



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

### **Weekly Update: 8-22-25**

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

#### **Dr. Lisa Palmer, Interim Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Please congratulate Dr. Lisa Palmer who, *pending board approval on August 27*, will serve as Interim Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. Lisa brings a deep and longstanding commitment to our District and College. She was hired as an adjunct faculty member at Skyline College (English and ESL) in 1997 and became a full time faculty member at Cañada College (English) in 1999. She has served on the Academic Senate Governing Council and Instructional Planning Council, chaired Professional Development and Curriculum and coordinated the English Department, among many other participatory governance roles.

Before coming to SMCCCD, Lisa taught English at UCLA while completing her PhD in Comparative Literature, writing a dissertation on Latin American and Latina writers. She also holds an MA in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University and a BA in English, with honors, from Stanford. Lisa and her four-legged sidekick, Loki, are thrilled to support the Humanities and Social Sciences division in this new role.



## Promotional Banner Project in the City of East Palo Alto

In partnership with the City of East Palo Alto, Cañada College pole banners now line Bay Road, showcasing alumni and highlighting the Free College program. View the banner project video [here](#) and see remarks from former East Palo Alto Mayor, Larry Moody, [here](#). Thank you to Megan Rodriguez Antone, Director of Community Relations & Marketing, and her team for working diligently over these past few years to turn this dream into a reality!



## Promise Scholars Orientation Welcomes New Cohort

The Promise Scholars Program recently hosted its annual orientation welcoming more than 100 new students to campus. The fun-filled day was designed to ensure students feel confident and supported as they begin their first week of instruction. Scholars learned about key campus resources, picked up textbooks, received student IDs and connected with Promise counselors. The Promise Team wishes all new scholars a successful start to the semester!





## **Cañada Welcomes 32 New International Students**

This fall, Cañada College proudly welcomed 32 new international students representing 14 countries, including: Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Germany, Honduras, India, Italy, Mexico, Myanmar, Poland, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The International Student Center hosted orientation to help students connect with campus resources, meet staff and faculty and begin building community. Thank you to everyone who joined to introduce themselves and warmly welcome our new scholars—we're excited to have such a vibrant group on campus this year!



## **Cañada Fashion Program Welcomed Honolulu Community College Faculty**

Cañada College was honored to host Fashion faculty from Honolulu Community College as part of their Northern California college tour. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity to connect, exchange ideas and learn about each other's communities and fashion programs. Fashion Program Coordinator Jaleh Naasz, Business, Design & Workforce Dean Alex Kramer and Vice President of Student Services Lizette Bricker warmly welcomed the guests to campus.



### **Cañada Fashion Showcased at San Francisco Earth Gala**

Earlier this month, Fashion Design Professor, Jaleh Naasz, was invited to speak on sustainability in fashion at the Earth Gala in San Francisco. Students from Cañada's Fashion program joined her in presenting a stunning runway showcase, highlighting their creativity and commitment to sustainable design.



### **New Business Information Worker (BIW) Program Launches at Menlo Park Site**

Cañada College has launched a new in-person, for-credit Business Information Worker (BIW) program at its Menlo Park Site. The program, which began last week, equips students with essential computer and office skills such as Microsoft Word, Excel and professional communication, preparing them for careers in business, administration or customer service. The BIW certificate provides a hands-on foundation that students can build upon with additional certificates or apply as a stepping stone toward a business degree at Cañada College. Bringing this program to Menlo Park advances the College's mission to provide equitable, career-focused education while expanding access to college and job training for students in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and surrounding communities.



## Library Launches “Librarian on the Loose” in The Grove

Yesterday, the Cañada College Library hosted its first Librarian on the Loose session in The Grove, featuring a display of new books and fun giveaways. Several students and employees stopped by to browse the collection and ask questions about books and library services. The Library will return to The Grove at Noon on Thursday, September 4.



## New OER Title for Introduction to Digital Photography

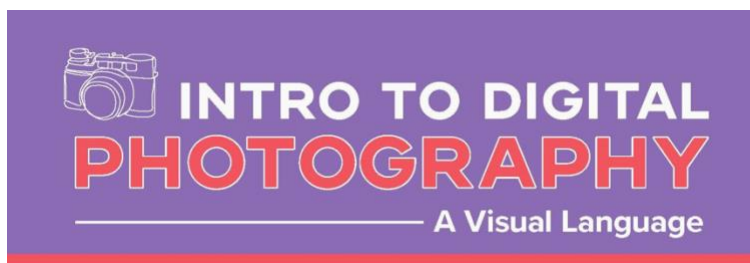
The Digital Art and Animation (DAA) Department at Cañada College is proud to share its brand-new introductory Digital Photography open educational resource (OER), [Intro to Digital Photography: A Visual Language](#). This OER was created to make learning photography inspiring, accessible and free for all. Authored by Professor Emanuela Quaglia, with major contributions from talented DAA students, the book is designed for anyone starting their photography journey. It covers all the essential concepts and skills taught in an introductory course — from understanding your camera and mastering composition, to working with light, exploring creative techniques and building confidence as a photographer.

What makes this resource special is the collaboration between faculty and students. Many of the images, examples and insights come directly from our own student community, making it not just a textbook, but a collection of voices, perspectives and creative visions. This OER was developed with the support of the Acceleration II ZTC Grant funded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. It is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License](#) (CC BY-NC 4.0), which means it's free to use, adapt, and share for educational purposes. Explore the OER [here](#).

#### Key Highlights:

- It removes cost barriers for students while delivering high-quality, engaging content
- It celebrates real student work and creativity
- It's adaptable, and instructors can modify it to fit their teaching style and course needs

This resource reflects Cañada College's ongoing commitment to student success, equity and innovation in teaching and learning.



#### **Mario Acuna, Program Services Coordinator, Cultural Center**

Mario Acuna joins the Office of Equity as the new Program Services Coordinator for the Cultural Center at Cañada College. Originally from El Salvador, he is fluent in Spanish and is passionate about fostering inclusive, welcoming spaces for all students. A proud product of SMCCCD, Mario began his journey as a Middle College student at Skyline College and went on to serve in multiple student support roles, including as a tutor for Middle College, Learning Center, TRiO, MESA and the STEM Center, as well as a front desk assistant for EOPS. While at Skyline, Mario earned five associate degrees, including Mathematics, Physics, Natural Science, Interdisciplinary Studies in Social and Natural Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies in Arts and Humanities, all with Cum Laude honors. Beyond Skyline, he worked at the South San Francisco Library, first as a library page, and later as a library clerk for the Gene Mullin Community Learning Center, supporting both adult education and afterschool youth programs.

Most recently, Mario served for three years as an Office Assistant II at Skyline College in the division formerly known as Global Learning Programs and Services, where he supported over 10,000 applicants and collaborated on student services and study abroad coordination, all while completing his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from San Francisco State University. Welcome, Mario!



### **Cañada Leader Recognized with Statewide Diversity & Equity Award**

This summer, at the annual California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Education ([CaCCCHE](#)) conference, Dr. Michiko Kealoha, Director of Equity, was presented with the Radical Imagineer Award. The award honors “an individual in higher education who dares to dream beyond boundaries and brings visionary ideas to life - particularly in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. The award also celebrates bold thinkers and doers who change the status quo with courage, creativity and an unwavering commitment to reimagining what’s possible in academic environments and beyond.” Congratulations, Dr. Kealoha!



## Cañada College Curriculum Leaders Attend 2025 ASCCC Curriculum Institute

Members of Cañada College's curriculum leadership team actively participated in the 2024 Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Curriculum Institute at the Ontario Convention Center. This year's theme, "To Boldly Explore: Equitable Curriculum in an AI Universe," invited attendees to examine the evolving landscape of curriculum design through the lens of equity and emerging technologies. Cañada attendees included Curriculum Committee Tri-Chairs Lisa Palmer, Camille Kaslan and Adriana Lugo, along with Frank Nguyen Le and Chialin Hsieh. By engaging with statewide colleagues, the team contributed to discussions focused on reimagining curriculum to meet the needs of today's students. Their participation underscores Cañada's ongoing commitment to inclusive, innovative and equity-minded education.



## Important Reminders from Cañada's Marketing Department

As we start the new semester, Cañada's Marketing Department has important reminders for the campus community:

- Please review and update your division/department/program website content as we transition from summer to fall. Submit a [Marketing Request](#) (clicking 'Web' under Service Requested) and a member of the Marketing team can assist.
- Submit your in-person and virtual events into our [event calendar](#) as early as possible so we can help share it with the campus community this fall semester. All events for the [What's Happening at Cañada event blast](#) are sourced from the college calendar – please submit your events to be considered for the email blast.
- Submit project and/or assistance requests through the [Marketing Assistance Request form](#). Categories for requests include graphic design, web, communication, marketing assistance, event support, training and material proof and approval.

## **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 and I hope you enjoyed the first week of our fall 2025 semester!

Sincerely,  
Kim