



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

SparkPoint Celebrates Financial Literacy Month!

In partnership with Patelco Credit Union, SparkPoint recently held a “Making Every Dollar Count: Everyday Budget Wins” workshop in celebration of Financial Literacy Month. Attendees learned how to create realistic budgets and explored practical strategies for managing them effectively.



Promise Scholars and TRIO Visit University of San Francisco and Cal Academy

Recently, the Promise Scholars Program and TRIO Program took students on an engaging campus tour of the University of San Francisco, where participants explored campus life, academic programs, student resources and transfer opportunities at a four-year institution.

Students spent the day deepening their understanding of the university experience while connecting with peers and envisioning their future educational goals. To close out the trip, the group visited the California Academy of Sciences, where students explored interactive exhibits, marine life displays and world-renowned science and natural history collections. The trip provided a fun and enriching experience that combined college exploration, community building and hands-on learning opportunities.



English Department Hosts End-of-Year Celebration

The English Department recently hosted a festive gathering to honor current English majors and welcome students considering the major. The event was a great success, featuring a popular book giveaway and a spirited game of literary bingo that kept the energy high. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the department's current students alongside the curiosity of those exploring the program.



Stanford Health Care Career Exploration

Last Thursday, students from Professor Michelle Lomeli's Job Search Strategies course and EOPS visited Stanford Health Care for an immersive experience featuring professional panel discussions and guided tours. By engaging directly with healthcare professionals, students were able to explore potential career pathways and exchange contact information for future mentorship and networking opportunities. This real-world exposure left participants energized about their professional futures, providing them with valuable insight, clarity and professional connections to support their success in their fields of interest.



College Celebrates 4th Annual Lavender Graduation

Last Friday, the Office of Equity and Brave Space Collective hosted Cañada College's 4th Annual Lavender Graduation, a joyful celebration honoring LGBTQIA+ identified students and allies who are earning their Associate's Degrees, Certificates or transferring to four-year institutions.

The event featured performances by Queer student artists, a drag performance by the acclaimed Ms. Amoura Teese of San Francisco, student speakers and a lively performance by the Rhythm Collective, culminating in a heartfelt recognition ceremony for all graduates in attendance. Embracing a *Wicked*-inspired theme, the evening served as a fitting tribute to a group of graduates who have truly “defied gravity,” while every “Friend of Dorothy” in the room was celebrated in style.



Honoring Education and Human Development Student Achievement

Congratulations to the Education and Human Development students for their dedication, perseverance and hard work in reaching this significant milestone. The graduates were surrounded by family, friends and members of the campus community. The event also highlighted the publication of *Coralee's World*, showcasing student creativity and accomplishment, while Dr. Agustin Cervantes provided inspiring words to guide graduates as they embark on the next steps of their professional journeys.





Honors Students and Alumni Inspire at Stanford Research Event

Cañada College Honors students attended the Bay Area Honors Research Symposium at Stanford University last Saturday. Honors Transfer Program (HTP) student Evgeniya Olvena presented her research titled “Metacognitive Miscalibration: The Role of Communication in Perceived and Actual Knowledge,” and Honors student Helen Greenwood presented “Growth Over Time of Fungi Species Introduced to Oil-Polluted Soil.” Their presentations were well received and highly successful! Additionally, HTP alum Arya Shadan spoke on a panel featuring former honors community college students now studying at Stanford University. The panel proved to be deeply inspiring for attending students.



Cinco de Mayo 2026 Festival Celebration

On Sunday, Cañada College joined the City of East Palo Alto and Comité Latino for the Cinco de Mayo Festival to celebrate and uplift Latino culture within the East Palo Alto community.

Approximately 5,000 community members and visitors participated in the parade and festival, which showcased a diverse array of local vendors and community organizations, including the team from Cañada College. The event featured a vibrant atmosphere with folkloric dance, mariachi, local food vendors and cultural presentations, alongside a dedicated children's zone and informational exhibits.



Artist Spotlight: Student Jeovanny Carlos in Conversation

Student photographer Jeovanny Carlos recently shared the story behind his exhibit in the Library, inspired by a visit to a car show with his grandfather. Blending black-and-white film and digital techniques, he worked with medium format and 35mm film to compose close, almost intimate frames of chrome, dashboards and reflections, capturing both intricate detail and emotion. The exhibit extended beyond photography, incorporating elements like Jarritos bottles and vibrant color accents to evoke culture and memory. The audience was highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions while Jeovanny responded with insight into both his creative process and personal inspiration.



Celebrating Black Excellence and Student Success

On Tuesday, the Cañada College Black Student Union, College of San Mateo Umoja and Skyline College Umoja-ASTEP came together at College of San Mateo to host a powerful Black Excellence Celebration honoring Black graduates and transfer students from all three campuses. The evening was filled with joy, community and recognition as students were celebrated for their academic achievements, leadership, resilience and commitment to excellence. Attendees enjoyed an inspiring atmosphere of fellowship, encouragement and pride while recognizing the incredible accomplishments of this year's graduating and transferring scholars. The event highlighted the strength of collaboration across the district and the continued commitment to uplifting and empowering Black student success.



Ribbon Lei Making with AANHPI STAR

The AANHPI STAR Program and the Cultural Center hosted a ribbon lei making activity as part of the monthly STAR Hangout and in celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month. Dr. Michiko Kealoha taught attendees how to make the ribbon leis. The ribbon leis will be presented to graduating students at AANHPI Graduation Celebration on Tuesday, May 12 from 5-7 p.m. in Building 23, Rooftop. RSVP for the event [here!](#)



Promise Scholars End-of-Year Celebration

On Wednesday, the Promise Scholars Program hosted its End-of-Year Celebration, bringing together students, staff and counselors for an evening honoring this year's graduating scholars. The event recognized Promise Scholars who completed their college journey by earning degrees, certificates or transferring to four-year universities. The celebration was a meaningful moment to reflect on each scholar's dedication, perseverance and hard work throughout their academic journey. It was a proud evening for everyone involved and a testament to what our students can achieve with the right support behind them.



ESL Student Recognition Ceremony

Also on Wednesday, the ESL Department celebrated with the campus community to honor ESL students and draw inspiration from their personal stories. This event highlighted the diverse journeys and academic milestones of our English language learners.



The 20th Annual Animation Show of Shows

Animation producer Ron Diamond brought the 20th Animation Show of Shows to the Flexible Theater. Students from the Digital Art & Animation Department enjoyed an hour of some of the best independent animated short films from the U.S. and around the world. Professors Hyla Lacefield, Paul Naas and Emanuela Quaglia were also in attendance. Ron has screened the Animation Show of Shows at Cañada several times before and the Digital Art & Animation Department was pleased to welcome him back for this annual screening. The Show of Shows features films that employ a wide range of animation techniques, from traditionally drawn to CG and stop motion, with themes spanning comedy, drama and abstract storytelling. Following the screening, students participated in a Q&A with Ron, asking insightful questions about the films, the animation industry and how best to prepare for a career in animation.



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.

I wish you a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,
Kim