

SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

Combined Report of the College Presidents





CAÑADA COLLEGE HOLDS 55TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



Cañada College held its 55th Commencement Ceremony on campus in the Upper Lawn on Saturday, May 27. Energy and excitement filled the air as faculty, staff, friends and family members of the Cañada Class of 2023 honored the 527 graduates who earned a total of 533 degrees and certificates.

Of the Class of 2023:

- 276 First Generation Graduates
- 262 Hispanic Graduates
- 224 Graduates Achieved Honor Status
- 102 Promise Scholars Program Graduates
- 35 International Student Graduates
- 22 DACA/Dreamers/AB540 Graduates
- Oldest Graduate: 80-years-old
- Youngest Graduate: 16-years-old

The Class of 2023 Student Speaker was Louis Tam Tang who shared his story of successes and overcoming challenges as a Cañada College student with high-functioning autism. He said that Cañada College changed who he is as a person and his time at Cañada has been the best two years of his adulthood. Louis thanked the Cañada faculty and staff who helped him develop his career and leadership skills. He appreciates the College's welcoming, discrimination-free and caring environment where all students are accepted. Louis will be transferring to California State University, Fullerton to study Entertainment Art in the Fall 2023 semester.

The keynote speaker for Cañada's Commencement was Dr. Linda Prieto, Executive Director of Upward Scholars. As the daughter of immigrants who left México to give their children a better life, Dr. Prieto shared how she grew up in a mixed-status home, working in the agricultural fields of the central San Joaquin Valley in California. Her heart was in the classroom. In second grade, her teacher was the first person she ever heard say the word "college" – until that point in her life, Dr. Prieto didn't know anyone with more than a sixth-grade education. But, like her parents, she too believed that education could break the cycle of poverty. Dr. Prieto encouraged Cañada graduates to realize that anything is possible and to remember their responsibility to themselves, their community and to society.



The Commencement Ceremony was live-streamed and can be viewed [here](#). In addition, more than 20 end-of-year celebrations from a variety of student support and academic programs were hosted at Cañada, including the first-ever Lavender Grad Drag Brunch, which celebrated Cañada's LGBTQ+ graduates. Congratulations to the Cañada College Class of 2023!



CAÑADA COLLEGE INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY



On Friday, May 26, Cañada College celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Interior Design program and honored the students who recently completed degrees and certificates in Interior Design. The event was divided into three parts: the program's 50th Anniversary Celebration, Cañada College Interior Design Awards and the Introduction of Class of 2023 Graduates in the Interior Design program.

The 50-year celebration began with words from Cañada's Interior Design Program Coordinator, Elsa Torres, and a welcome from Cañada College President, Kim Lopez. The program began in 1973 and many memories and stories were shared by past and current faculty members. Highlights included:

- The 1970s and 1980s were presented by Professor Emerita Dr. Nancy Wolford with a special [video](#).
- Professor Sharon Kasser presented the 1990s, a decade when computers were first used for design drawings. The Interior Design program faced some challenges with the retirement of Dr. Genevieve Cory after more than 20 years of building and leading the program. A special scholarship was created in honor of Dr. Cory and is a scholarship that continues to be offered to this day. Professor Anjana Joshi presented the 2000s, a decade of many changes and growth for the Interior Design program. With the

advancement of technology, the number of enrollments in the program also increased and there were waitlists for classes. Cañada's former Interior Design student and adjunct faculty member, Anne Marie Jordan, was featured on the cover of San Francisco Chronicle's Home & Garden section, which further increased class demand, as the article mentioned the highlighted the Cañada College Interior Design program.

- Closing the 50th Anniversary Celebration, Professor Elsa Torres presented the years 2010 to the present day. This was a decade of great growth and also some changes for the Interior Design program. In the year 2013, Dr. Wolford retired and Elsa Torres became the program coordinator. Happiness and pride were felt by the event attendees as well as students and staff of the Interior Design program.

The second part of the evening featured Interior Design students who were honored with notable awards and scholarships including: Dulce Herrejon who was awarded the Toby Merman Memorial Interior Design Scholarship and Sergii Zhorzholiani, who was awarded the Dr. Genevieve Cory Scholarship.

The third and final portion of the event was a beautiful graduation celebration for students in the Interior Design program. This year, 24 students were awarded Associate of Science degrees in Interior Design, 17 students received certificates in Interior Design, 14 students received certificates in Home Staging and 13 students received certificates in Kitchen & Bath Design.



The Cañada College Interior Design program has come a long way in 50 years, consistently evolving to meet the changing needs and requirements of the Interior Design industry. The

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50th Anniversary celebration honored the past and looks forward to the next 50 years in preparing students for the skills needed to accomplish their goals and prepare for work in Interior Design. This fall, the Interior Design program will begin its 51st year in its new, state-of-the-art, renovated classroom spaces in Building 13. In the space, students and instructors will enjoy the updated design and technology that are incorporated to enhance teaching and learning and prepare students for the interior design profession.

College of San Mateo

CSM EQUITY-FOCUSED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPANDS WITH TWO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Practices Innovation and Best Practices Grant

The California Community College Chancellor's Office Institutional Effectiveness Division (IE) recently awarded College of San Mateo a \$299,231 Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Practices Innovation and Best Practices Grant (CRPP IBP Grant).

The CRPP IBP Grant supports CSM's efforts to build anti-racist practices in the classroom, curriculum, policies, and culture. The College will utilize the funding to expand intersectional-focused equity and social justice training opportunities for faculty members. College of San Mateo has centered anti-racism and equity as a core professional development focus during the 2022-2023 academic year for all employees, and the 2023-2024 year will expand to focus on belonging, identity, and equity.

CRPP IBP Grants are competitive, one-time grants to aid institutions that develop innovative Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)-minded and culturally competent professional development training for faculty. Training focuses specifically on nurturing the development of culturally responsive pedagogy and classroom practices for disproportionately impacted and underrepresented

communities. The CRPP IBP Grant aims to develop DEIA-focused professional development opportunities to upskill faculty and successfully expand their capacities to serve students, improving students' experiences and outcomes.



*These new professional development opportunities will build on the equity-focused work done through the 2022-23 academic year that began with a campus visit by Heather McGhee, bestselling author of *The Sum of Us*, in August 2022.*

Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative - Partnership Resource Team Visit

College of San Mateo is excited to welcome a Partnership Resource Team (PRT) this fall as part of the State Chancellor's Office Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI). The team will conduct three visits to support CSM in developing a strategic equity and justice-focused professional development plan. Drawn primarily from statewide community college personnel, membership of the visiting team will be based on a process that matches members' knowledge and experience with CSM's goal to build this professional development plan.

The three visits will help the team understand current issues, develop solutions, and advance best practices through the following:

1. An initial gathering of information.
2. Assisting the institution in developing improvement strategies and timelines via an Innovation and Effectiveness Plan.
3. Providing follow-up support.

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The hope is for the equity and justice professional development plan to meet each employee at the level at which they are entering equity work, considering their level of commitment and/or experience. The plan centers on intersectional approaches to anti-racism, their role, and specific functions. It would also include intentional development around other communities who may be marginalized due to disability, sex and gender, sexual orientation, religion, income, immigration status, veteran status, and carceral history.

CSM aims to move beyond a “hand-out” culture or the generic “band-aid” response to the negative experiences of marginalized students. The goal is to radically transform the institution to center those most impacted by White supremacy, patriarchy, and capitalism; to transform the institution fundamentally, CSM must start with changing employees’ understanding, skills, and contributions at all levels of the College, including managers, faculty, staff, and student employees.

Lessons learned through this process will be reported out in statewide venues, such as the RP Group Student Success Conference; Academic Senate Plenary; CCLC Annual Conference; and the ACCCA Conference.



CSM faculty, staff, and administrators participate in an interactive workshop (the third in a series based on Heather McGhee’s book *The Sum of Us*) focused on multi-racial coalition building during CSM’s April 2023 Flex Day morning session.

BOARD GOALS UPDATE: INNOVATION, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENTATION

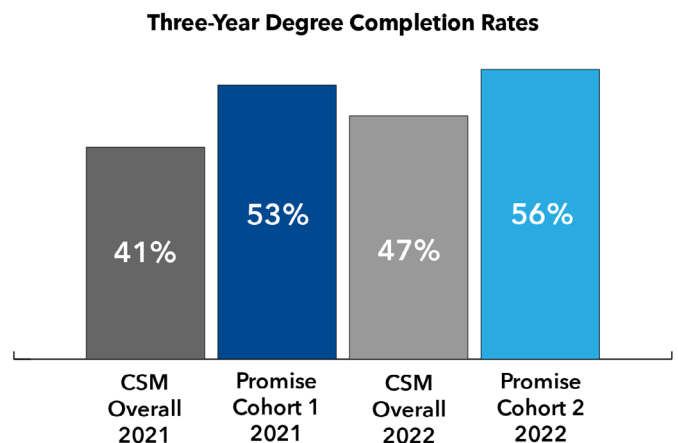
College of San Mateo aligns institutional goals with District priorities to increase student achievement from registration to commencement.

Board Goal #1: *Develop and strengthen educational offerings, interventions, and support programs that increase student access, success, and completion.*

CSM Promise Scholars Program

The CSM Promise Scholars Team continues to build and strengthen the program to support students through counseling sessions, workshops, and collaboration with other campus programs and services. The team onboarded 515 students in the 2022-2023 academic year and expanded to serve 950 students annually. Of these 950 students, 498 are enrolled in summer courses with an average of six units.

The Promise Scholars Program (PSP) hosted their second ever in-person graduation celebration on Wednesday, May 17, where the team celebrated over 130 graduating Promise Scholars in a special ceremony. Students and their families joined Promise counselors and staff to celebrate their accomplishments. The Promise Scholars Program continues to make significant impacts and progress; this year they celebrated their Fall-to-Spring persistence rate averages of 92%.



Sources: CSM Promise Program, CCCC Student Right-to-Know Disclosure website

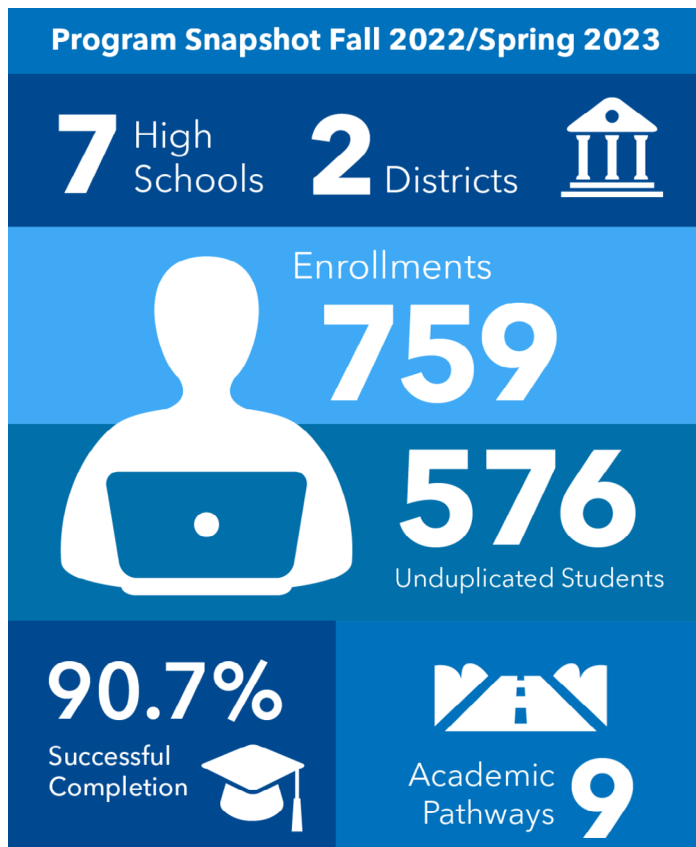
An orientation for incoming students will be held on Wednesday, July 26.

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Board Goal #2: *Establish and expand relationships with school districts, 4-year college partners, and community-based organizations and employers to increase higher education attainment and economic mobility in San Mateo County.*

Dual Enrollment

This year College of San Mateo focused on delivering high levels of service. We reengaged internal campus partners, collaborating in ways that reaffirmed the college's commitment to powerful student-centered partnerships and programs. The college has increased access for students who do not see themselves going to college and established a shared vision with San Mateo Union High School District and Cabrillo Unified School District grounded in equity and social justice.



College of San Mateo's Dual Enrollment Program continues to expand course offerings while evaluating programming with an equity-centered approach. The program uses data on a term-by-term basis to drive decisions, make updates to programming, and address gaps to meet the needs of our students and partners. We are continually committed to aligning our

evaluation efforts with high school district dual enrollment leaders through regular meetings, retreats, and professional development experiences to align goals, objectives, and benchmarks.

In the fall, CSM is excited to launch new program components to include Pathway Team Meetings with partner high school teachers, monthly Dual Enrollment Faculty Community of Practices, and dynamic parent and family engagement strategies, to name a few.

Over the next two academic years, CSM will work to expand dual enrollment programming to serve 2,000 students in the 2023-2024 academic year and 3,000 students in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Board Goal #3: *Promote innovation and excellence in instruction to support student learning and success.*

Zero Textbook Cost/Open Educational Resources

In the 2022-2023 academic year, CSM began establishing a Zero Textbook Cost/Open Educational Resources (ZTC/OER) program by forming an employee team to focus on implementation. The team includes the vice president of instruction, two instructional designers, two librarians, professional development faculty coordinator, bookstore manager, and the dean of academic support and learning technologies.

This past spring, CSM surveyed faculty and students on their ZTC/OER preferences and awareness. Sixty percent of CSM students reported they are aware of ZTC/OER designations. Since then, the team has worked to further educate the campus community through one-on-one meetings with faculty, flex day workshops, presentations at committee meetings, and developing an OER basics self-paced Canvas course. In addition, the professional development faculty coordinator has developed training to educate existing faculty on the basics of utilizing ZTC/OER resources as well as incorporating this into CSM's New Faculty Institute to engage newly hired faculty to begin adopting OER/ZTC resources as a part of their onboarding.

Through the summer and fall, CSM will host a student campaign, provide faculty training that will be offered in multiple modalities, and study ZTC degree mapping to identify (and create) program pathways that can be completed with zero

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textbook costs. As faculty become adopters, a “train the trainer” professional development model will be implemented with plans to train forty faculty and create division leads to support the adoption of OER/ZTC across disciplines. From there, we will begin to develop budgets and plans for implementation, assessment, and communication, with implementation beginning at the start of the 2023-2024 academic year.



SKYLINE COLLEGE CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2023



Skyline College celebrated its 2023 graduating class on May 26, 2023. The ceremony was held outside at Skyline College's Track & Field, with over 1,000 attendees cheering on the students and faculty.

The ceremony began with a procession of students and faculty, led by Faculty Marshals Nathaniel Navado and Danielle Powell. Graduate Madison Schoening sang “Keep Your Head Up” to the crowd, inspiring the next generation of students on their next step in their life journey.

Skyline College Acting President, Mr. Joseph Morello, delivered the commencement address. He shared a moment

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of silence for a beloved faculty member who passed after last year's commencement, Carmen Richardson. He then acknowledged the beautiful location of Skyline College and recognized the indigenous peoples of this region with a land acknowledgement.

During his address, Mr. Morello shared that 1,558 academic awards were awarded this year. Five hundred and seven students received honors, including 154 students with cum laude distinctions, 323 with magna cum laude distinctions, and 3 with summa cum laude distinctions. Three hundred twenty graduates were from the Promise Scholars Program. While 635 students were the first in their family to graduate from college. This year there were 50 veterans receiving degrees and certificates from Skyline College; 27 international students were receiving degrees and 31 certificates; in addition, 36 undocumented students graduated this year. To close out Mr. Morello honored student parents.



Mr. Morello offered the following advice to the graduates: "Remember this feeling." He encouraged everyone to "remember the sense of fulfillment and completion" and that in sports it is called "the cool of the evening for a job well done." He asked the graduates to ask themselves "why do I feel this way?" The graduates were asked to reflect on their difficulties and their abilities to overcome them. He reminded students that "the empowerment they feel for accomplishing their goal of earning a degree will give them the confidence to face and overcome any challenges and obstacles that lay before them. What students learned at Skyline College will be with them at every step of the way."

Following Mr. Morello's address, student speaker Aryssa Muhammad, shared that she has attended Skyline College since she was 15 years old. As an engineer, Aryssa grappled with her place in the field. She reminded her peers: "As much as we need education, education desperately needs us. Education needs diversity. Our experiences and background contributes far more to the education system than an essay we wrote or an equation we solved ever will.... Education needs us to be that representation for minoritized communities who have not been given the proper resources to succeed.... Just because we haven't been represented doesn't mean we can't be. And my small contribution will make a difference.... An education with diversity produces humanity, which is why I am proud to graduate from Skyline College. Before I go, I would like to thank the amazing Skyline faculty, the Black Student Union, Brianna Clay, and Brittney Sneed for inspiring in me a passion for equity and diversity. I would also like to thank the two strongest women I will ever know, my mom and my grandmother."

The ceremony concluded with the awarding of degrees and certificates to the graduates.

Graduates then each crossed the stage to receive their diploma and turned their tassels.

Congratulations to the Skyline College Class of 2023!

Please make sure to watch the amazing highlight video and check out some of the photos from the day of commencement.

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SKYLINE COLLEGE GIVES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS A TASTE OF COLLEGE LIFE



Strategic Partnerships & Workforce Development (SPWD) and partners from Skyline College hosted a successful College and Career Day on May 10, 2023. This event was designed to engage Culinary and Health Science students from Woodside HS, Menlo Atherton HS, and Sequoia HS.

The event began with a welcoming message from Dr. Lauren Ford, Interim Dean of SPWD, and a keynote presentation by Jenem Martin, Director of Bon Appetit Management. Martin shared valuable insights into the food industry, captivating the audience. Other engagement included culinary students experiencing plant-based cooking from The Vegan Hood Chefs, Ronnishia Johnson and Rheema Calloway, and getting to explore their food truck. Health Science students gained practical training in surgical and respiratory care from Professor Franciosa Deal and Heather Esparza, Director of Allied Health.

The high school students also participated in mock interviews and received constructive feedback from professionals. A panel discussion featuring six accomplished Skyline College students – William Hernandez, Sara Morrison, Daniel Giraldo Aristizabal, Armand Benedicto, Serena Ng and Nina Kelley – provided insights on college life and career preparation. Rounding out the event, approximately 80 students left with renewed excitement

for their career paths. Skyline College remains committed to bridging the academic and the professional worlds together to enhance student success.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Lauren Ford, Jenem Martin, Ronnishia Johnson, Rheema Calloway, Faith Velschow, Heather Esparza, Franciosa Deal, Robert J. Lopez Jr., Alexa Moore, Brittney Sneed, Jasmine Jaciw, Angelique Fuentes, Derek Allenby, Jeremy Evangelista, and our six student panelists—William Hernandez, Sara Morrison, Daniel Giraldo Aristizabal, Armand Benedicto, Serena Ng and Nina Kelley. This event empowered the visiting high school students with valuable knowledge

