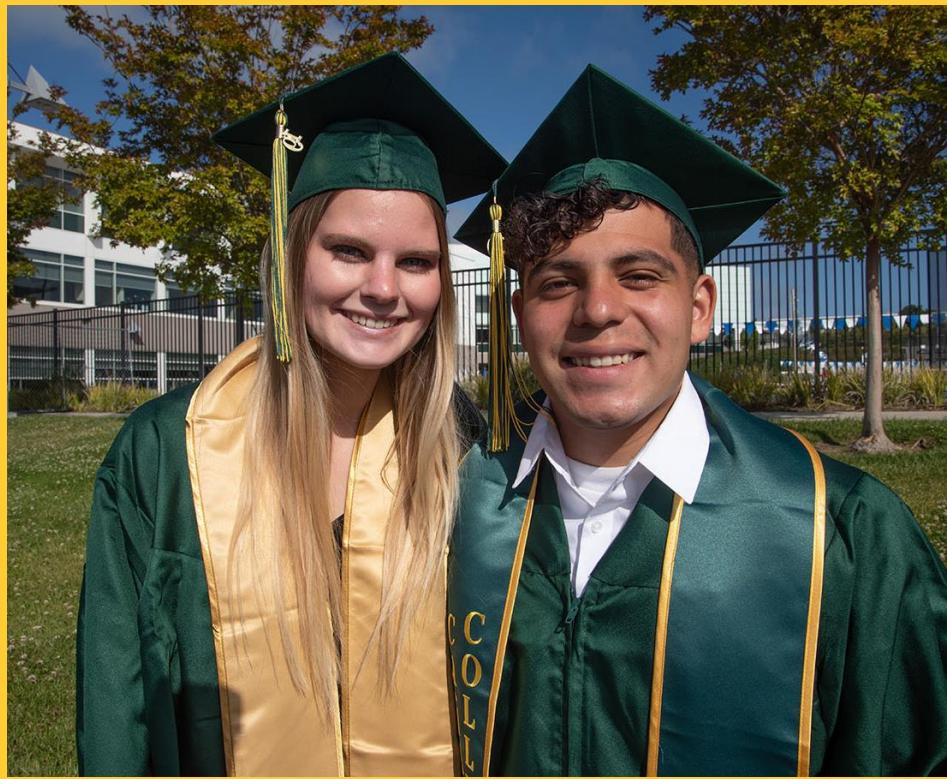




REDWOOD CITY, CA

**EMP 3.11 Create and Expand Career Exploration
Experiences for Students**

Progress So Far



- 9/16 First Meeting of Internal Stakeholders
- 10/7 First Meeting of Internal and External Stakeholders
- 10/20 Follow up meeting with JobTrain CEO Barrie Hathaway
- 11/11 Follow up meeting with Christopher Bernhard NOVAWorks
- 11/20 Follow up meeting of Internal Stakeholders

Internal Stakeholders

- Lizette Bricker - VPSS
- Max Hartman – Dean of Counseling
- Bob Haick – Career Center
- Dr. Karen Engel – Dean of PRIE
- Megan Rodriguez- Antone – Director of Community Relations and Marketing
- Danny Lynch – Lead IA Counselor, Science and Health
- Jose Manzo – Lead IA Counselor, Art Design & Performance (and Undecided)
- Dr. Kassie Alexander – Lead IA Counselor, Human Behavior and Culture
- Nadya Sigona – Lead IA Counselor, Business
- Alex Kramer – Dean, Business Design & Workforce

- Lorraine Barrales-Ramirez- Counselor/Coordinator EOPs/CARE/NextUP/FYSI (Career Launch)
- Diego Payan- Retention Specialist, Art, Design and Performance (and undecided)
- John Omar – Retention Specialist, Business and Human Behavior and Culture
- Jackie Gonzalez – Retention Specialist, Science and Health
- Dr. Ron Andrade – Director of Student Support
- **External Stakeholders**
 - Barrie Hathaway - JobTrain
 - Suzanne Dedeaux – JobTrain
 - Amanda Anthony – City of Redwood City
 - Chris Bernhardt – Nova Works
 - Dr. Maeve Katherine Bergman and Dr. Sunny Green - Bay Area California Community College Consortium (BACCC) to explore the FREE Gladeo Platform

Spring 2026 – Introducing the Career Café by Interest Areas and Career Center

Overview & Purpose:

Career Café by Interest Areas and Career Center is a monthly, community-building career event designed to bring students, faculty, staff, and professionals together over culturally welcoming refreshments such as but not limited to “pandulce” (sweetbread) and coffee/tea.

This space encourages informal career conversations, networking, and student engagement.

Goals of Career Café:

1. Create a culturally welcoming and inclusive space where students can explore career pathways.
2. Strengthen relationships between students, faculty, staff, and external partners (industry professionals, community organizations, alumni).
3. Encourage authentic low-stakes career conversations and networking.
4. Promote visibility of Interest Areas, IA peer mentors, campus wide career courses, and the Career Center resources.

To be Served:

1. 194 non-special program Undecided (explorers) students
2. 1,067 mix identified campus wide Undecided (explorers) students
3. 1,700 Interest Area students (80% P/T, 50% 1st Gen)
 1. *Tentative on additional IA supporting staff

Spring 2026 – Career Café continued.

Career Café Schedule at The Career Center

(Building 5, 332)(Grove Area)
(Monthly – Tuesdays, 11am–1pm)

Dates	Focus
January 27	Career Café Kickoff
February 24	Career Café + LinkedIn Headshots (Menlo Studio Partnership)
March 24	Career Café + LinkedIn Headshots (Menlo Studio Partnership)
April 28	Career Café + LinkedIn Headshots (Menlo Studio Partnership)

- LinkedIn headshots are provided **free** thanks to the partnership with **Menlo Studio**, beginning with the second event.
- Career Café on Tuesdays are utilized to promote and prepare for scheduled events on Wednesdays (IA Speaker Series & Career Center Job Fair) as well as campus wide Career Courses.

Spring 2026 – Weekly Drop in Support

Interest Area Drop-Ins – Every Tuesday (11am–1pm) (Not during Career Café)

- Staffed by:
 - IA Counselor Jose Manzo
 - IA Retention Specialist Diego Payan
 - Career Center Faculty/Coordinator
 - Additional IA supporting staff
- Services offered:
 - Career readiness support (Resume, Cover Letter, LinkedIn, etc...)
 - Career exploration tools and assessments
 - Job & internship search resources (College Central Network)
 - Student support within each Interest Area

These drop-ins function as continuous student support throughout the semester.

Spring 2026 – Monthly Workshops

Career Readiness Workshops (Monthly, Tuesdays)

Workshops will not occur during Career Café events—they are separate and will still be on Tuesdays.

“Career Pathways Series” (1 hour) can run during weekly drop-ins and may include:

- Crafting an Elevator Pitch
- Résumé Basics
- LinkedIn for Beginners
- Career Exploration Mini-Sessions
- Networking 101
- Career Conversations
- Interview Prep
- Finding Internships & Work-Based Learning

Interest Area Specific Workshops (Monthly, TBD)

- Entrepreneurship and Business
- Pre-Health, Pre-Med, Rad Tech
- Fashion Design and Digital Art
- Etc.

These short workshops add value without overwhelming the informal vibe of Career Café and can assist preparing students for upcoming speaker series, job fairs, and career opportunities. Tentative workshop locations TBD.

Pilot Interest Area & Career Center Initiative - Spring 2026



EXPLORERS

Cañada College



Art, Design & Performance

Create or perform everything from digital art and animation, studio art, musical and theatrical performances, interior design, fashion, and graphic design.



Business

Prepare for positions in administration, marketing, accounting, and management within large and small businesses, and get help in starting your own business.



Human Behavior & Culture

Consider a career in the social sciences, education, or language arts. In the Human Behavior and Culture Interest Area, study a wide range of topics that impact our communities.



Science & Health

Degrees in this Interest Area can lead to careers as engineers, scientists, radiologic technologists, fitness trainers, dieticians, environmental educators, and medical assistants, among many other options.



Thank you!