



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 2-9-24

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

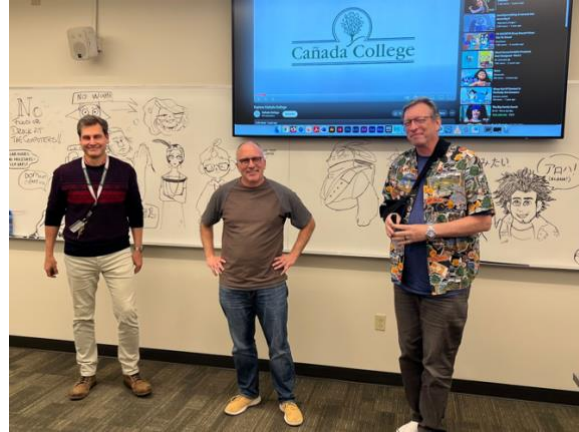
Black History Month

Cañada is holding a month-long celebration featuring events that commemorate the rich cultural heritage, remarkable achievements and undeniable contributions of the Black community. Please view the [college calendar](#) that displays Black History Month [events](#). Yesterday, the Cultural Center, UMOJA and Black Student Union set the stage for an exciting kickoff to Black History Month with a lively game night. The event featured a range of games, with the spirited competition and laughter kicked off by a round of Taboo. The room buzzed with 90s hip-hop music as participants enjoyed each other's company, indulged in games and savored some delicious food. It was an evening filled with fun, camaraderie and a celebration.



Augmented Reality (AR) Class Final Presentations

On January 31, Jobs for the Future (JFF) sponsored an event for our not-for-credit Augmented Reality (AR) class final presentations. The event was made possible by Cañada College at Menlo Park and Menlo Studio in conjunction with Cañada's Digital Art and Animation Department and SMCCCD Corporate and Community Education. There were handmade empanadas, a drawing for a VR headset courtesy of META, and cash prizes for the winners of the presentation contest. The class will be offered again in the summer – all are welcome to join!



Cañada Celebrates Lunar New Year

On February 6, the Cultural Center, Chinese Culture Club, Access Relevance Community (ARC AANAPISI) and Office of Student Life and Leadership Development came together in The Grove to celebrate Lunar New Year, specifically the Year of the Dragon. The event drew a large and enthusiastic crowd, featuring an impressive presentation by students on the significance of Chinese New Year. Attendees enjoyed a feast of noodles and dumplings. The event also featured various activities, with the calligraphy table standing out as a particularly popular attraction throughout the celebration.





Brothers Achieving Milestones

On Wednesday, the Brothers Achieving Milestones (BAM) group conducted a workshop focused on leveraging LinkedIn as a networking tool and highlighted key success-oriented tools. The session featured student Paul, who flawlessly demonstrated a 30-second professional pitch. The workshop emphasized the advantages of mastering networking skills and how they can significantly enhance one's success.



UndocuSpeaker Forum

At Wednesday's UndocuSpeaker forum, student Elia shared her educational journey, starting at Sequoia Adult School, and acknowledged her teacher's role in her transfer. As an undocumented student, the impactful Cañada College motto, "from here you can go anywhere," resonated with Elia. SparkPoint Coordinator Melissa Maldonado facilitated crucial connections to resources and supportive staff to help Elia. Challenging classes at Cañada College pushed Elia out of her comfort zone, leading to significant learning. In conclusion, Elia advised students not to overthink opportunities, especially

in applying for financial aid, emphasizing the importance of not navigating the process alone.



Puente Mentor/Mentee Social Mixer

Also on Wednesday, the Puente Team hosted the first Puente Mentee/Mentor social mixer of the semester. The Puente students learned about the importance of applying for scholarships and the resources available to them from the Puente Co-Coordinators Sandra Mendez and Yolanda Valenzuela. Personal Counselor and PCC Coordinator Marcos Chacon Jr. presented on Mindfulness and Self-Care, which was well-received by the attendees. The students and mentors also got an opportunity to take part in a hands-on mindfulness activity creating LEGO flowers. This was a relaxing way for everyone to build community since creating these structures involved paying attention to your senses and noticing your thoughts without judgment. At the end, the participants created LEGO flower bouquets that will serve as the centerpieces for the Puente End-of-the-Year Celebration in May.



Classified Employee of the Year Award

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. In our district, the three colleges and the District Office each nominate one classified employee. The Board of Trustees reviews the resulting four nominations received and makes the final selection of the nominee to be forwarded to the State. Considerations for the award include a commitment to high standards of job performance and professionalism, demonstrated leadership, collaboration, knowledge, and other criteria.

I encourage and invite all members of the Cañada Community (students, faculty members, and classified staff) to nominate a classified employee for our college's award. If you wish 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. I realize that you may not have all the information about the employee you wish to nominate, but please try to complete the form as best as you can. Because of the very short time we have to provide our nominee to the Board of Trustees, all nominations must be *received by Friday, March 1 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 6 to ensure that we meet the deadline for submitting our nominee to the District.

NCORE 2024 Information and Application

Earlier this week, District Communications sent information to employees who are interested in attending this year's National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE), Wednesday, May 28 – Saturday, June 1, 2024. The entire message is attached. For more information, please visit <https://ncore.ou.edu>.

Call for April 18 Flex Proposals

The Professional Development Planning Committee is calling for presentation proposals for the April 18 Flex Day. [Please submit your proposal here.](#) The deadline for proposals is March 15.

Nature Screenings in the Library

Did you know that the Cañada Library features live screenings of zoos, wildlife preserves, aquariums and more from all over the world? This feature is part of the Library's work in creating a welcoming and relaxing study space for students, including de-stressor activities such as puzzles and coloring books. The current featured [livestream](#) includes eagle parents in Big Bear, California that are taking turns incubating three eggs. The eaglets are expected to hatch near the end of February.



Due to President's Day weekend and the shorted week, we will not send a Weekly Update next week. As a reminder, in observance of Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day, campus will be closed February 16-19 and will re-open on Tuesday, February 20. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim