



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 4-5-24

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Nimsi Nain Garcia Sandoval, Cañada College Classified Employee of the Year

At last Wednesday's board meeting, I had the pleasure of recognizing Nimsi Nain Garcia Sandoval as Cañada College's Classified Employee of the Year. Nimsi joined the Cañada team in January 2019 as a Program Services Coordinator with Expanding Student Opportunities & TRIO Student Support Services and is currently Program Services Coordinator in our Undocumented Community Center (UCC).

Nimsi has been committed to providing equitable opportunities for underrepresented students of color and low-income students and is extremely knowledgeable about support services and community resources for all students, with an emphasis on Cañada College's undocumented community. She has transformed how Cañada College supports our undocumented community by fully implementing the 6 or Fewer Unit Non-Resident Tuition Fee Waiver, which allowed students taking 6 or fewer units to save up to \$1,400 per semester in fees. She also led the movement to rename Cañada's Dream Center to the Undocumented Community Center (UCC) to better represent the undocumented community. The UCC has tripled the number of students served to nearly 400 since she joined. Nimsi has been instrumental in launching the College's new Equity and Antiracism Planning Council, helping to develop the council's mission, goals and purpose. She has collaborated with others to lead Flex Day activities on supporting undocumented students and also created and promoted identity-based student recognition ceremonies.

In the community, Nimsi has collaborated with Redwood City Together and the North Fair Oaks Community Center to coordinate several conferences, each one bringing together more than 400 youth and parents to explore Latinx culture, identity, challenges and opportunities. At the statewide level, she serves as the College's Undocu-liaison, coordinating the Undocumented Student Week of Action and raising awareness about the undocumented experience. On a national level, Nimsi has shared her expertise at the National Council on Race and Ethnicity, NCORE, as a tri-chair of the Student Services Planning Council and workshop co-presenter. This year, she will be joined by her district colleagues to co-facilitate a pre-conference workshop.

Nimsi Garcia's passion for the community college vision of equity and justice, and her incredible knowledge of antiracist pedagogy and practices impacts every program she supports. As a proud Cañada College alum herself, Nimsi contributes to building a welcoming and empowering environment for students. Congratulations, Nimsi!



John Cuevas, SMCCCD Classified Employee of the Year

A huge congratulations to Cañada's Lead Groundskeeper, John Cuevas, who was recognized as the District Classified Employee of the Year and selected by the Board to be SMCCCD's Classified Employee of the Year! John's nomination will be forwarded to the State Chancellor's Office.

John joined the SMCCCD in 2012 as a Groundskeeper and was promoted to Lead Groundskeeper in 2014. Everyday, John contributes to a positive working and learning environment while consistently performing with high moral integrity and a commitment to providing exemplary service to the Cañada community. He endlessly embraces opportunities to support student success by contributing in meaningful ways, demonstrating strong leadership, and endeavoring to support the wellbeing of people in our College and District community by skillfully maintaining the campus grounds.

And, this is an extra busy and important time of year for John and his colleagues in Facilities as they are deeply aware of the importance of making Commencement special for our students as they graduate from college. John ensures that all details are tended to: the grass is cut, flower beds are weed free, chairs are perfectly aligned, and irrigation has been turned off. These details may seem inconsequential and frankly overlooked to the untrained eye, but this dedication to detail makes for a memorable event for the students and their families. Congratulations, John!



OYE Conference at Cañada College

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, we were honored to host the annual OYE conference for the twelfth year. The OYE Conference brought more than 500 community members to campus and was made possible thanks to the collaborative efforts of various community partners, including our own dedicated Cañada team of employees and students: Maria Huning, Olivia Cortez-Figueroa, Outreach Campus Ambassadors, Adolfo Leiva, Nimsi Garcia, Jasmin Padilla Valencia, Rachel Corrales, Zorie Gomez, Facilities, John Kenny, Paloma Felix, Luis Romero, Melissa Maldonado, Brianna Chavez, Alexis Arevalo Murillo, Sharon Song, Anthony Burrola, Elijah McKenzie and Quetzalli Vega. This year's conference featured a series of workshops aimed at empowering attendees, one of which was led by our talented students, including Luis Romero. Luis spearheaded the "I am... storytelling to build a future" workshop, which proved to be incredibly inspiring. Participants had the opportunity to craft poetry based on their personal narratives, resulting in a deeply engaging and enriching experience for all involved.



Honors Students Present at Regional Conference

Three Cañada College students presented at the Western Regional Honors Conference in Long Beach on March 29:

- Arya Shadan, "The Protest of Literature: The Voices of the Contemporary Iranian Revolution as Representative of a Comparative Literary Analysis"
- Konatsu Okita, "Psychology of Eating Habits: Comparison between Japan and America"
- Mikael Cheng, "Calculus Decolonized"

Congratulations Arya, Konatsu, and Mikael! Click [here](#) to learn more about the Honors Transfer Program or contact the Honors Coordinator Rebekah Sidman-Taveau.



Dual Enrollment Campus Visits

Recently, a group of 40 Hillsdale High School Dual Enrollment students and two of our Early Childhood Education (ECE) instructors, came to visit our Cañada College campus. Vice President Hsieh and I had an opportunity to welcome them and our campus student ambassadors provided a tour of our beautiful campus. To conclude their visit, they enjoyed lunch and listened to a current Cañada College ECE student share her experiences and future plans. On Tuesday, April 2, the Dual Enrollment team partnered with Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) to host Dual Enrollment students from various high schools. Students from Woodside High School's Engineering class, Carlmont High School's Business Marketing class, and Menlo Atherton High School's Digital Art and Animation class participated along with their high school teachers. Our Dual Enrollment team and Vice President Prisecar welcomed them. During their visit, the students engaged in various activities, including a job fair tabling event, mock interviews, immersive pathway experiences and campus tours led by our student ambassadors. Thank you to Cañada faculty members Candice Nance, Paul Naas and Ramki Kalyanaraman, who provided hands-on activities for the students. The day concluded with lunch and a student panel, where our Dual Enrollment students had the opportunity to learn firsthand from our own students about their experiences at Cañada College.



Important Message from the Cañada Financial Aid Services Department

Last week, the Cañada College Financial Aid Services team sent a student message with important information regarding the 2024-2025 FAFSA/CADAA application. The priority deadline to submit the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) has been extended to May 2, 2024. Please help the Financial Aid team encourage students to submit their applications as soon as possible as there have been a number of reported issues in the submission process. Failure to submit the FAFSA/CADAA application by the priority deadline of May 2 can result in disqualification from receiving state financial aid grants. The Financial Aid Office is hosting weekly workshop sessions to assist students who wish to apply for financial aid. For more information and to view workshop sessions, please visit their website or contact the Financial Aid Office at canaid@smccd.edu.

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

Please take a few minutes to respond to our annual survey evaluating how well our participatory governance processes are working for each constituency group at Cañada this year. PRIE will enter anyone who completes the whole survey in a raffle to win one of five \$20 gift cards from Pacific Dining! That's a lot of free coffee!

Accreditation Update

Cañada's substantive change application for distance education was recently submitted and approved by ACCJC. And our 2024 Annual Fiscal Report and Annual Report were submitted and accepted as well. All of these reports are available on the College's accreditation website.

Save the Date: Cañada Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Cañada's Commencement Committee is excited to announce the College's Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2024! The ceremony will be held outdoors on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 10 a.m. More information will be available soon, but please be sure to mark your calendars so you can join us in celebrating the Class of 2024. Please visit our Commencement website which will be updated with the latest information. General questions regarding Commencement may be directed to canstudentlife@my.smccd.edu.



I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim