



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 3-21-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Celebrate Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month! Celebrate by honoring the achievements and contributions of women throughout history and check the [college calendar](#) for upcoming events. Show your support by using a special [Zoom backgrounds](#) designed by Cañada Students in the Menlo Studio program.

Please Provide Feedback on our Institutional Self Evaluation By March 28

The public comment period on the first draft of our Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) will close on Friday, March 28, at 5 p.m. [Drafts of each of the four accreditation standards are available here](#). Please feel free to make comments directly in the drafts or email members of the ISER Writing Team directly: [Hyla Lacefield](#), Faculty Accreditation Lead or [Karen Engel](#), Dean of PRIE and Accreditation Liaison Officer.

A²MEND 2025 Summit

The Cañada College Umoja Program attended the African American Male Education Network & Development (A²MEND) 2025 Summit in Los Angeles. The theme of this year's A²MEND Summit was "Standing on Business: Operating with Excellence in Engaging and Serving Black Males." Umoja faculty, staff and students learned more about strategies to re-establish black male success across the community college system and in our local communities as a whole. One of our student's favorite education forums was, "Black Planet: Introduction to Afrofuturism through Entrepreneurship."



Office of Equity: MA and Ed.D. Educational Justice Opportunities

Last Friday, the Office of Equity hosted an event in the Cultural Center that highlighted local opportunities to garner an Master's (MA) and Doctorate (EdD) in Educational Justice. Five University of San Francisco professors and current students came to campus to talk about what being in a Master's program in Human Rights and Educational Justice as well as possibilities in a Doctoral Program in International and Multicultural Education (with concentrations in Human Rights, Racial Justice or Language & Culture) could look like for our students, faculty and staff. The group discussed what curriculum and activities look like and spoke to how alumni utilized what they learned to invoke justice in their communities. Attendees also covered how staff could utilize professional development funds towards garnering a degree. The 20 attendees also received an application fee waiver for USF by coming to the Cañada College workshop.



Nowruz: Persian New Year Celebration

Eide Shoma Mobarak! On Monday, the Cultural Center, in collaboration with AANHPI S.T.A.R Program and Salumeh Eslamieh, English faculty professor, hosted Nowruz: Persian New Year Celebration for the second year at Cañada. The highlight was the beautifully executed Haft Seen by Cañadian, Soraya Sohrabi, showcasing the rich traditions of Nowruz. Sahar, one of our students, delivered an enlightening presentation on Persian New Year customs. Attendees also delighted in delectable Persian cuisine, egg decoration, coloring, and lively dancing, making it a memorable event for all.



Multiracial Awareness Week

On Tuesday, the Office of Equity and Cultural Center hosted the 2nd Annual Multiracial Awareness Week event. The group shared personal stories, defined terms, spoke on national and campus data, covered history, connected the Factor Model of Multiracial Identity development, and provided numerous resources to all attendees.



Holi Festival of Color

On Wednesday, the AANHPI S.T.A.R Program, Cultural Center and student leaders hosted the Holi Festival of Color. Attendees were treated to a presentation on the significance of Holi and its traditional celebrations. Delightful culinary delights like samosas and mango lassi added to the festive atmosphere. Moving outdoors, the Cultural Center team shared captivating dances by staff and students, setting the stage for the main event. This was followed by attendees participating in the Festival of Color, participants joyously adorned each other with hues of vibrant colors, spreading laughter and cheer. The event closed with attendees learning Bollywood dance moves from Cañada's own Bollywood teacher, Aman!





Luis Valdez Inspires the Campus Community with the Power of Storytelling

The Puente Project at Cañada College was honored and excited to welcome Luis Valdez, playwright, teacher, director, social activist and founder of El Teatro Campesino, to speak to a room full of Cañada College students, faculty and staff on Wednesday. Luis Valdez shared inspirational anecdotes that offered insight into the importance of creativity, community, and theater. He also shared his history with Cesar Chavez, their involvement in the Chicano Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, and the lessons learned that could be applied to today's struggles for justice and equity. He concluded his talk by reciting a poem in three different languages: English, Spanish and Nahuatl, an indigenous language from Central Mexico. "Tu eres el otro yo," he proclaimed. "This is the basic Mayan principle we have extracted from our study of Mayan culture. If I love and respect you, I love and respect myself. If I do harm to you, I do harm to myself." Summarizing the poem's message, Valdez addressed the audience, "America find your heart and save your soul."





Womxn of Color Collaborative Domestic Violence Education Workshop

The Womxn of Color Collaborative Domestic Violence Education Workshop, in partnership with Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), provided an informative and supportive space for learning about domestic violence awareness and prevention. Participants engaged in discussions on the impact of abuse, available resources and ways to support survivors in their communities. The workshop emphasized the importance of advocacy, safety and healing for individuals of all backgrounds. It was a powerful opportunity to foster awareness and collective action against relationship abuse.



Cañada in the News: New Exhibit at the Cañada Art Gallery

Art Professor Emilio Villalba and the current exhibition in the Art Gallery was recently featured in 48hills.org, official publication of the non-profit San Francisco Progressive Media Center. You can read the story [here](#). Running Through May 15, the Cañada Art Gallery (located in Building 9, Room 152) is presenting the works of Paul Wonner (1920-2008) and Theophilus Brown (1919-2012), two significant figures in the Bay Area Figurative Movement. This intimate exhibition brings together paintings and drawings from the private collection of San Francisco collectors Matt Gonzalez and Kelly Egan. The collection offers a unique perspective on both artists' work, spanning over five decades. Gonzalez, who shared studio time with Brown, and his wife Egan have thoughtfully assembled these 18 works, providing a rare glimpse into the artistic evolution of these influential California artists. An Opening Reception will be held in the Art Gallery on April 10 from 4-6 p.m., where both Gonzalez and Egan will be present. For more information, please visit the Art Gallery [website](#).



PAUL WONNER & THEOPHILUS BROWN

PAINTING IS ITS OWN LANGUAGE

Updates from the Safety Committee

Given recent natural emergency alerts, Cañada College's Safety Committee would like to share some tips for emergency and disaster preparedness. Please see resources attached and below.



SAFETY COMMITTEE

Given recent natural emergency alerts, Cañada College's Safety Committee would like to share some tips for emergency & disaster preparedness

 **Sign up to receive alerts**


Emergency alerts & notifications via

- Phone call
- Text message
- Email
- Social media

Sign Up Now


To register via text message, text CAN to 67283



 **Have you opted-in?**

Knowledge is power, especially in an emergency

Sign up at this [link](#) to receive alerts when there is an emergency on campus, or sign up by texting CAN to 67283

 **WHAT DO THE ALERTS MEAN?**

Confused about the alerts and their meaning? There are four alert levels that the District uses for emergency purposes. Refer to this [document](#) for information on what each alert level means



Emergency Plan



 **DO YOU KNOW THE BIG FIVE?**

The Big Five is a simple overview of immediate actions that everyone should take when responding to an emergency. Learn more about the [Big Five](#).

Questions or suggestions? Please contact Ludmila Prisecar at prisecarl@smccd.edu

I wish you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim