



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

### Weekly Update: 9-19-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

### Latinx Heritage Month

Cañada College will be filled with music, food, stories and celebrations that honor the beauty and diversity of our Latinx community. Come connect, learn and celebrate together as we highlight cross-sectional culture, traditions and identities all month long. Check the full calendar of events at <https://canadacollege.edu/lhm>



### Celebrating AANAPISI Week 2025

Cañada College is proud to celebrate Asian American & Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Week from September 22–28, 2025. AANAPISIs are dedicated to supporting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, low-income and underserved students. Designated an AANAPISI in 2017, Cañada College launched the STAR Program (formerly ARC) in Fall 2023 to further these efforts.

As part of this year's celebration, Cañada College, College of San Mateo, Skyline College and San Francisco State will co-host the ARC Learning Institute on Friday, September 26 from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at Skyline College in the Farallon Room. The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Mike Nguyen, Associate Professor of Education at UCLA, who will speak on the theme, "Holding the Line: Advocacy and Creativity in Uncertain Times." Please RSVP if you are interested in attending: [\[bit.ly/ARCInstituteSkyline\]](https://bit.ly/ARCInstituteSkyline)[bit.ly/ARCInstituteSkyline](https://bit.ly/ARCInstituteSkyline)

### **Womxn of Color Collaborative Kicked Off Fall with Community Circle**

The Womxn of Color Collaborative launched its Fall 2025 semester of events with a Community Circle. The gathering featured an equal time activity, giving participants space to share their feelings about the current social and political climate and be affirmed, followed by food and fellowship. Students, faculty and staff are invited to join upcoming activities by completing the [interest form](#).



### **Brothers Achieving Milestones (BAM) Fall 2025 Open House**

Last Thursday, Brothers Achieving Milestones (BAM) hosted an open house to highlight the program and launch their fall semester schedule of events. Guests enjoyed food, conversation and the opportunity to build new connections. BAM supports and empowers male-identified students in their academic, personal and career growth. BAM was introduced in Fall 2023 and is built on the foundation established by the Men of Color Coalition in the 2022-23 academic year. This semester, BAM is expanding developmental opportunities including a Ruck N Walk & Study Jam co-hosted by Juan Vera and the VROC on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 2 -5 p.m. and weekly meetings on Thursdays in the Cultural Center from 1-2 p.m.

For information about upcoming events, contact [Christopher Wardell](#), visit the [BAM page](#) or review the college event calendar!



## Cañada Hosts ACCCA NorCal Drive-In

Last Friday, Cañada College's Office of Equity hosted the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) Mentee NorCal Drive-In in the Cultural Center. VPSS Lizette Bricker moderated a fireside chat on "Leading, Succeeding, and Thriving in Challenging Times" with panelists VPI Dr. Chialin Hsieh, VPAS Ludmila Prisecar and CSM President Dr. Manuel Alejandro Pérez, and later led a "lunch and learn" session with mentees. Participants, including Cañada's Dr. Michiko Kealoha, delivered "TedTalk"-style presentations, with finalists advancing to the 50th Annual ACCCA Conference in Long Beach. Guests expressed appreciation for the insights from SMCCCD leadership, the beauty of Cañada's campus, and the warm support provided by staff. A special thanks to Mario Acuna, Angel Samora-Delgadillo and Jackie Flores for making the event a success.





## **Cañada Represented at Futures Summit 2025**

The Futures Summit 2025 is an annual conference put on by the State Chancellor's Office that combines advances in artificial intelligence and how educators can use AI-based technologies to achieve the goals in Vision 2030. Cañada College was well-represented at the conference, with three presenters and others who attended. Professor Hyla Lacefield (CCCCO AI ChangeMaker) participated in the un-conference on Tuesday, discussing the importance of iteration and learning from AI-based technologies. Professor Dominique Wu (CCCCO AI Fellow) moderated two panel sessions where presenters discussed the intersection of AI and daily life, including the invisible tools that help everyone in their productivity. Dr. Sarah Harmon (CCCCO AI ChangeMaker) was a panelist on the intersection of AI and the Human Equation, focusing on inclusion of all sectors of the campus community when creating guidance and training on AI.



## **Cañada College at Fiestas Patrias**

Last Sunday, Cañada College joined the Fiestas Patrias celebration at the Redwood City Courthouse, an event filled with live music, food, arts and crafts. The Outreach team hosted a Bean Bag Toss where attendees won prizes and Cañada swag, while Student Ambassadors and College Recruiters connected with community members.

Many expressed strong interest in academic programs such as Early Childhood Education, Digital Art & Animation, ESL, Middle College, Fashion, Dance, Radiologic Technology and Interior Design.



### Central American Luncheon Brings Campus Together

On Monday, the Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC), Undocumented Community Center, Colts-U Transfer Center, Cultural Center and Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) S.T.A.R. Program hosted a vibrant Central American Luncheon on the Lower Lawn/Amphitheater. The event celebrated Central American independence and heritage with traditional food, lively music and a collaborative art activity, creating a welcoming space for students, staff and community members to connect and honor culture.







## Mercado de Bienvenida Celebrates Mexican Independence Day

The Cultural Center's Mercado de Bienvenida filled Building 17 with color and energy in celebration of Mexican Independence Day. Students, staff and community members browsed a lively mercado, enjoyed festive music and food and participated in a 30-minute Ballet Folklórico workshop led by Professor Leslie Montañó. The event created a joyful gathering that honored culture, tradition and community connections.



## Latinx Heritage Month Piñata Workshop Brings Tradition to Life

As part of the Latinx Heritage Month event series, on Wednesday, participants gathered at the Cultural Center to celebrate tradition and creativity. The hands-on workshop explored the rich history and cultural significance of piñatas while attendees designed and decorated their own colorful creations. With all materials provided, the event offered an inviting way for participants of all ages to connect, create and honor this vibrant tradition.



## Puente Program Seeks Mentors

The Puente Program at Cañada College is looking to recruit new Puente Mentors for this school year, 2025-2026. If you are interested in volunteering to support one of 28 energetic Puente students, please contact English Professor [Yolanda Valenzuela](#). The time commitment is about 16-18 hours throughout the two-semester school year. There is a Puente Mentor Training Event on October 1, so please reach out as soon as possible.

If you would like to learn more about the Puente Program, please use this [link to our Puente website](#).



I wish you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,  
Kim