline College. All students are welcome to attend any or all of these mixers.

At each 45-minute mixer they will get the chance to hear from current students and alumni about their experiences at Skyline College. They will also get information about: the transition to college life, on-campus programs and resources, connecting with the diverse communities at Skyline College, and they'll get to meet current and former students, staff and faculty.