



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 2-7-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Building Community & Practicing Radical Love at the CaCCCHE Drive-In Conference

Last Friday, Cañada College had the honor of co-leading and hosting the annual California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Education (CaCCCHE) Drive-In Conference, bringing together educators and professionals from community colleges, UCs, CSUs and private universities across California. The event centered on ho'oponopono—deep healing, reconciliation and connection—through meaningful discussions, reflection and shared experiences. Highlights of the day included conversations on supporting Indigenous and Oceania communities, a two-spirit medicine drum circle led by Wakan Wiya, and inspiring insights from esteemed speakers, including Dr. Manuel Alejandro Pérez, Dr. Michiko Kealoha and Dr. David Ga'oupu Matthew Palaita. Thanks to a partnership with the CaCCCHE board, all Cañada participants attended free of charge. The day concluded with attendees leaving with new knowledge, strengthened connections and a plant to nurture as a symbol of ongoing growth.



Cañada Hosts Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula for College Prep

Cañada College was proud to host a dynamic college preparation event last Saturday, welcoming 105 juniors from Menlo-Atherton, Sequoia, Woodside, East Palo Alto Academy, TIDE and Summit/Everest High Schools. Led by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP), the full-day workshop focused on developing essential college essay writing skills.

Students gained valuable strategies for crafting strong responses to essay prompts while also having the opportunity to explore Cañada College's campus. It was an inspiring day dedicated to supporting students on their path to higher education!



Welcoming Future Students: A Day of Exploration and Support

Cañada College hosted 50 students and staff from Palo Alto Unified School District on Monday for an informative and engaging campus visit. Students learned about college programs, financial aid and the resources available through Cañada's Disability Resource Center (DRC)—an area of particular interest, as all attendees have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) at their high school. The visit included a campus tour and concluded with a shared meal, fostering excitement about future opportunities. A high school counselor later shared, *"Our students from Gunn and Palo Alto High had a fantastic day! Thank you for sharing valuable information about financial aid and the Disability Resource Center (DRC), giving us a tour of your beautiful campus and providing lunch. We truly appreciate your time and support in guiding our students toward their next steps."* A special thank you to Palo Alto High School for advocating for these students and supporting their educational journey!



Connecting with Future Students at Menlo-Atherton High School

On Tuesday evening, Cañada College participated in Menlo-Atherton High School's Community College Night, joining a panel to share valuable information with students and their families. Topics included the community college application process, TAG and transfer options, career pathways, financial aid, EOPS/Promise programs and student life. Following the panel, students and parents engaged in discussions and visited informational tables to learn more. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community and support students in planning their educational journeys.



Womxn of Color Collaborative Spring Semester Welcome

On Wednesday, the Womxn of Color Collaborative (WoCC) held its Welcome event at the Cultural center to kick-off the Spring semester and welcome new and continuing attendees of WoCC. The event started with an energizer which allowed participants to literally jewel themselves in love and appreciation of what they bring as individuals! Attendees had the opportunity to pick and choose their favorite jewelry from rings, necklaces and earrings and took them home! After the welcome, the afternoon continued with lots of laughter and food.

For more opportunities to join an event with the WoCC, please sign up at https://smccd-czqfp.formstack.com/forms/wocc_activities_spring25



Creating Comfort, One Blanket at a Time

Also on Wednesday, Puente hosted the Project Linus Blanket Making Day a remarkable and heartwarming event aimed at providing comfort and support to children in need through handmade blankets. Puente mentors and students came together to create a variety of colorful blankets, showcasing their creativity and compassion. The event exceeded all expectations, with attendees not only creating a substantial number of blankets but also fostering a strong sense of community and teamwork. Ultimately, the success of the event was reflected not just in the quantity of blankets made, but also in the smiles it will bring to the faces of many children in need, reinforcing the mission of Project Linus to provide security and warmth through the gift of a blanket. The Puente Counselor/Coordinator would like to thank Jackie Flores (Puente Program Assistant), and Puente's wonderful volunteers who helped her coordinate the event. The day was a beautiful reminder of how collective efforts can create meaningful change in the lives of many.



Club Rush & Lunar New Year: A Week of Connection & Culture

This week, the Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC) hosted two dynamic events designed to enrich student life and foster meaningful connections. Club Rush on Wednesday provided students with the chance to explore a variety of clubs, engage with campus organizations and find communities that align with their passions and interests. Yesterday, the Lunar New Year celebration brought students together for an immersive cultural experience, featuring dumplings, traditional snacks, festive bingo and creative activities like painting. The event not only celebrated the new year but also offered a space for cultural appreciation, artistic expression, and community bonding, making it a memorable experience for everyone that attended!





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

Thursday, February 13

[Black Student Union: Karaoke Night](#)

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Cultural Center, Reporative Room, Building 17 Room 109



PBC Adopts New Institution Set Standards

The Planning & Budgeting Council reviewed the College's goals and metrics at its meeting on Wednesday, as well as during its meeting on December 4, 2024. As a result, it adopted [updated goals and metrics](#) for the next five years that align with and help support the implementation of Cañada's Education Master Plan, accreditation requirements, and the State Chancellor's new Vision 2030.

Beta Zeta Nu Explores Morality and the Macbeth Effect in Award-Winning Research Project

In 2024, the Beta Zeta Nu (BZN) chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) at Cañada College conducted a research project titled "Can You Scrub Away Sin? The Psychological Underpinnings of the Macbeth Effect." Grounded in the theme "Fables, Folklore, and Fairy Tales" and inspired by Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the study explored the psychological phenomenon where individuals feel compelled to cleanse themselves physically when their moral purity is threatened. The project involved interdisciplinary collaboration with the Drama, English, Psychology, Math and Business Departments, along with the Library staff and Middle College High School Program. Professors Palmer, Budd, Ekhtiar and Monarres, drama students and Middle College faculty provided essential support.

Experiments and Findings

- **Cleansing Word Experiment:** Students primed with moral dilemmas were twice as likely to choose cleansing-related words like "soap" in a word-completion task, supporting the Macbeth effect.
- **Macbeth Priming Experiment:** Drama students performed guilt-laden scenes for participants, but the results did not confirm the effect due to possible design flaws.

Campus Impact

- This project engaged 165 participants and demonstrated the value of combining STEM, Humanities and Social Sciences to better understand human behavior and morality.
- The Drama Department will stage *Macbeth* as their spring play.
- English faculty incorporated lessons on the Macbeth effect into their curriculum.

For PTK members—who are primarily STEM and Business majors—the project was transformative. It underscored the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing complex societal issues. By integrating social science, humanities, and biological perspectives, they deepened their understanding of morality and behavior.



Instructional Design Support for Spring 2025

The Instructional Technology & Design Team would like to update faculty on how to get Instructional Design Support this semester. Allison Hughes will be out on maternity leave until the Fall semester, so faculty can reach out to our team of Instructional Designers during her leave:

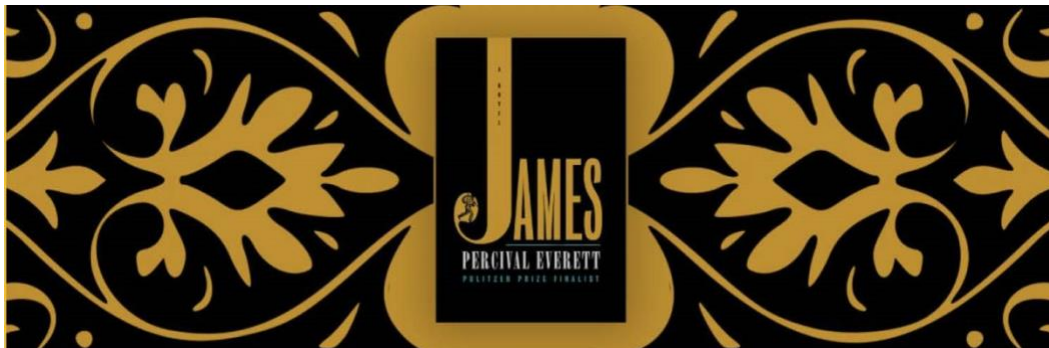
- Jenni McGuire, mcguirej@smccd.edu - Jenni is available for instructional design consultations and support via email. Please reach out to her if you need any assistance with instructional design questions and projects this semester. [Book an appointment with Jenni on Calendly.](#)
- Erica Reynolds, reynoldse@smccd.edu - Erica is available to support our online faculty with preparing for our RSI review in the Fall. Erica will be available at weekly office hours for RSI support, and you can book consultations with her as well. [Book an appointment with Erica on Calendly.](#)
- Terri Hannon, hannont@smccd.edu - Terri will be helping us to continue building out our Teaching Resource Repository with Lindsey.

If you have ideas of suggestions for resources and guides that we should add to the repository, please reach out to Terri. [Book an appointment with Terri on Calendly.](#)

You can find contact information for support with distance education, instructional technology, Canvas and ITS Support on the [Faculty Teaching & Learning website.](#)

Join the Cañada College English Department for a Book Club

Are you craving a good book? The Cañada College English Department is organizing a book club for [Percival Everett's James](#), a reimagining of Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn told in the words of Jim, the escaped slave and friend of Huck. Students, faculty, staff administrators (and friends of Cañada!) are all welcome to join. Keep an eye out for opportunities to discuss the novel during April's Flex Day, Conversations with Colleagues and at English Department gatherings! Please contact [Prof. Salumeh Eslamieh](#) or [Prof. Lisa Palmer](#) if you have questions or would like to join.



Updates from the Cañada College Honors Transfer Program (HTP):

The Cañada College Honors Transfer Program (HTP) is excited to share recent highlights and upcoming opportunities for our students and faculty as we continue to support excellence in honors education:

- Held the [Bay Area Honors Research Symposium \(BHC\) Proposal Writing Workshop](#) led by Professor Sarah Harmon on January 28. The deadline for student BHC proposals is February 17. See: <https://bayhonors.org/present/> for more information.
- Provided the first Spring 2025 [Faculty Learning Program](#) (FLP) Honors Pod session on January 29. *The Honors Pods focus on faculty supporting students in Honors Research. Presenters Ray Lapuz and Rebekah Taveau shared results and resources from last semester's Honors Pods and a representative Honors student story. All Honors faculty and prospective Honors faculty are welcome to join the next session February 27 in FTLCL 9-154 from 3-5 p.m.
- Is proud to share that Honors students Tuong Van Do, Alice Gottlieb, Amanda Isabel Molina Lopez and Gugulethu Ndlovu have been invited to present their

Honors research at the Western Regional Honors Conference (WRHC) in April. Congratulations to our students! Thank you to Honors mentor Cheyanne Cortez at CSM, and to Cañada College Honors mentors Doug Hirzel, Rebekah Taveau and Amira Alkeswani all of whom were part of the FLP Honors Pods last semester.



I wish you a warm and safe weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim