



## A Message from Interim President Kim Lopez

### Weekly Update 2-11-22

Dear Colleagues,

This week, the District sent communication with status updates on the COVID-19 at-home antigen tests, resources for onsite COVID-19 testing options and availability of N95 and surgical masks on campus. A copy of the message is attached. In response to the State of California's recent lift of the statewide mask mandate, the District also sent a Mask Requirement Update, which you can read in the attached message and below.

#### Mask Requirement Update

The State of California has announced that it will lift the statewide mask mandate on February 15, as scheduled. San Mateo County has announced that it will align with the State and lift the countywide mandate at the same time, but no official health orders have yet been issued.

At this time, the San Mateo County Community College District will maintain its masking requirements, to allow for appropriate time to consult with District stakeholder groups and discuss this policy matter with the Board of Trustees.

As such, all employees, students and visitors entering any District facility are required to wear a face mask in all indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status (surgical masks or higher-level respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) with good fit are recommended). Signage to this effect is posted in all buildings throughout the District. Face masks are not required only when actively eating or drinking in designated areas. Masks are widely available throughout all District and campus buildings. Follow the latest information at: <https://smccd.edu/return-to-campus/employees.php>

#### Community Forum – Today at 1 p.m.

We are in the midst of an important five-year planning process! Come help provide insights into the priorities for the College over the next five years. Join the Educational Master Planning Task Force today from 1-3 p.m. in discussing how to address challenges and opportunities. Community Forum Zoom Link: <https://>



[smccd.zoom.us/j/88130932060](https://smccd.zoom.us/j/88130932060)

### **Black History Month Events & Zoom Backgrounds**

In celebration of Black History Month, our Black Student Union (BSU) is hosting events for the entire campus community to participate in and connect. We encourage you to visit the [college event calendar](#) for the latest event updates. Please mark your calendars for Monday, February 28 at 3 p.m. where the BSU will host: AfriCañadians: Black Excellence Panel. Hear from Black higher education professionals about their experiences and lessons working in the industry. Register for the virtual event: <https://tinyurl.com/CanBHMPanel>. Additionally, in honor of Black History Month, the Marketing Department has created Zoom backgrounds for the campus community to download and use. They can be accessed [here](#).



### **Health Center Services**

Due to construction upgrades, Health Services are being offered via Zoom until further notice. The Health Center staff will be available for in-person check-in and general information about Health Services in the Upper Lawn by the Building 9 main entrance every Wednesday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### **Nominations Requested for Cañada College Classified Employee of the Year**

Each year, the Board of Governors along with the State Chancellor's Office seeks nominations from each community college district for their Classified Employee of the Year Award. In our district, the three colleges and the District Office *each* nominate one classified employee. The Board of Trustees reviews the resulting four nominations received and makes the final selection of the nominee to be forwarded to the State. Considerations for the award include a commitment to high standards of job performance and professionalism, demonstrated leadership, collaboration, knowledge, and other criteria. I encourage and invite all members of the Cañada Community (students, faculty members, and classified staff) to nominate a classified employee for our college's award. Please submit your completed nomination form (attached) to the Office of the President at [CANPresident@smccd.edu](mailto:CANPresident@smccd.edu) by Friday, February 25 at 4:30 p.m. The College Cabinet will then review the nominations and make a final selection by March 2 to ensure that we meet the deadline for submitting our nominee to the District.

**Jazmine (Jaz) Anastacio, Retention Specialist/Guided Pathways**

Please give a warm Cañada welcome to Jaz Anastacio, our new Retention Specialist for Guided Pathways. Jaz will be focused on the Art, Design & Performance Interest Area and will work closely with our other Retention Specialists and Success Team members. Jaz was breathed into life on Tamien Ohlone land, nurtured with inafa’maolek in Saipan, and is rooted by Oceanic ancestry in Belau. As a passionate student advocate, they have served various non-profits, K-12 schools, and higher education spaces by developing and sustaining culturally responsive and trauma informed programs. Though her background is primarily focused in STEAM, she is committed to restoring and centering Indigenous knowledge and practices in all respects. They are excited to serve with Guided Pathways to support Cañada students—further growing into the mentor and leader she deserved as a student herself.

We are excited to have Jaz on our growing Guided Pathways team!

**Black & Brown Career Excellence Summit – Feb. 24 & 25**

The Black & Brown Career Excellence Summit will be held virtually Feb. 24 & 25. The summit is a free event that will feature special guests and great activities for students. The summit will assist students in understanding the vast opportunities that are available to them through Workforce Development programs and college offerings. Please share this opportunity with your students.

Thank you for your hard work this week and I wish you all a restful weekend.

Sincerely,  
Kim