



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 8-15-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Welcome to the fall 2025 semester! I hope that everyone had time to rest and relax over the summer. It's great to see our campus filled with students and employees!

Community at Cañada: Summer 2025 Highlights

This summer, Cañada College partnered with local organizations to deliver programs, events and initiatives, held on campus, to strengthen community ties, expand access to education and give students a firsthand look at life as a college student. This work aligns with our EMP Goal 3.2 to strengthen ties to our BIPOC community in North Fair Oaks, Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. From large-scale public events to targeted student outreach, these efforts reflect the College's ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of the communities we serve.

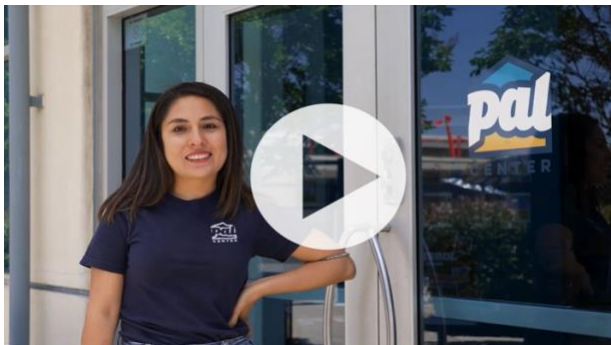
Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP)

Through the College's formal MOU with the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP), Cañada hosted summer programming designed to build seamless pathways and expose underserved, first-generation students in Southern San Mateo County to college life. More than 40 middle school students participated in career pathway workshops led by Cañada's instructional and student support programs. BGCP's Future Grad program brought 170 high school students to campus for college readiness activities and more than 400 BGCP staff attended leadership development sessions. Students from the Sequoia Union High School District's ESL and BGCP's CRER 137 summer classes also visited Cañada for an inspiring field trip where they joined a student panel, toured campus and learned about programs and services available to them at Cañada.



Pal Center

This summer, the Cañada team launched a pilot program with Pal Center, offering 26 middle school students from the Redwood City School District a firsthand look at college life. Students participated in interactive sessions across campus led by several of Cañada's instructional and student support programs. More than half said they would recommend the program to a friend and many sixth graders asked to return next year - clear signs of its success in fostering early college exposure! The summer camps are part of a newly formed MOU between the College and PAL Center. View a video [here](#) to learn how the partnership is transforming lives in our community.





Street Code Academy

On August 2, Street Code Academy hosted its inaugural Tech Tournament in Building 1, which brought together more than 500 community members for an innovative day that connected basketball culture with technology and career exploration. Youth participants engaged with industry professionals, explored tech pathways and learned about resources that provide free, life-changing education in their communities. Check out the event recap video [here](#).



Super Registration Events

On July 23 and 30, multiple student services teams - including Outreach, the Welcome Center, Financial Aid, Admissions and Records, Counseling, Learning Communities and the Disability Resource Center - came together for Super Registration. More than 250 students received personalized support to complete enrollment steps and prepare for the Fall 2025 semester.



These summer initiatives demonstrate how strategic partnerships create lasting opportunities, deepen community connections and inspire students by giving them a real taste of college life, strengthening Cañada College as a vital educational and community hub now and for the future.

Cañada in Top 10 for Return on Investment

In the newly released [Golden Returns](#) report from College Futures, Cañada College ranks #5 statewide and #2 in the Bay Area among 327 community and career colleges in California for two-year return on investment. The report found that students typically recoup their net educational costs less than two months after completion. This timely study underscores the substantial economic value our College delivers, offering real upward mobility for learners across the state.



Seventh Annual Leadership Retreat

The Planning & Budgeting Council (PBC) Co-Chairs, Maria Huning and Gampi Shankar, and I kicked-off Cañada's annual planning and budgeting cycle by hosting more than 60 Cañada leaders – representatives of College Senates, Council and Committees – for an all-day retreat on August 7 at Cañada. Retreat participants discussed the progress we've made on our five-year [Educational Master Plan](#) (EMP) and chose five EMP strategic initiatives for special focus efforts during the coming year. More information on the retreat can be found [here](#) and next steps will be posted on the [Cañada Collaborates website](#).



Opening Day

Thank you for joining our College Opening Day where we honored our employees who achieved year of service milestones and heard from our students in the AANHPI Voices panel. My thanks to the teams who put much time and effort into planning and presenting during these important days. Follow-up materials for both the District and College Flex Days will be posted on the [Flex Day website](#). Also, please complete the [Flex Day Feedback Form](#) to help us know what we can do to make the next Flex Day even better.



ITS Extended Evening Support

The Cañada ITS Support Team is extending its hours to better support you at the start of the semester. Evening support will be available Monday through Friday, from August 13 to August 29, until 10 p.m. each night. Whether you need help with projectors, AirMedia, Wi-Fi, printers, Zoom or other classroom or office technology, they've got you covered. Submit a ticket through the new ITS [Helpcenter](#), call at (650) 574-6543 or [view this guide on how to create and track your tickets](#). ITS is here to make sure your classes run smoothly!

I wish you a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,
Kim