



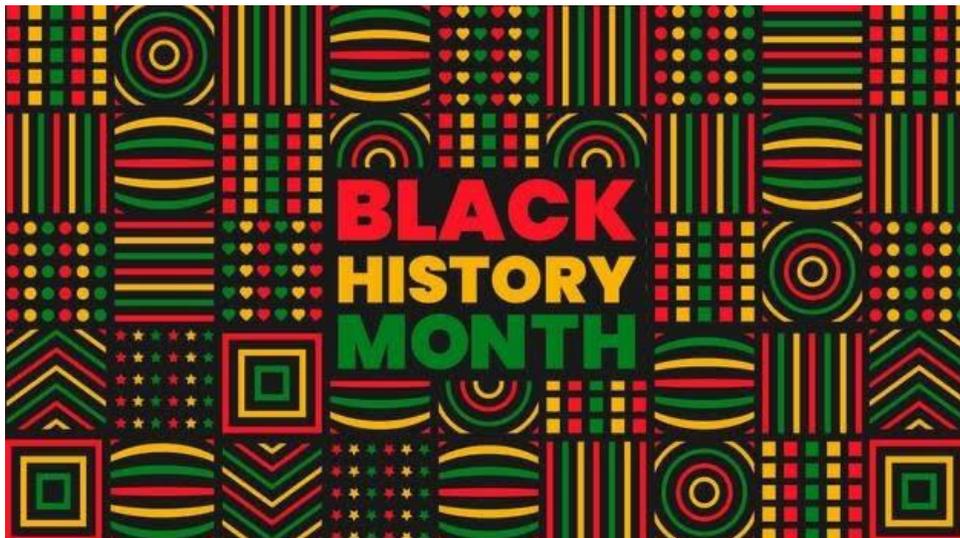
A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update 2-20-26

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Celebrating Black History Month

February is Black History Month and Cañada College is hosting events to honor the rich cultural heritage, remarkable achievements and lasting contributions of the Black community. A current list of events is below and attached. Be sure to check the [college calendar](#) regularly, as new [events](#) will be added throughout the month. Additionally, [Zoom backgrounds](#) are available for download to join in the celebration.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 24

[Art Gallery Walkthrough](#)

2:30pm

Building 3, Room 104

Thursday, February 26

[Umoja Village Grand Opening & Alter Ritual](#)

1:30pm

Building 3, Room 103

ASCC Hosts Inspiring Black History Month Celebration

Last week, ASCC proudly sponsored a meaningful Black History Month event, bringing together TRIO, Promise Scholars, the Black Student Union (BSU) and the Learning Center for a powerful celebration of history, culture and legacy. Attendees learned about influential and often underrepresented Black historical figures, including Hank Aaron, Marie Van Brittan Brown and Ida B. Wells. The presentation was led by Carolyn Hoskins, founder and curator of the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum and Learning Center in downtown Redwood City. Black History Month is a time to honor the courage, brilliance, resilience and enduring contributions of Black leaders whose impact has shaped our nation and continues to inspire generations. Together, the community celebrated the legacy of those who paved the way and reaffirmed Cañada's commitment to equity, excellence and progress.





AANHPI STAR Program Hosts Monthly STAR Hangouts

The AANHPI STAR Program peer mentors host monthly STAR Hangouts to help build community among STAR students in both the Learning Community and the transfer pathway program. The hangouts take place in the Colts-U Transfer Center (Building 9, Room 106) on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. At the January STAR Hangout, students gathered to play board games and connect with one another. February's hangout was held in collaboration with the Filipinx Student Club, creating another opportunity for community building and engagement. The next STAR Hangout will take place on Wednesday, March 18. All are welcome to stop by and say hello.



Honoring the Legacy of Black Innovators

Students and community members gathered Wednesday to learn about lesser-known Black inventors whose innovations have shaped the world in powerful ways. From technology and medicine to everyday tools, the event highlighted the lasting impact of Black excellence and ingenuity. Participants had the opportunity to reflect, learn and celebrate stories that are too often overlooked, creating a meaningful space to honor history and uplift the legacy of Black innovators.



Cañada College Celebrates Lunar New Year in the Grove

Yesterday, the Cañada College Chinese Culture Club, in partnership with the International Student Center, Cultural Center, STAR and ASCC, celebrated Lunar New Year in The Grove. In honor of the Year of the Horse, students participated in traditional activities such as origami, calligraphy and decorative pattern-making. Guests also enjoyed a variety of traditional foods and treats while listening to festive Chinese music. Thank you to everyone who joined in ringing in a year of energy, strength and good fortune.





Rooted in Self-Love: Womxn of Color Collaborative Gathering

Students gathered this week in the Cultural Center for *Rooted in Self-Love*, hosted by the Womxn of Color Collaborative in partnership with the Personal Counseling Center. The event created a welcoming space for reflection, connection and community care. Participants engaged in meaningful conversation around self-love and wellness, then brought their intentions to life through a guided vision board activity. The afternoon offered time to slow down, set goals and uplift one another in a supportive and affirming environment.



Third Annual Poetry Night

Yesterday, the Cañada community came together for the Third Annual Poetry Night, an afternoon filled with poetry, music, dance and powerful storytelling. Students shared their voices and talents in a space full of support, reflection and connection. In honor of the 100th anniversary of Black History Month in the U.S., the event reminded us how powerful art can be as expression and celebration.



Dr. Chialin Hsieh Receives Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College Administrator Award

Congratulations to Dr. Chialin Hsieh, Vice President of Instruction, on being named a recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Distinguished College Administrator Award. She will be formally recognized at PTK Catalyst, the organization's annual international convention. This prestigious award honors college leaders who collaborate closely with student leaders to strengthen campus communities and expand opportunities for student success. Recipients are nominated by Phi Theta Kappa students, making the recognition especially meaningful. At Cañada College, Chialin has advanced student achievement as a shared institutional priority, strengthening support for Phi Theta Kappa through strategic collaboration, intentional resource alignment and expanded leadership opportunities. Selected from thousands of eligible administrators nationwide, she is recognized for championing student leadership, increasing access to scholarships and research opportunities and fostering a campus culture grounded in equity and academic excellence.



Ronak Khalasi, Shipping and Receiving Clerk

Please join us in congratulating Ronak Khalasi on his appointment as Cañada College's Shipping and Receiving Clerk. Ronak brings valuable experience from within the San Mateo County Community College District.

Since August 2024, he has served as a District Office Mail Clerk and since August 2025, he has supported Cañada College as a Detail Shipping and Receiving Clerk. Prior to that, he worked at Skyline College as an Office Assistant II, where he supported both student services and administrative operations. Ronak is a proud community college graduate. He earned his associate degree from Skyline College and went on to complete his Bachelor degree in Business Administration and Management at San Francisco State University.



Webinar - Beyond the Breaking Point: Supporting Students Through Distress and Crisis

The State Chancellor's Office is hosting a webinar to help campus professionals recognize and respond to student distress in ways that strengthen student persistence and progress toward meaningful credentials. *Beyond the Breaking Point: Supporting Students Through Distress and Crisis* provides a shared, campus-wide approach to understanding student distress, having supportive conversations and knowing when and how to take next steps. This session walks participants through key concepts from the *Beyond the Breaking Point* toolkit, including recognizing distress along a continuum, responding in ways that reduce escalation, making effective referrals and understanding when immediate intervention is needed.

The toolkit will be available for download during the webinar and strategies shared can be applied immediately across a variety of campus roles. The session will be held on March 10, 2026 10-11 a.m. [Learn More and Register Here](#).

I wish you a restful weekend,

Sincerely,
Kim