



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Honoring Our Tenured Faculty Members

At Wednesday's Board meeting, we honored Black History Month and recognized our newest tenured faculty members. Please join me in congratulating Kassie Alexander, Kristina Brower, Jinmei Lun, Danny Lynch and Emanuela Quaglia on achieving tenure! This significant milestone reflects their dedication, hard work and outstanding contributions to Cañada College. Their commitment to excellence in teaching and service has made a lasting impact on our students, colleagues and the institution as a whole. We are proud to welcome them as permanent members of our team and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments at our year-end event in May.



Nominations for Classified Employee of the Year Due Tuesday, March 3

Each year, the [Board of Governors](#) along with the State Chancellor's Office seeks nominations from each community college district for their Classified Employee of the Year Award. All members of the Cañada Community are encouraged to nominate a classified employee for Cañada's award. To nominate someone, please review the [award criteria](#) and complete the attached nomination form. Please note that there are five questions requiring a narrative reply.

All nominations must be received by end of day Tuesday, March 3 at 4:30 p.m. Please submit your completed nomination form to the Office of the President at CANPresident@smccd.edu. The College Cabinet will then review the nominations and make a final selection by March 4 to ensure that we meet the deadline for submitting our nominee to the District. We look forward to receiving your nominations. Please contact the President's Office if you have any questions.

Save the Date: Accreditation Virtual Open Forum – March 11, 2026 from 2 – 3 p.m.

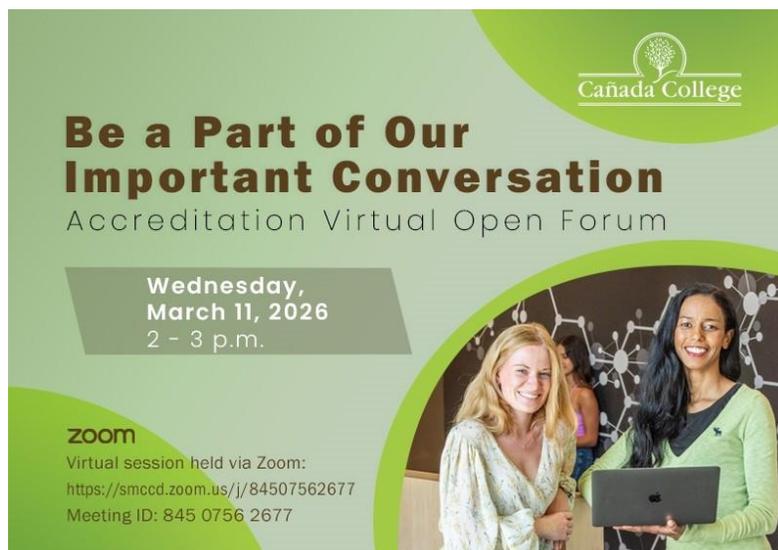
As part of our current comprehensive institutional accreditation review, the 5-member peer review team has requested time to meet in an open, virtual setting with members of the Cañada campus community. You are invited to participate in a Virtual Open Forum with the ACCJC peer review team on:

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
2-3 p.m.
Virtual session held via Zoom:

Zoom Link: <https://smccd.zoom.us/j/84507562677>

Meeting ID: 845 0756 2677

This is a great opportunity for faculty, staff and students to share their experiences at the College with the peer review team in an open and welcoming setting. Your voice and perspective truly matter and play an important role in the accreditation process. We encourage you to join and be part of this meaningful conversation. Please note that SMCCCD Board Members, the College President and the senior leadership team will not be present, allowing community members to speak openly and candidly with the peer review team. Thank you for being engaged and for helping strengthen our College community.



The graphic features a green and white color scheme. At the top right is the Cañada College logo, which includes a stylized tree icon and the text "Cañada College". The main headline reads "Be a Part of Our Important Conversation" in a large, bold, dark font, followed by "Accreditation Virtual Open Forum" in a smaller font. Below this, a grey box contains the date and time: "Wednesday, March 11, 2026" and "2 - 3 p.m.". In the bottom left corner, the Zoom logo is displayed above the text "Virtual session held via Zoom:", the Zoom link "https://smccd.zoom.us/j/84507562677", and the Meeting ID "845 0756 2677". On the right side, there is a circular inset image showing two women, one with blonde hair and one with dark hair, smiling and looking at a laptop screen. The background of the graphic includes a faint molecular structure pattern.

Men's Basketball Headed to Nor-Cal Championship

The Colts Men's Basketball Team delivered a major postseason performance, upsetting College of Marin 79-74 to advance to the 2nd Round of the Nor-Cal Championships and will play at Santa Rosa Junior College this Saturday. With strong defensive intensity and balanced scoring in front of a packed gym, the Colts controlled key stretches of the game and executed down the stretch to secure the win. The victory marks an important milestone for the program and keeps their postseason momentum alive as they continue their run through the Northern California bracket. [Congratulations](#) to Coach Eddy Harris, Assistant Coaches and his team. Go Colts!



A Packed House for Guy Diehl's Inspiring Artist Talk

The Guy Diehl Artist Talk at the Cañada College Art Gallery last Saturday drew a full and engaged audience for an afternoon of art and conversation, moderated by writer Kelly Egan. Diehl shared highlights from his retrospective exhibition and reflected on discovering his passion for art after struggling in school due to dyslexia - an inspiring message for many of our students. A special thank you to Professor Emilio Villalba and Professor Denise Erickson for the many hours they put in to making the event a resounding success and the ITS team for helping ensure it all came together.



SMCCCD Black Employee Mixer

On Tuesday, the District Black Employee Mixer, held at the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum and Learning Center, brought together Black employees and allies from across the District to connect, build community and learn about the work happening on their respective campuses. The event also highlighted the efforts of the District's first Employee Resource Group, B.L.A.C.K @ Cañada College, and its ongoing focus on belonging, leadership, advocacy and community-building. The gathering provided an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate 100 years of Black history, honoring the legacy and contributions of Black communities while reaffirming our shared commitment to equity and progress across the District. This event reflects the continued momentum and collective dedication of Black employees across the District and the importance of creating spaces that foster connection, collaboration and empowerment.



Career Café

On Wednesday, students gathered for Career Café to connect with staff and local professionals over pan dulce and coffee. The welcoming setting sparked meaningful conversations about career paths, lived experiences and next steps, as students asked thoughtful questions and began building valuable connections. Career Café is made possible through the leadership of Retention Specialist Diego Payan and EOPS Counselor Jose Manzo from the Career Center and Interest Areas. Their ongoing efforts continue to create engaging spaces where students can connect, explore opportunities and envision their futures with confidence.



Zine-Making Gathering Celebrating Black History & DIY Culture

Also on Wednesday, members of the campus community came together to create zines and celebrate Black history through creativity and storytelling. The space was alive with collaging, writing and conversation as participants crafted pieces that reflected their voices, individual experiences and ideas. Rooted in the legacy of self-publishing, the gathering highlighted how zines have long served as powerful tools for expression, resistance and sharing stories on our own terms.



AANHPI S.T.A.R. Program Hosts Inspiring Career Panel

On Wednesday, the AANHPI S.T.A.R. Program hosted an engaging career panel that offered students valuable insight into diverse educational and professional journeys. Students heard from Andrew Callejo, Chief Revenue Officer and Co-Founder of Catchhouse (SMCCCD alum), Nancy Thuy Nguyen, Assistant Dean of Students at Stanford University and Ishani Dugar, Lead Trainer & Group Coordinator for the San Mateo County Pride Center. Each panelist reflected on their successes, the challenges they faced and the pivotal moments that shaped their journeys. The conversation emphasized that career paths are rarely linear, but rather an ongoing process of self-discovery - learning who you are, what you value and how education can serve as a powerful foundation for growth and opportunity.



Art Gallery Walk Through

In honor of Black History Month, the Umoja Club proudly hosted a student-led art gallery featuring original works created by their peers. The exhibition celebrated the voices, stories and creative expressions of Black students and their allies across the campus community, highlighting the power of art as a form of identity, reflection and celebration.



KPMG Professional Development Workshop

As part of Beta Zeta Nu's commitment to the College, Cañada's PTK chapter delivered Business Careers Unboxed: Real Talk with KPMG Leaders. KPMG is one of the big 4 public financial services companies with offices throughout the world. This energizing face-to-face panel discussion designed to help students explore real-world career paths in business. The session featured four experts from KPMG, including junior and senior level professionals, who shared their personal journeys, practical insights on leadership and advice on making an impact across industries such as accounting, consulting, technology, healthcare and construction. Tailored especially for community college students, the panel discussion highlighted specialized programs, career simulations and clear pathways into professional services, drawing over 100 engaged attendees. Many students stayed after the session to connect with the speakers, exchange LinkedIn information and continue the conversation about their next steps.



Cañada Chapter Advisors Honored with Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team Award

Congratulations to Faculty member Paul Roscelli and Retention Specialist Autumn McMahon on being selected as recipients of Phi Theta Kappa's 2026 Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team Award! Through their leadership as chapter advisors, Paul and Autumn have created meaningful opportunities for students to build confidence, discover their potential and pursue their academic and professional goals. Their dedication and mentorship extend far beyond the classroom, shaping student experiences and strengthening the chapter community. Paul and Autumn will be formally recognized at the PTK Catalyst conference, taking place next month in Baltimore, Maryland. [Congratulations](#) on this outstanding achievement.



Umoja Open House Celebrates New Space

Yesterday the campus community toasted (with sparkling cider) the opening of the new Umoja Village, located in Building 3, Room 103. The energy in the room was warm, joyful and rooted in community as folks gathered to connect and honor the purpose behind Umoja. The Umoja Village, designed to support students every step of the way, reflects the colors of Pan-Africanism and a deep commitment to culture, belonging and student success. Umoja continues to be a place for Black students to be supported and seen, while welcoming all students who are looking for connection and guidance on campus.



April Flex Day Submission Proposals Due March 6

Proposal submissions are open for April 16 Flex Day! You can submit your proposal by March 6 using the [Cañada College Flex Day Proposal Form](#). The theme for this Flex Day is De-escalation. We welcome session proposals that explore strategies, practices and approaches relevant to this theme, as well as those that support our broader professional learning goals.

I wish you a restful weekend,

Sincerely,
Kim