



## A Message from President Kim Lopez

### Weekly Update: 9-5-25

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

### Gratitude During Campus Vegetation Fire

I'd like to begin this week's newsletter with a heartfelt thank you to the dedication and professionalism of our Public Safety, Facilities and Athletic Center staff who supported our campus during last Saturday's nearby vegetation fire. Thanks to the quick response and calm presence of our boots-on-the-ground team, the campus community remained safe and informed throughout the incident. Your efforts exemplify the care, commitment and resilience that make Cañada such a strong community. A special thank you to:

- Matt Parish, Public Safety
- Owen Yoch, Public Safety
- Ivane Jividze, Public Safety
- Ricardo Aguilar, Cañada Athletic Center
- Edgar Nelmidia Jr., Cañada Facilities, Custodial Services
- Saul Rios, Cañada Facilities, Custodial Services
- Ricardo Alcazar, Cañada Facilities, Custodial Services





## PBC Approves EMP Priorities for 2025-26

At their first meeting of the year, the Planning & Budgeting Council (PBC) approved [the annual plan for implementing](#) Cañada's five-year [Educational Master Plan](#) (EMP). It highlights the five EMP strategic initiatives selected during this year's annual [summer leadership retreat](#) for special focus efforts during the coming year. The leads for each priority initiatives are identified in the annual plan as well as the [Cañada Collaborates website](#). For more information or to engage in one or more of these efforts, please contact the appropriate initiative leads.

## Program Review Deadlines

Please be reminded that our program review and resource request process is underway. This year's deadlines are:

- **Before October 17, 2025:** Submit your completed Comprehensive Program Review or Annual Update, Goals and Resource Requests in [Nuventive](#).
- **Before October 31, 2025:** Deans and VPs provide feedback on submitted program reviews.
- **Before November 7, 2025:** Review your supervisor's feedback and incorporate it into a final submittal of your Comprehensive Program Review or Annual Plan in Nuventive.

Need help? Check the [Program Review Website](#) and feel free to contact PBC's Program Review Sub-Committee: [canprogramreview@smccd.edu](mailto:canprogramreview@smccd.edu).

## International Student Center Hosts Fall Meet & Greet

The International Student Center kicked off the Fall 2025 semester with an International Meet & Greet! New and current students were invited to mingle and learn about some of the many opportunities to get involved on campus, while enjoying cheese and crackers, Brazilian Pão de Queijo and a Tres Leches cake to celebrate students' summer birthdays.



## Inspiring Talk with Elizabeth Román at the Interest Area Speaker Series

The Interest Area Speaker Series welcomed Elizabeth Román, DMSc, MPH, PA-C, who began the evening by connecting with students in a social mixer, learning about their interests and answering their questions. She then shared her own journey from being a community college student to becoming a Physician Assistant, highlighting her education through Stanford's Primary Care Associate Program, San José State University and the University of Lynchburg. Román also reflected on her leadership in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion at Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group, as well as her passion for volunteering and community wellness. She closed by encouraging students to never give up on their aspirations and to keep pushing toward their academic and professional goals.



## **Dr. Sarah Harmon, OER/ZTC Program Manager**

Please join in welcoming Dr. Sarah Harmon in her new role as full-time OER/ZTC Program Manager. In this position, Sarah will build upon the vital Open Educational Resources (OER) and Zero-Textbook-Cost (ZTC) work she has championed at Cañada College for the past five years. She will continue to collaborate with faculty, staff and administrators to expand ZTC and low-textbook-cost (LTC) course offerings, ensuring all students have equitable access to the course materials they need to succeed. Sarah is a long-time member of Cañada College and SMCCCD. She began as a high school student taking Italian at Skyline in the 1990s. Since 2005, she has taught Spanish and Linguistics across the District, primarily at Cañada. She holds a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Linguistics from UC Davis, as well as a Ph.D. in Romance Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin. Beyond teaching, she has served in many leadership and service roles on campus, including the Honors Transfer Advisory Committee, Planning and Budgeting Council, Academic Senate, Accreditation Gap Analyst and Lead Editor and Distance Education Advisory Council. With her experience, dedication and passion for student equity and inclusion, Sarah is uniquely positioned to lead this next chapter of OER/ZTC growth at Cañada College.



## **Flex Day Proposals Due Tuesday September 8**

The next Flex Day will be October 8 with the theme of Supporting our Immigrant and Undocumented Students. The agenda is already filling up with exciting sessions including an opening fireside chat with esteemed Cañada alumna [Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca](#), the Founder and CEO of [DREAMers Roadmap](#), a mobile app platform designed to assist undocumented students in navigating the resources necessary for accessing higher education.

If you are hoping to facilitate a workshop at this Flex Day, please [submit your proposal](#) by the end of day on Tuesday September 8.

I wish you a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,  
Kim