



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 2-28-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Honoring Our Students and Faculty members

At Wednesday's Board meeting, we paid tribute to Black History Month, celebrated of our Men's Soccer team for reaching the 3C2A State Championships and recognized of our newest tenured faculty members. Please join me in congratulating Marcos Chacon, Eddy Harris, Michael Limm, Kiran Malavade and Jose Manzo on achieving tenure! This milestone reflects their dedication, hard work and outstanding contributions to Cañada College. Their commitment to excellence in teaching and service has made a lasting impact on our students, colleagues and institution. We are proud to have them as a permanent member of our team and look forward to celebrating them at our year-end event in May. Congratulations to all of our Cañadians who were celebrated!



Mid-Winter Break at Cañada College: A Week of Exploration

Last week, Cañada College had an amazing Mid-Winter Break with the Boys & Girls Club of East Palo Alto and Redwood City! Over the week, 48 students explored campus life through tours, fun activities and engaging classes. Highlights included a campus tour, badminton and foam rolling in the Kinesiology & Wellness Building. Students attended Astronomy and Interior Design classes and joined a special lesson with Sequoia Union High School District teacher Pablo Aguilera. They also enjoyed pickleball, TRX, yoga and personal training. Thursday's activities featured a campus-wide scavenger hunt and an inspiring student panel. The students left with a deeper appreciation for higher education. Special thanks to Dean Sullivan-Torrez and Kinesiology, Athletics and Dance Division, Olivia Cortez-Figueroa and the Outreach Team, Professor Elteto and Professor Anjana!



Black History Month Equity Excursion

Recently, a group of Cañadians gathered together for an Equity Excursion in Oakland for Black History Month. During the excursion, they experienced a workshop with Diamano Coura West African Dance Company and sampled Enssaro Ethiopian Restaurant's delicious East African cuisine.



Black Wall Street: The Board Game

On Tuesday, the Umoja Community had an incredible time hosting De'Von Truvel and Sinclair, the creators of [Black Wall Street: The Board Game](#)! Since launching the game in 2018, they've been on a mission to educate and empower communities by sharing the history of Tulsa, Oklahoma's Black Wall Street. The event was a mix of learning, fun and real conversations about financial literacy, ownership and entrepreneurship. Attendees got to play the game, connect with one another and walk away with a deeper understanding of owning a businesses, investing and creating corporations. It was an inspiring and engaging evening that left everyone motivated to take action in their own financial journeys!





Afro-Colombia Carnival

The Afro-Colombia Carnival, held on Wednesday, highlighted the powerful influence of African ancestry in Colombia. The campus community celebrated the resilience, creativity and enduring spirit of its Afro-Colombian people while emphasizing the intersections of race, ethnicity and migration during Black History Month. Students stopped by to soak in the welcoming atmosphere, connect with one another and honor the resilience, creativity and enduring spirit of Afro-Colombian people. The beautiful Carnival was filled with music, conversation and the delicious flavors of empanadas, cheese bread and Colombian candy, making it a true cultural experience. Thank you to everyone who helped bring this event to life—it was a beautiful reminder of the strength and richness of Afro-Colombian heritage!





Lead with Love: Cafe Con Leche with 'Chase Love'

Also on Wednesday, the Lead with Love event was a powerful evening of healing, self-expression and community connection. Hosted in collaboration with the Cultural Center and Chase Love Non-Profit, the night was filled with creativity, joy and meaningful dialogue. From guided painting to soothing sound bowls and an engaging panel discussion, attendees had the space to reflect, share and celebrate love in all its forms. A special shoutout to Maizz for bringing their amazing energy and delicious food, making the night even more special!



Black Student Union Poetry Night: A Powerful Evening of Expression and Community

Yesterday evening, Black Student Union (BSU) Poetry Night was a vibrant celebration of Black culture, storytelling and creative expression. Poets and musicians shared raw and moving pieces about identity and resilience, with the audience cheering them on in a powerful display of support.

A standout moment was BSU's incorporation of "You are" affirmations for each performer, creating a space of empowerment and belonging. The night ended with a hip-hop jam session, leaving everyone energized and united through rhythm and community. It was a night to remember!



Bridging High School and College: The Power of Dual Enrollment

During Fall 2024, Jaime Barajas, an Ethnic Studies Professor at Cañada College, taught ETHN 108 – Rethinking Race, Gender, and Nation to 16 high school students at Pescadero High School. Reflecting on the experience, he highlighted the unique dynamics of teaching younger students and the rewards of dual enrollment. Click [here](#) to listen to the full interview.

The Power of Dual Enrollment: Inspiring the Next Generation

Teaching dual enrollment courses is more than just bridging the gap between high school and college—it's about empowering students to see themselves as scholars, thinkers and changemakers.

Empowering Young Minds

High school students bring curiosity and energy, making ethnic studies discussions on race, ethnicity and justice both engaging and impactful. These courses encourage critical thinking and a vision for a more just society.

Adaptability in Teaching

Dual enrollment challenges educators to refine their teaching strategies, using creative solutions like online research tools to enhance accessibility. Structured guidance builds confidence, fostering deeper engagement with complex topics.

Building Confidence for Higher Education

Early exposure to college-level coursework helps students see themselves as capable scholars. At Pescadero High, one student even applied their learning to advocate for improvements in their town's water system, demonstrating real-world impact.

Advice for Educators

For faculty considering dual enrollment, flexibility, creativity and differentiated instruction are key. Encouraging revision and critical thinking fosters deeper learning, while embracing students' enthusiasm makes teaching truly rewarding.



Flex Day Proposals Due March 10

The Professional Development Planning Committee (PDPC) is putting out a call for proposals for the April 17 Flex Day. The deadline for proposal submissions is Monday, March 10 and you can submit your proposals using this [flex day proposal form](#).

The theme for this Flex Day will be Disability Justice and Accessibility. As such, the Equity and Antiracism Planning Committee is planning an opening session that centers the voices of students and employees with disabilities. If you have a disability, you are invited to share your experiences with the Cañada community using [this survey](#). Additionally, if you are able, please share this survey with your students. For questions, please contact Flex Day Coordinator, [Ellen Young](#).

Advancing Equity: Insights from the ACCCA Conference

Our Office of Equity team recently attended the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCA) conference, where learning occurred around grind culture assessment and colonialism, strategic planning around the Student Equity and Achievement Plan, trauma informed environment assessments and receiving critical updates on federal laws and how to continue support for immigrant and Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) students. Dr. Michiko Kealoha was also asked by conference organizers to lead the Association's inaugural Multiracial Caucus. For those who would like to learn more about multiracial identity or be in space to share about your multiracial identity, come to the upcoming Multiracial Awareness Week event at the Cultural Center on Tuesday, March 18 from 12-1:30 p.m.



I wish you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim