



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update 10-17-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Program Review & Resource Requests Due in Nuventive TODAY

Programs submitting comprehensive program reviews annual updates and/or resource requests this year: please be sure you have uploaded and saved everything in Nuventive by the end of the day today, Friday, October 17, 2025. Questions? Please contact the PBC Program Review Sub-Committee: canprogramreview@smccd.edu. Thank you!

New College Equity Plan Available for Public Comment until October 22

Please take some time to review the Draft Student Equity & Achievement Plan (SEAP) [here](#). Everyone is welcome to comment directly on the draft, as this is a living document. We welcome all feedback provided before Wednesday, October 22 so that all updates can be made. Questions? Email our EAPC Tri-Chairs at eapc.can@smccd.edu.

Cañada College Co-Hosts Annual College, Career & Community Fair

Last week, Cañada College co-hosted and co-presented the Annual College, Career & Community Fair at Sequoia High School. In collaboration with College Advising Prep, Pal Center and Redwood City Parks, Recreation & Community Services, the event provided students and parents with opportunities to connect with representatives from CSU, UC, private and community colleges, as well as explore internships, career paths and community resources. More than 275 students, parents, and community members attended the fair.



National Coming Out Day

The Brave Space Collective and Cultural Center hosted National Coming Out Day with mole enchiladas, crochet, clay and critical conversations on identity and becoming. After deep story-sharing, the community discussed action planning to support the LGBTQIA2SP+ community. We have several students wanting to start up the Gender Sexuality Alliance, let us know if you're interested in supporting! Email CANBraveSpaceCollective@smccd.edu.



Promise Scholars and EOPS Students Explore Careers at Electronic Arts

Counselors José Manzo and Danny Lynch, supported by EOPS Retention Specialist Diego Zevallos, led Promise Scholars and EOPS students on a field trip to Electronic Arts (EA) for a hands-on career exploration experience. Students toured the EA campus, explored the history of video games and participated in an engaging career panel featuring professionals from game design, engineering, communications, finance and marketing. The visit concluded with lunch at the EA café, where students connected with staff and peers—gaining valuable insight and inspiration for their own career paths.



Engaging Resistance: Cañada Team at the Leading From the Middle Academy

Cañada College's 2025–26 Leading From the Middle (LFM) team is designing a professional development framework that connects job-specific training with the College's commitment to equity and antiracism. The goal is to ensure that every employee faculty, staff and administrators has access to the skills, resources and reflective spaces needed to serve students with excellence and empathy. Cañada's LFM Team: Candice Johnson, Jacky Ip, Ritu Malhotra, Alessandra Zanassi, Michiko Kealoha, Adriana Lugo and Anniqua Rana. During the fall academy, participants explored conflict-resolution styles, resistance theory and the "five pillars" of persuasive communication. These interactive sessions encouraged participants to reframe resistance as engagement and to lead with understanding and courage. Dr. Michiko Kealoha shared how the initiative-pitch and "defeatist" workshop sparked ideas for upcoming equity projects, while Dr. Ritu Malhotra described the experience as "energizing and hands-on," deepening her confidence in leading through resistance. The team's work will guide future professional development opportunities at Cañada, strengthening a culture of collaboration, reflection and continuous improvement.



Diwali: Festival of Lights Brings Community Together

Cañada College celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, on Monday, at the Cultural Center. Students, faculty and staff came together to learn about the traditions and cultural significance of the holiday while enjoying a warm and festive atmosphere. Attendees decorated diyas, created colorful rangoli designs, made paper lanterns, and shared delicious food. The celebration offered a meaningful way for the campus community to honor cultural traditions, foster connection and embrace the spirit of light, joy and togetherness.





Transfer Day

Cañada College's Transfer Day on Tuesday welcomed more than 150 students to learn about what universities had to offer! Representatives from 37 universities, including UC, CSU, private and out-of-state schools, were present, offering valuable information and guidance. The event was a great success, helping students make informed decisions about their transfer options.





National Financial Aid Day

Cañada College celebrated National Financial Aid Day by welcoming students to connect with the Financial Aid Services team and learn more about financial aid and scholarship opportunities. The event highlighted the simple steps to applying for aid and encouraged students to take advantage of the resources available to support their academic journey. Attendees enjoyed food, fun games and the chance to win exciting prizes while engaging with staff and peers in a supportive, informative setting.



Aztec Dance Performance

On Wednesday, the Cultural Center, in collaboration with Calpulli Tonalehqueh, presented an Aztec Dance Performance at the Main Theater. Calpulli Tonalehqueh, a San José –based group, is dedicated to nurturing healing through the reconnection and sharing of Indigenous cultural identity and ancestral knowledge. During the event, dancers honored their traditions through storytelling and movement, performing in vibrant regalia that brought ancestral narratives and community spirit to life.



Menlo Park Site Open House

Yesterday, the College welcomed more than 40 guests to a Community Open House at its Menlo Park site, located at JobTrain. The event featured a site tour, lunch and networking opportunities, while highlighting recent updates to the Menlo Park location and showcasing Cañada's programs and partnerships.





Mural Project Kicks Off Undocumented Student Success Week

This week marked *Undocumented Student Success Week* across California! Yesterday, the Undocumented Community Center hosted a special celebration featuring a community mural painting session, where students, staff and community members came together to leave their mark on a collaborative mural that will soon be displayed in the center. The event also featured resources, t-shirts, buttons and art posters for attendees to take home, making it a fun and engaging way to connect and celebrate. In the second part of our celebration, participants explored their creativity through a linoleum printmaking activity, designing prints on totes and bags to keep as personal pieces of art. It was inspiring to see our community come together to honor the resilience, creativity, and success of undocumented students!



I wish you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim