



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 5-23-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

As we near the completion of another academic year, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation. Thank you for the support you have provided our incredible students each and every day over this past year. I also want to thank you for the support you have provided me, our leadership team and each other. Even though we are experiencing challenging times in higher education, I know I can count on this community to keep our focus on serving our students to ensure they reach their educational goals. I hope this summer is a time for renewal and enjoyment. I look forward to seeing everyone on Opening Day in August!

Classified School Employee Appreciation Week

May 18-24 is Classified School Employee Appreciation Week! Our Classified Professionals are the heart of Cañada College, making a lasting impact through their dedication and care. They help create a welcoming, supportive environment where students can succeed and feel at home. Though their work is often done quietly, its impact is deeply felt across campus and essential to our daily operations and community spirit. This afternoon we celebrated our Classified professionals with a luncheon to show our appreciation. Thank you for everything you do!



Commencement Tomorrow at 10 a.m.

Our [Commencement Ceremony](#) is tomorrow! Please join in celebrating the achievements of our students. Come cheer them on as they reach this significant milestone, marking the completion of this academic journey and the beginning of their next adventure.



Commencement Keynote Speaker – Elmer Martinez Saballos

We are pleased to welcome the Honorable Elmer Martinez Saballos, Mayor of the City of Redwood City. Born and raised in Redwood City, Elmer is the proud son of Central American immigrants and spent a majority of his young life growing up in the Central, Palm Park and Stambaugh-Heller neighborhoods: communities he now represents on the City Council. He is a product of Redwood City's local schools, attending Sequoia High School and Cañada College before transferring to the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2017, Elmer became the first person in his family to graduate from a four-year university and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a minor in Global Peace & Security.

Following his graduation, Elmer returned to Redwood City and began his career in public service supporting state legislators, State Senator Jerry Hill and then-Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Kevin Mullin, as their district representative. Elmer worked directly with residents during the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic, and managed policy and casework related to housing, healthcare reform, transportation, and economic development. Inspired to find solutions that alleviate the housing and affordability challenges impacting Bay Area families, Elmer joined the Redwood City Planning Commission in 2020 and served on the commission until he was appointed to the City Council in 2022.

Following his successful election in November 2024, Elmer has the honor of serving as the Mayor of Redwood City - becoming the youngest mayor in city history, and the only one of Central American heritage.



Planning & Budgeting Council Update

At its final meeting of the year on Wednesday, the Planning & Budgeting Council took several actions: (1) [PBC approved rebranding the College for Working Adults to Cañada College NOW](#) (Nights, Online, Weekends); and (2) PBC approved and forwarded to the College President for adoption a new three-year plan for improving transfer services, the new [Transfer Services Plan: 2025-28](#). PBC also received the [2024-25 Resource Request Update](#) from VPAS Prisecar and heard the final report from EAPC regarding the College's progress on addressing its equity and obligation gaps by implementing its 2022-25 Student Equity and Achievement Plan. The SEAP three-year summary report is available [here](#).

International Student Achievement Ceremony

Last Friday, the Cañada community came together to recognize the astounding achievements of our international students during the International Achievement Ceremony! Students were recognized for their transfer successes, scholarships received, certificates and degrees earned, dedication to clubs and organizations and more! Those in attendance enjoyed listening to student speakers and trying delicious foods from around the world in the company of supportive family, friends, faculty and staff.



2024-2025 Student Recognition and Achievement Ceremony

Cañada College's Recognition and Achievement Ceremony celebrated the incredible accomplishments of students awarded scholarships and honored by their departments for academic excellence. The heartfelt event was followed by a festive reception with food, music and photos, bringing the community together to recognize hard work and success.



Student Dance Show

Cañada College's student dance showcase brought the stage to life with an electrifying mix of movement, culture and creativity. From Salsa to K-Pop, Ballet to Mexican Folklórico, students captivated the audience with dynamic performances that celebrated both individual expression and collective artistry. It was an unforgettable evening of rhythm, passion, and community spirit.





Lavender Graduation

Last Friday, the Cultural Center, Brave Space Collective and Office of Equity came together to host its 3rd Annual Lavender Graduation. The celebration with College of San Mateo and Skyline College, acknowledging the 30th Anniversary of Lavender Graduations nationally. Tiny desk's Astralogik opened the night with original songs. Dr. Ronni Sanlo, the original national founder of Lavender Graduation served as keynote speaker. Drag Queen Delilah BeFierce performed two outstanding numbers. Cañada student, Xen designed beautiful progress flag stoles for all the graduates and there was food provided by Made Out of Dough and flowers from Rose and Thorne. Graduates had an amazing time celebrating our LGBTQ+ community and many graduates performed throughout the night.



Promise Scholars Graduation Celebration

Wednesday's Promise Scholars Graduation Celebration honored students who completed the vital support program at Cañada College. Surrounded by family, mentors and staff, graduates reflected on their journeys and the support that helped them succeed.

The evening was filled with joy, meaningful moments, good food and photos that captured the spirit of the celebration.



Middle College Celebration

Yesterday, Cañada College proudly celebrated the achievements of its Middle College students as they marked a unique milestone - graduating from high school and earning college credit simultaneously. Surrounded by family, friends and mentors, students reflected on their growth, shared future plans and were honored for their academic dedication and perseverance. It was an inspiring evening filled with pride and joy.





Thank You to Our Student Photographers for Capturing Memorable Moments

A heartfelt thank you to the talented students from Cañada's Menlo Studio (pictured below) and MART 363 – Advanced Photography course (coordinated by their Professor, Emanuela Quaglia) for capturing many of Cañada's end-of-year celebrations. Student include: Sasha Mezzich, Robin Bickford, Angie Sham, Mynor Bac, Armando Rocha, Debra Zupancic, Jane Jeffers, Linda Shum and Sara Douty. Their creativity, professionalism and keen sense for meaningful moments helped preserve memories that our community will cherish for years to come. We appreciate the time, effort and artistry that our students brought to each event.



I hope to see many of you at Commencement tomorrow!

Sincerely,
Kim