



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

### **Weekly Update: 1-31-25**

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

### **Update on Federal Financial Aid and Executive Order**

Earlier this week, SMCCCD District Communications sent a message (attached) clarifying that the January 27 memo ([M-25-13](#)) from the Federal Government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which announced a "Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance," did not impact students' federal financial aid. On January 28, it was announced that the order attempting to freeze federal aid spending had been rescinded. The San Mateo County Community College District and the California Community College Chancellor's Office will continue monitoring federal executive actions, and SMCCCD Communications will provide updates to our community as needed.

### **Cañada in the Community: Belle Haven Teen College & Career Day**

Last Saturday, Cañada College proudly participated in the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) first Teen College & Career Day. The event welcomed approximately 100 students of all ages, along with their parents, who explored various post-graduation options. Participants had the opportunity to connect with representatives from UCs, CSUs, private and community colleges, military organizations, and vocational schools. Cañada College was honored to host a financial aid workshop, which drew significant interest from families. Attendees asked insightful questions, highlighting their eagerness to plan for the future. The Cañada team was delighted to see students from not only high schools but also middle and elementary schools. One memorable moment was a conversation with a father of a fourth grader who inquired about resources for students with disabilities. He shared, "It's never too early to start researching." Thank you to BHCC for hosting this wonderful event and for including us in such an impactful day!



## **EOPS, CARE, NEXTUP, and FYSI Resource Fair**

On Wednesday, students gathered for the EOPS, CARE, NEXTUP and FYSI Resource Fair to learn about the many support services available on campus, including transportation assistance, food resources and academic support. Students connected with program leads, explored eligibility and discovered ways to maximize these resources. To wrap up the event, students enjoyed delicious flautas provided by La Corneta Taqueria! Thank you to everyone who joined and helped make this event a success.



## **Pescadero High Students Visit Cañada College for an Engaging Campus Experience**

Also on Wednesday, 16 students and staff from Pescadero High School visited Cañada College, where they received a warm welcome from Vice President of Instruction, Chialin Hsieh, and Dean of Business, Design and Workforce, Alex Kramer. During their visit, Mayra Arellano, Director of High School Transition and Dual Enrollment, introduced them to the College's programs, while Promise Counselor, Daryan Chan, delivered an inspiring presentation on transfer pathways. Student received a campus tour which included a visit to their former ETHN 108 instructor Jaime Barajas' class and the EOPS Open House. Before heading back to Pescadero, the group enjoyed lunch in The Grove with their BUS 150 instructor, Mark Walker. They wrapped up their visit with a fun scavenger hunt, where they won prizes generously donated by the Cañada College Bookstore.



## Shōgatsu: A Joyous Japanese New Year

Yesterday's Shōgatsu celebration at the Cultural Center was a lively and immersive experience, showcasing the rich traditions and history of the Japanese New Year. Attendees delighted in tasting osechi ryōri, special holiday dishes symbolizing prosperity and good fortune. A hands-on mini mochitsuki allowed participants to try their hand at pounding mochi rice, adding a fun and interactive element to the event. The celebration offered a meaningful opportunity to learn about and appreciate the deep cultural traditions of Shōgatsu.





## Celebrating Black History Month

February is Black History Month and Cañada College is hosting events to honor the rich cultural heritage, remarkable achievements and lasting contributions of the Black community. Be sure to check the [college calendar](#) regularly, as new [events](#) will be added throughout the month. Additionally, [Zoom backgrounds](#) are available for download to join in the celebration.

Upcoming Black History Month Events:

Saturday, February 8

[West African Dance Class: Equity Excursion](#)

12:30pm - 5:30pm

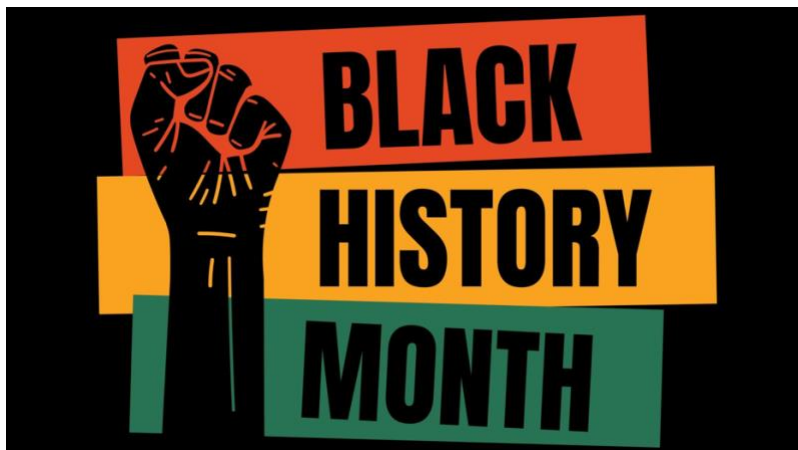
Oakland, CA

Tuesday, February 11

[Acts of Reparation Documentary Film Viewing and Live Q&A with the Directors](#)

2:00pm - 5:00pm

Building 3, Main Theater



## **Breanna Castro, Director of Financial Aid Services**

Congratulations to Breanna Castro who will join Cañada College as the new Director of Financial Aid Services on February 3. Breanna has 10 years of Financial Aid experience and have been the Financial Aid Technical Support Specialist at Cañada College for five years. Breanna has a master's degree in Counseling with a specialization in College Student Personnel from San Francisco State University. As a first-generation college student, she is committed to fostering student success and ensuring the cost of education doesn't prevent students from their right to a quality education. Breanna is excited to continue working with the amazing Financial Aid team and supporting Cañada students. Outside of Financial Aid, Breanna enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, reading and going on hikes.



## **Do You Have an Event to Share with the Cañada Campus Community?**

[Submit an event](#) to our college event calendar! If the event is open to the entire campus community, it can be shared in a future What's Happening at Cañada email. Events submitted by 10 a.m. on Friday will be considered in What's Happening at Cañada the following week. The What's Happening at Cañada email is sent to Cañada students and employees.

I wish you a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Sincerely,  
Kim