



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update 10-31-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Holiday Gathering – Please RSVP by Dec. 1

The entire college community is invited to the Campus Holiday Gathering! Mix and mingle over light refreshments and merriment.

Monday, December 8 from 12 to 1:30 p.m.
Building 8 Lobby

Please RSVP [here](#) by December 1.



Final Approval of Accreditation Report

On Wednesday, November 5, Cañada's [Planning & Budgeting Council](#), which serves as the Accreditation Oversight Committee for Cañada College, will be voting on whether or not to approve the College's [Institutional Self Evaluation Report](#) and recommend that the President forward it to the Board of Trustees for their approval. Any questions or suggestions about the document before this Friday, please email [Dean Engel](#).

Student Equity and Achievement Program Plan for Review

Please take some time to review the Student Equity and Achievement Program Plan [here](#). This Report can also be found on the College's SEAP [website](#). On Wednesday, November 5, 2025 PBC will be voting on whether or not to approve this document and recommend that the President forward it to the Board of Trustees for their approval at their meeting. Any questions or suggestions, please email Dr. Michiko Kealoha.

Supervisor Feedback Available in Nuventive Today after 5 p.m.

Programs submitting comprehensive program reviews, annual updates and/or resource requests this year: feedback from Supervisors, Deans, or VPs [will be available in Nuventive by the end of the day today](#), October 31, 2025. Programs have one week to address this feedback and make any final changes to their submittals before the final deadline of Friday, November 7, at 5 p.m. Questions? Please contact the PBC Program Review Sub-Committee: canprogramreview@smccd.edu.

Phi Theta Kappa Fall Leadership Conference Inspires Student Growth and Connection

Cañada College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Chapter, Beta Zeta Nu, co-hosted PTK's annual Fall Leadership Conference alongside Skyline College. The conference brought together students from across California and Nevada to explore professional development, transfer opportunities, and scholarships. This year, Cañada's PTK students are focusing their Honors in Action (HIA) Project on the theme "The Power of Stories." Dean of Enrollment Services Dr. Wissem Bennani opened the conference, joined by alumni Katherine Ramirez and Alex Garcia, who shared how storytelling and AI have shaped their career journeys.





Día de los Muertos: Calaveras & Flores Crafting (Morning Event)

On Tuesday, students and staff gathered in the Cultural Center to celebrate Día de los Muertos and honor loved ones through art, reflection and community. The event featured a presentation by Jasmin Padilla Valencia from the UCC and Mario Acuña from the Cultural Center, along with face painting, flower decorating and calavera crafts. A special thanks to student ambassadors, who handcrafted beautiful resin flowers and skulls ahead of the event to decorate the altar. Participants placed their pieces on the altar while reflecting on loved ones who have passed, taking a moment of remembrance in the restorative space. The morning concluded with coffee, chocolate, tea and traditional seasonal sweet bread pastries.





Día de los Muertos Evening Celebration

Later that evening, students, staff and community members gathered in the Main Theater for a powerful Día de los Muertos performance by Casa Círculo Cultural, featuring sixteen acts of storytelling, dance and song. Opening words were shared by President Kim Lopez, Dr. Michiko Kealoha (Office of Equity), Jasmin Padilla Valencia (UCC), student Ziara (ASSC) and student Angel (Cultural Center), with Mario Acuña from the Cultural Center serving as bilingual master of ceremonies. The event also included face painting, traditional food and a community mural activity led by Jasmin. Now in its third year, this collaboration between Casa Círculo Cultural, the Cultural Center, ASSC and volunteers continues to honor loved ones and celebrate culture, memory and community.





A Dystopian Delight at “Librarian on the Loose”

Yesterday, the Cañada College Library hosted a special Librarian on the Loose pop-up featuring a chilling theme, dystopian novels. Students stopped by The Grove to explore tales of horror, chaos and collapsing societies, just in time for Halloween. From modern favorites to timeless classics, readers discovered thought-provoking titles that remind us why we “fear the future...but check it out anyway.” It was the perfect pre-Halloween warm-up, filled with spooky vibes, curious minds and plenty of great reads to take home.



Spook-tacular Fun at Cañada’s Halloween Celebration

The Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC) hosted a fun and festive Halloween celebration yesterday in The Grove. Students enjoyed an afternoon filled with free food, games and club booths, all adding to the excitement of the season.

Many came dressed in creative costumes and joined the raffle for a chance to win one of three special prizes. The event was filled with laughter, community and Halloween spirit. A truly spook-tacular way to celebrate the season on campus!



CARES Team Raises Awareness with “CARE Bears” Campus Walk

Yesterday, the CARES Team walked around campus dressed as CARE Bears to raise awareness about the [CARES Team](#), sharing information and gummy bears with staff and students. Cañada College is committed to the health and safety of its students, faculty and staff and to maintaining a safe environment. In doing so, the College has established a CARES Team - Cañada Assessment, Response and Evaluation of Students - to provide assistance to anyone on campus. The CARES Team includes an Academic Counselor, a Personal Counselor, the Director of Disability Resource Center, the Dean of Counseling, Public Safety Representatives and the VPSS Executive Assistant.

When should you file a CARES report?

- Personal safety is a concern
- A student's behavior suggests acute personal distress
- There is a pattern of disruptive or concerning behavior

Link to file a CARE Report: <https://www.canadacollege.edu/cares/filereport.php>.

The campus community can also reach out to the Vice President of Student Services for support at (650) 306-3318 or canvpss@smccd.edu.



Business Cards Now Available Through Staples Advantage

Cañada College employees can now order business cards through StaplesAdvantage.com as part of the District's transition from SKYGAP. A user guide is attached to help you navigate the ordering process, along with a FAQ document for quick reference. For questions on print, please contact canmarketing@smccd.edu. For questions to set up an account, please contact canbusinessoffice@smccd.edu

Publication of Cañada's OER/ZTC Journey

[Cañada's OER/ZTC journey](#) is part of [Open Educational Resources Research Case Studies](#), a collection of case studies exploring how scholars, practitioners and administrators design and implement research on open education. The book, published by [DOERS](#), highlights the ways faculty, staff and institutional leaders across higher education in the United States and Canada investigate the impact of open educational resources and open educational practices on student success. By gathering real-world examples from a wide range of institutional contexts, this collection provides models, insights and shared language to guide others conducting similar research. Cañada's journey has been showcased as a potential model for other colleges, particularly community colleges, as they start up their OER/ZTC programs and increase buy-in from the entire campus community. Open Educational Resources Research Case Studies is licensed CC BY 4.0 and available as both a digital and print copy as October 30.

Whistleblower Reporting System

SMCCCD has introduced a confidential third-party system for reporting fraud, waste or abuse. Reports can be made at (833) 416-6409 or through the [Whistleblower Portal](#). Workplace or discrimination concerns should go to HR or the Title IX office.

Have a wonderful weekend and a Happy Halloween!



Sincerely,
Kim