



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Clear Skies for a Successful Spring Star Party

Last Friday, the Cañada Astronomy Department, in collaboration with Skyline College and student volunteers, hosted another successful Star Party. Despite the unseasonably cold weather, more than 60 attendees enjoyed snacks, refreshments and views of the wonders of the universe through telescopes. These eager sky enthusiasts were treated to views of Jupiter, Venus, the Moon, the Great Orion Nebula and several star clusters. The Star Party is anticipated to return in late October - look for updates on the college event calendar and on the Astronomy Department's website.



Cañada Connects with East Bay High Schools

The word about Cañada College continues to spread! Within the past month, Cañada College was invited to attend Career & College Day events at three East Bay high schools.

The Outreach team connected with hundreds of students ranging from 9th to 12th grade at Conley-Caraballo High School (Hayward), Newark Memorial High School, and James Logan High School (Union City). It was exciting to see students' enthusiasm as they learned about our unique programs, and it was especially rewarding to meet graduating seniors who plan to attend Cañada in Fall 2026.



Student Housing Groundbreaking

On Monday, Cañadians attended a groundbreaking ceremony at CSM to mark the start of construction on [SMCCCD's 316-bed student housing development](#). Serving students across all three colleges, this project reflects a significant investment in student housing access and equity.



Academic Senate of California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Open Educational Resources Initiative LibreTexts Workshop Visits Cañada College

The Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI) and LibreTexts partnered to host their Northern California regional workshop on LibreTexts at Cañada College. More than 30 participants, including eight from Cañada College, traveled from across California to learn how to create and remix textbooks using LibreTexts and how to use ADAPT, its associated homework platform. There were many engaging conversations both within disciplines and across the group. A huge thank you to:

- Professor Michelle Pilati, Project Director at Rio Hondo College
- Dr. Cristina Moon, ADAPT Lead and Area B Lead at Chabot College
- Professor Shagun Kaur, LibreTexts Lead at De Anza College
- Professor Suzanne Wakim, Accessibility Lead at Butte College
- Dr. Delmar Larsen, Founder and CEO of LibreTexts at UC Davis
- Dr. Sarah Harmon, Cañada College OER/ZTC Program Manager



Beyond the Classroom: Interior Design Students Tour Historic Estates

Recently, the Interior Design Club enhanced student learning through immersive field trips to the historic Carolands Château and the iconic Hearst Castle. More than 100 participants experienced architectural masterpieces firsthand, connecting classroom concepts like spatial flow and material scale to exceptional real-world examples. These experiences allowed aspiring designers to explore design heritage and Mediterranean Revival–style architecture, strengthening their creative problem-solving skills and professional perspectives. A special thanks is extended to IRG Stone and Pietra Fina Natural Stone for generously sponsoring lunch for all participating students and faculty. This successful initiative was made possible by the dedicated leadership of Interior Design student Nancy Ruiz and the Interior Design Club, along with the unwavering support of faculty chaperones and campus sponsors.



Pre-Rad Tech Information Sessions

Last week, current Radiological Technology students volunteered to lead roundtable information sessions at the STEM Center, where they shared their experiences with Allied Health students preparing to apply to the Rad-Tech program. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions about the application process, coursework and clinical placements.

A special thanks goes to Professor Lezlee Inman for partnering with the Science and Health Interest Area Success Team, Retention Specialist Jackie Gonzalez and Promise Scholars Program Counselor Danny Lynch to make this event possible.



Career Café: A Semester of Connections and Growth

As the semester comes to a close and the final Career Café event wraps up, thank you to everyone who made these gatherings possible. Career Café has served as a meaningful space for students to connect, learn and grow, supported by strong collaboration and opportunities to foster conversations that truly impact students' lives. A special note of appreciation goes to Diego Payan and Jose Manzo for their leadership, dedication and instrumental roles in making this program a reality; their commitment to student success has been vital to the experience. Ultimately, the success of Career Café this semester is a testament to the collective effort and participation of the entire community.



Woodside High School Students Explore Academic Pathways at Cañada College

On Wednesday, 55 Dual Enrollment students from Woodside High School visited Cañada College for an engaging campus experience. They were welcomed by Alex Kramer, Dean of Business, Design & Workforce, and Priscilla Menjivar, Acting Director of Dual Enrollment and High School Transition. Students attended a presentation on academic and career pathways by Counselor Daryan Chan, toured the campus with student ambassadors and participated in a fun scavenger hunt. They also took part in an activity with Professor Kristina Brower and Program Services Coordinator Jamie Hui in the Early Childhood Education Department and visited the Medical Assisting Lab with Professor Elna Murcia-Cordoba. The day concluded with lunch in The Grove and scavenger hunt prizes generously provided by the Cañada Bookstore.



Science and Health Interest Area Speaker Series

On Wednesday evening, Cañada welcomed Ashley Reilly, who shared her educational and career journey during the Science and Health Interest Area Speaker Series. Ashley is a Systems Engineer at Anode Technology, where she collaborates with a team developing mobile battery energy storage systems designed to improve temporary power solutions. She earned both her B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from UC Berkeley. Ashley shared an inspiring story that deeply resonated with Cañada students, who were highly engaged and asked thoughtful questions throughout and after the event. She took the time to thoroughly answer each question, connect with students individually, and offer valuable advice on her transfer experience including the importance of gaining hands-on experience through internships, networking and building projects. It was a wonderful evening and attendees left feeling inspired and motivated by Ashley's journey.





Strength and Solidarity at the AANHPI Affinity Gathering

As part of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month 2026 celebration, the STAR Program and the Cultural Center hosted an AANHPI Affinity Gathering where staff, students and faculty engaged in small group discussions around identity, family, heritage and topics related to culture. A community showcase and open mic followed the Affinity Gathering. The community showcase featured South Asian dance lessons from dance instructor Aman Barboza; piano and guitar performances by ASCC President Will Tseng; and an “I’m Not Your Model Minority” breaking board activity led by Dr. Mary Ho and Dr. Michiko Kealoha. Attendees had an opportunity to participate in the breaking board activity that included breaking through generational trauma, pressure, the bamboo ceiling and gender stereotypes. [Please check out the remaining AANHPI Heritage Month events.](#)





Exploring the "Strange / Familiar" at the Art Gallery

We are excited to share that Roborant Review recently [published a thoughtful feature](#) on [Wardell%20McNeal%20Strange/Familiar]Wardell McNeal's current exhibition, "Strange / Familiar," hosted on campus. If you haven't had a chance to see the collection in person, the gallery remains open through May 14.



Staff Supported Needed for Commencement

Cañada's 58th Commencement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 23, at 10 a.m. We invite staff to participate in making this a memorable milestone for our graduates and their families. Specifically, we need assistance with the following roles:

- Graduate Door Greeter
- Usher
- Clean Up Crew
- Graduate Prepper

Please note that employee hours for this event will be funded through the VPSS commencement budget. Important: CSEA employees working at the Commencement ceremony are entitled to overtime compensation. To participate you must sign up by clicking on the [Cañada College Commencement Support Signup form](#). The employee will receive overtime pay but may opt for compensatory (comp) time. This is at the discretion of the employee. There are a limited number of spots available. If you have any questions, please contact a member of CSEA Chapter 33 leadership.



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.

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.



Dagger of the Mind: A Supernatural Hour with Macbeth

The Theatre Arts Department presents a special retelling of Shakespeare's Macbeth! [Dagger of the Mind: An Hour with Macbeth](#) is a fast-paced descent into madness featuring powerful performances, high-stakes swordplay and a bold, re-envisioned ending you won't see anywhere else. Witness the ultimate spiritual battle between heroism and villainy as the "Scottish Play" takes over the intimate Flexible Theater.

Location: The Flexible Theater

- Friday, May 1 | 12 p.m. (Noon)
- Saturday, May 2 | 8 p.m.
- Sunday, May 3 | 2 p.m.



I wish you a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,
Kim