



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Dave Eck - Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences

Please congratulate Dave Eck, who has been selected as Cañada's Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. Pending Board approval, his first day in the role will be June 15, 2026. Dave joins Cañada's administrative team, bringing a love of learning and eight years of faculty leadership experience at Cañada College.

Dave has had the opportunity to work on many projects and serve in a number of roles within the Humanities and Social Science Division as well as across the College, District and State. At the Division and College levels, he has served as Academic Senate President, a Division Representative on the Curriculum Committee, the Common Course Numbering Coordinator, co-chair of the Instructional Planning Council and tri-chair for the planning process behind Cañada's current Educational Master Plan. He was also a participant in and then a co-facilitator of Cañada's Faculty Learning Program. At the District and State levels, Dave has served as District Academic Senate President and co-chaired the District Participatory Governance Council. He also represented the College and District at ten statewide Academic Senate plenaries.



Before joining Cañada College as philosophy faculty in 2016, Dave taught at Florida Gulf Coast University and the University of South Florida. He earned a PhD in Philosophy from the University of South Florida in addition to BAs in History and Philosophy from Lehigh University. His research and teaching interests focused on the social dimensions of knowledge, with an emphasis on the role of technology. He grew up in central Pennsylvania, in a household where no one owned a car. From his peripatetic upbringing, he learned the pleasures of walking and the power of talking with others.

2026 President's Student Leadership Award Recipient: Nathan Tam

Cañada College is proud to name Nathan Tam as the 2026 President's Student Leadership Award recipient, honoring his remarkable *Summa Cum Laude* success across seven associate degrees. As an Honors Transfer Program Ambassador, Nathan fostered a vibrant campus community by mentoring peers through the rigorous transfer process to elite institutions. His academic excellence is further highlighted by his published research on the pandemic's impact within San Francisco's Tenderloin District, which he presented at several regional conferences. After being accepted to 15 prestigious schools, including Stanford and UC Berkeley, Nathan will transition to Harvard University this fall to study biology with a focus on neuroscience and public health. To learn more about his transformative journey and future goals, please [visit the Commencement website for Nathan's full bio.](#)



High School Students Explore College Pathways and Career Opportunities

Last Friday, the Dual Enrollment team welcomed 70 students from the Sequoia Union High School District, representing specialized programs at Woodside, Menlo-Atherton and Carlmont High Schools. These visitors engaged in mock interviews and a job fair featuring local partners such as Mercedes-Benz and Chick-fil-A before enjoying a campus tour and scavenger hunt. The momentum continued on Monday as 15 Dual Enrollment students from Pescadero High School arrived to explore various academic departments and college pathways through hands-on activities. The group received specialized presentations from faculty in Early Childhood Education and Engineering, toured the campus facilities with college leadership and learned about essential student support services at the STEM and Learning Centers. Both days concluded with a community lunch, successfully bridging the gap between high school curricula and future collegiate and professional success.



Empowering AANHPI Voices: Cañada College at the 2026 APAHE Conference

The Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander STAR Program and Associated Students of Cañada College attended the annual Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education Conference 2026 in Anaheim, California last week. The group participated in sessions on developing intersegmental higher education systems of change to support AANHPI students, sessions exploring AANHPI identity, community empowerment and AI. They also listened to inspiring keynotes from journalist and immigrant rights activist Jose Antonio Vargas and actor and social justice activist Tamlyn Tomita.



EOPS Club Success: A Student-Led Visit to CSU Monterey Bay

The EOPS Club recently organized a visit to California State University, Monterey Bay and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. This student-led initiative brought together 24 students to explore, learn and build community through an unforgettable experience. A special thank you to Promise Scholars Program Retention Specialist Diego Payan, Promise Scholars Program Counselor Danny Lynch, and EOPS Club Advisors Jose Manzo and Diego Zevallos, who supported the trip by driving students and helping make this experience possible.



Unity in Reflection: Screening "L.A. Burning" and Building Cross-Racial Solidarity

As part of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration, Umoja and the AANHPI STAR Program hosted the screening of *L.A. Burning: The Riots 25 Years Later* followed by a discussion. The conversation was facilitated by Professor Lezlee Ware and explored topics including systemic racism in communities of color, civil unrest and the importance of community building and cross-racial solidarity in dismantling systemic racism. Students also had the opportunity to share their hopes and dreams.



A "Grate" Afternoon in the International Student Center

This week at the International Student Center, student Eliyah Mach shared his passion and knowledge of cheese during Student Hour: Fall in Love with Cheese. He took participants on a delicious journey through the art of cheesemaking and the history of popular cheeses in France, including one from his hometown of Rodez. Guests enjoyed a cheese tasting event and shared their favorites. Brie was the winner, with Roquefort a close second. Thank you for sharing this special part of your culture, Eliyah!



Womxn of Color Collaborative – Earth Day Community Gathering

On Earth Day, the Womxn of Color Collaborative hosted a campus-wide event that focused on sustainable accessory crafting and community connection. Utilizing a variety of cultural fabric scraps, participants created earrings and refreshed old clothing, giving it a new life. As they crafted, they engaged in meaningful conversations about their needs and goals for the remainder of the semester.



Librarian on the Loose: Read up on Environmental Justice!

Cañada College Library celebrated 56 years of Earth Day with a special Library table at The Grove, continuing a tradition that dates back to the college's very first Ecology Fair in 1970. Staff, faculty and students stopped by between to browse a curated selection of new and classic books centered on environmental justice. A great turnout made it a fitting tribute to decades of environmental commitment right here on campus!



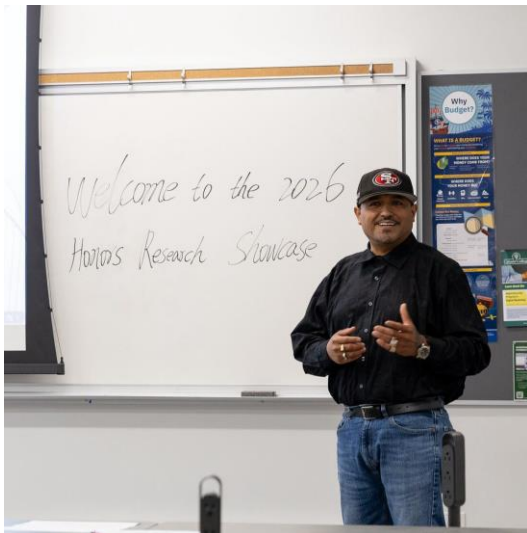
Threads of Change: Eco Elegance Fashion Show's Earth Day Tribute

Yesterday, Cañada College's Fashion Design & Merchandising Department hosted its second Eco Elegance Fashion Show in celebration of Earth Day. The event welcomed Cañada students and employees, visiting high school students, community members and industry partners to spotlight creativity, sustainability and the future of fashion. Guests explored a vibrant vendor booth area and experienced a runway filled with innovative, eco-conscious designs by student designers. SMCCCD's Office of Sustainability also hosted EarthFest, which beautifully complemented the fashion show. Additionally, the College welcomed 60 Dual Enrollment students from Westmoor High School (Fashion) and Aragon High School (Interior Design) for a day of hands-on learning. They participated in a designer showcase, a visible mending workshop and visits to the Fashion Club and Earth Fest booths. Advanced fashion students from Westmoor High School also designed and created some of the pieces featured in the fashion show! The day's events were a dynamic display of community, mindful design and inspired talent - congratulations to everyone who brought Eco Elegance to life!



Honors Symposium: Two Days of Student Research & Community

Yesterday marked Day One of Cañada College's exciting Honors Symposium, bringing together students, staff and faculty to celebrate outstanding original research by our Honors scholars. Today, Day Two continues the momentum and all are [welcome to join the student presentations](#) across a variety of disciplines, each lasting 10–15 minutes followed by Q&A. Hosted by Honors Student Ambassadors, the afternoon will also feature a special Q&A panel with Cañada Honors Alumni who have successfully transferred to top universities and are ready to share their insights and tips. Stop by for any part of the event to enjoy great food, inspiring research and a wonderful sense of community. Come show your support for our Honors Scholars!



How Well Do You Think our College Participatory Governance is Working?

Please take a few minutes to respond to PBC's [annual survey evaluating how well our participatory governance processes](#) are working for each constituency group (faculty, staff, students and administrators) at Cañada this year.

New Streamlined Mail & Shipping Request Process

The [Shipping and Receiving / Mail Services website](#) has been updated with a new, streamlined process to better support our campus needs. Effective immediately, all requests for incoming mail, outgoing mail and shredding services must be submitted via the [online request form](#). This transition ensures improved efficiency, more accurate tracking and faster service for all departments. We appreciate your cooperation in using this updated portal for all future service requests moving forward.

Employee End-of-Year Celebration – RSVP by May 6

Please join us for our Employee End-of-Year Celebration! The event will be held at the Cañada Vista Clubhouse on Wednesday, May 13 from 12-1:30 p.m. All college employees are invited to celebrate the end of the year together. During the celebration, we will be honoring our retiring faculty and staff, faculty who have achieved tenure and our Classified Employee of the Year. The event flyer is attached. [Please RSVP at this link](#) by May 6.



I wish you a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,
Kim