



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

### Weekly Update: 3-3-23

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

#### **Cañada College Listed #40 in 100 Best Community Colleges in America**

Cañada College was named among the top-40 community colleges in the nation by [Stacker](#), an online publication that looked at data from Niche's 2023 Best Community Colleges in America. The data used to compile a list of the top 100 community colleges nationwide was based on: rigorous analysis of academic, financial and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education, along with reviews from students and alumni. Read more about the recognition [here](#).



#### **College Accreditation Report (Midterm) Draft Available for Review & Feedback**

The Accreditation Steering Committee and Writing Team have posted [a draft](#) of the Midterm Report being prepared for the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on [the College's Accreditation Website](#). Please feel free to review it and provide [Feedback via this Form](#) by April 12. The team will address all feedback and produce a final draft by the end of April. Please contact [Dean Engel](#), the College's Accreditation Liaison Officer, with any questions.

#### **Save the Dates and Submit Questions for VPI Finalist Forums**

Please save the dates for the upcoming Campus Forums (held both in-person and over Zoom) to meet the finalist candidates for our Vice President of Instruction. The forums will be held on Monday, March 20 and Tuesday, March 21; times of the Forums will be announced soon. For our campus community members who are unable to attend the live forums, recordings will be available for viewing after the forums conclude.

We are also collecting questions to ask the finalist candidates at the Forums and invite the campus community to submit questions for consideration [here](#) by 3 p.m. on Monday, March 13. All feedback will remain confidential.

### **Colts Soccer Players Continue Careers at Universities**

Congratulations to Ethan Castillo and Yara Gomez Zavala who became the latest Colts to sign on at the four-year level. Castillo, who plays for the Cañada Men's Soccer Team, is headed to Ottawa University in Surprise, Arizona to continue his playing career. Gomez Zavala, who plays for the Cañada Women's Soccer Team, is transferring to Sonoma State University to continue her soccer career after being a two-time All Coast selection and conference player of the year for the Colts.



### **Did You Attend SMCCCD? We'd Like to Hear from You!**

The Cañada Marketing Department is looking for former Cañada College and/or SMCCCD students to share their [stories](#). [Please complete this form](#) and tell us why Cañada College is a great place to learn (and even work). Your story may be used for future marketing purposes, including on social media. For questions please contact [canmarketing@smccd.edu](mailto:canmarketing@smccd.edu).



### **Open Education Week - March 6-10**

Open Education Week 2023 is nearly here! March 6-10 is Open Education Week, a celebration of all things open! The SMCCCD Textbook Affordability Solutions Workgroup has information about open educational resources, webinars on numerous topics and more. We are proud to host Coffee Talk with Board President Lisa Petrides on Tuesday, March 7; please see the flyer for more information or visit the Open Education Week website: <https://tinyurl.com/SMCCCD-OEW2023>



### **Community Paint Days for the Cañada College Mural**

The time has arrived! Cañada College's historic first mural is ready to be painted by YOU. Come be a part of this milestone and join in on community paint days. Everyone is welcome! You can learn more about our mural's history and sign up for community paint days [here](#).

We also acknowledge that weather is always changing, so to consider everyone's safety, health, time and commute, our Mural Committee will announce at 4 p.m. the night before a Community Paint Day if a paint session is canceled due to inclement weather conditions.

We can't wait to paint this mural with you! The Cañada College mural is a visual story, a story of us, grounded in social justice and informed by you. The intent of this student-led project was to create a welcoming environment rooted in social justice. More than 35 students, faculty, staff and administrators participated in the campus-wide mural design process. This process included three multi-hour workshops with our art partner Precita Eyes and lead muralist Francisco Franco. The collage of images has been created to represent our core values. Our core values in this mural project are the following: social justice, liberation, cultural empathy, and academic success.



### **Cañada College Classified Employee of the Year – Nominations Due March 6**

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. If you wish to nominate someone, please review the award criteria and complete the attached nomination form. Please note that there are five questions requiring a narrative reply. I realize that you may not have all the information about the employee you wish to nominate, but please try to complete the form as best as you can. Because of the very short time we have to provide our nominee to the Board of Trustees, all nominations must be received by Monday, March 6 at 4:30 p.m. Please submit your completed nomination form to the Office of the President at [CANPresident@smccd.edu](mailto:CANPresident@smccd.edu). The College Cabinet will then review the nominations and make a final selection by March 8 to ensure that we meet the deadline for submitting our nominee to the District.

### **President's Student Leadership Award – Nominations Due March 24**

At this year's Commencement Ceremony, one student will be recognized for outstanding scholarship and leadership. We welcome your nomination of the student who you believe reflects the spirit of this award, embodies its positive attributes, and meets its criteria:

- has made meaningful contributions to the lives of students, his/her community, and/or Cañada College
- demonstrates outstanding academic achievement
- reflects a committed pursuit of educational goals
- demonstrates leadership qualities that represent the values and mission of the College
- achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher
- is a graduating student in Summer 2022, Fall 2022, or Spring 2023.

Please attach a Word document describing the nominee's involvement and accomplishments relevant to the award criteria. Please submit your completed nomination form with supporting page(s) attached, to the [Office of the President](#) by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 2023.



I hope you enjoy your weekend and stay warm!

Sincerely,

Kim