



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 5-17-24

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Alex Kramer – Dean of Business, Design & Workforce

Please congratulate Alex Kramer who has been selected as Cañada's Dean of Business, Design & Workforce, pending board approval. He will begin on July 1, 2024. Alex brings more than a decade of service as a community college administrator in the workforce and economic development sector to the Dean of Business, Design & Workforce position at Cañada College.

With experience at the local and regional levels, Alex has served as Director of Workforce Development at Cañada College, where he started in the District, and most recently at College of San Mateo. In this role, he supported the innovative use of state and federal funding to support the alignment of career education pathways with high-wage, high-demand career opportunities for students. While at College of San Mateo, Alex concurrently served as the Director of the San Mateo County Small Business Development Center, where he led a team that supported local business owners' efforts to start and grow their businesses.

Before joining the San Mateo County Community College District, Alex served as a Deputy Sector Navigator for Business & Entrepreneurship at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, where he advanced the development of contextualized entrepreneurship programs in partnership with career education faculty, deans, employers, and students across the Bay Area. A first-generation college student, and proud product of the California Community Colleges, Alex holds a Master of Public Administration from San Francisco State University; a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Humboldt State University; and an Associate of Arts in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Citrus College. Congratulations and welcome back, Alex!



Lindsey Irizarry - Instructional Technologist

Please give a warm welcome to Lindsey Irizarry, Cañada's new Instructional Technologist. She is originally from San Diego but has been in the Bay Area working in Higher Education over the past decade. Lindsey specializes in learning management systems administration, universal and instructional design, learning technologies, computer hardware and graphic design. She is excited to work with a new team and find ways to best serve the campus. When she is not at work, you can find Lindsey outside gardening or walking with her dog, Schnitzel. She also loves a good Sci-Fi/Fantasy show or a co-op video game, so send recommendations her way!



Students Attend AANHPI Leadership Academy

Earlier this month, Cañada's Asian American, Native Hawaii, Pacific Islander S.T.A.R. (Success, Transfer, Access and Relevance) program sponsored seven students to attend the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute's 2024 NorCal Student Leadership Academy at San Jose City College. Cañada students participated in workshops focused on AANHPI identity and leadership, civic engagement and career pathway. More than 250 community college students from Northern California were in attendance. Panelist and speakers included The Honorable Evan Low, California Assemblymember, Betty Duong, Chief of Staff to Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy

Chavez and spoken word artist, Giovanni Ortega.



Migration Celebration

On Saturday, May 11, we celebrated the 7th Annual SMCCCD Migration Celebration at College of San Mateo. We were able to celebrate eight graduating undocumented, mixed status and ally students alongside over 40 community members. Attendees were inspired by the stories of our two student speakers, Guilherme Carrilho and Luis Romero, who were part of our inaugural District-wide Unlocking Futures Fellow Cohort. We were joined by Dr. Alan Pelaez Lopez, an Afro-Indigenous poet and artist. They moved us with the stories of their life, family and friends. We are grateful to all who joined and look forward to the future accomplishments of our graduates.



AANHPI Celebration

This Monday marked the inaugural AANHPI Recognition Ceremony, a truly unforgettable and special occasion. Featuring inspiring speeches from faculty speaker Ray Lupuz, student speaker Sierra Nakagawa-Neuenfeldt, and alumni speaker Aimee Sumire Kanadjian, the event was brimming with incredible stories and heartfelt gratitude towards the Cañada College community. We are immensely proud of our students and their remarkable accomplishments. This ceremony was a poignant celebration and we anticipate many more years of honoring and celebrating our AANHPI community.



ESL Final Project

On Tuesday, ESL students gathered in The Grove for their final project, engaging in a variety of activities. From crafting air plants to temporary tattoos and bracelets, the event offered a diverse range of activities. Of course, no gathering would be complete without the Karaoke session, where students sang songs including the Backstreet Boys. Alongside the activities, students enjoyed delicious empanadas. It was a joyous and memorable day filled with laughter and creativity.



ASCC Leadership Awards

The Associated Students of Cañada College hosted their annual Leadership Awards ceremony to recognize student leaders and clubs for their dedication and contributions. Among the awardees were Sharon Song, who received the Emerging Leader of the Year award, Alexis Arevalo, recognized as the Unsung Leader of the Year and Paris Nevaeh Carr, honored with a certificate for outstanding achievement in leadership. Additionally, clubs like BSU (Black Student Union) were also celebrated for their impactful contributions. We extend our gratitude to all the students who dedicate their time to leadership roles, shaping campus spaces and fostering positive change within our community. Congratulations on your achievements throughout the year!



Latinx Graduation Recognition Ceremony

On Tuesday, the campus celebrated the 3rd Annual Latinx Graduation Recognition Ceremony. It was a beautiful evening where we were joined by more than 150 community members. Attendees experienced an incredible and energizing performance by Adelina Palacios, learned about the importance of Latinx student success and heard from three graduating students who exemplify leadership and resilience: Ignacio Morales, Said Haziél Gonzalez Lopez and Jenna-Vieve Pineda. Lastly, Jessica Linares

Boyle, Cañada alumna and Academic Counselor at Cañada and Los Medanos Colleges, shared her journey and inspired us by all that she has overcome and accomplished. We are grateful for the campus community who made this event possible, and for our students' families and support networks who "showed out" to celebrate the accomplishments of our wonderful students.



Puente Celebration

On Wednesday, we joined Puente Program in celebrating the accomplishments of graduating students and those who completed their program requirements. The celebration began with a moving performance by Puente student Sol Miranda, who sang "Los Laureles," a significant and cherished song. Puente mentors were also recognized for their invaluable support and guidance. As a Puente mentor, it was very special to celebrate my Puentista, Johanna Garibay, who is transferring to Menlo College this fall! We were honored to witness the talent and creativity of our students as they shared poetry and expressed themselves. It was a beautiful and meaningful celebration, highlighting the sense of community and support within Puente. Once a puentista, always a puentista!



Employee End of the Year Celebration

Thanks to all of the Cañadians who attended yesterday's Employee End-of-Year Celebration! I enjoyed seeing our employees celebrating the end of the year together and honoring our retiring faculty and staff, faculty who have achieved tenure, our Classified Employee of the Year as well as a special thank you to Vice President Perez and Academic Senate President Eck for their exemplary service.





Umoja Districtwide Celebration

Yesterday was the annual celebration of the Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College Umoja Communities. Students and their families from all three programs gathered and enjoyed dinner, speakers and the annual awarding of graduation sashes! This year's celebration was hosted at CSM.



Staff Support Still Needed for Commencement

Cañada's 56th Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 25 at 10 a.m. and there are a number of opportunities for staff to participate and help make this event a memorable one for our graduates and their families. To assist with this special event, please click the commencement job assignment link.

We do need additional signups for the following Commencement Assignments. Employees can sign up for more than one assignment:

Super Setter (6:30-7:30 a.m.) - Set up signage for The Grove Check-In for graduates. Put out steamers, pins, registration boxes, and bring all water bottles and cupcakes to Lower Lawn Reception. Then help out on the Upper Lawn to label ADA Seating.

Usher (8:30-10:30 a.m.) - Help welcome all guests, guide ADA family members to ADA seating, guide VIP to seating (VIP seats labeled). When the ceremony starts, help ensure no loved ones are entering the student section.

Reception Crew (10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.) - Encourage loved ones to wait until after the ceremony to grab refreshments. After ceremony, help pass out desserts and refreshments.

Clean-Up Crew (12-1 p.m.) - Help organize supplies and put everything away.

Staff support on this day makes the graduation experience for students possible. Important: CSEA employees working at the Commencement ceremony are entitled to overtime compensation. This overtime must be preapproved by the employee's supervisor. Once approved, the employee may choose to receive either overtime pay or compensatory (comp) time. This is at the discretion of the employee. If you have any questions, please contact a member of CSEA Chapter 33 leadership.

We hope staff will be a part of the Cañada Commencement team and appreciate your consideration.



I hope you have a restful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim