



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 6-13-24

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

Congratulations, Cañada College Class of 2024!

Thank you for celebrating our students at our 56th annual Commencement on May 25!
Here are some Fast Facts: Cañada College Class of 2024:

- 536 Graduates
- 538 Degrees and 289 Certificates Awarded
- 205 Graduates Achieved Honor Status
- 282 First-Generation Graduates
- Oldest Graduate: 72 years old
- Youngest Graduate: 15 years old

Cohorts and Other Groups

- 144 Promise Scholars Program Graduates
- 26 International Student Graduates
- 26 TRIO Graduates
- 20 DACA/Dreamers/AB540 Graduates
- 8 Veteran Graduates

Gender/Race/Ethnicity

- 350 Female Graduates
- 173 Male Graduates
- 13 Unreported Gender Graduates
- 279 Hispanic Graduates
- 122 White Non-Hispanic Graduates
- 55 Asian Graduates
- 24 Two or More Races Graduates
- 19 Black Non-Hispanic Graduates
- 12 Filipino Graduates
- 4 Pacific Islander Graduates



Lavender Graduation

Last Thursday, Lavender Grad at Cañada College, marked the first district-wide celebration and the second Lavender Grad event at Cañada College. The event was themed around Beyoncé's Renaissance to embody a safe space free of judgment. Students shared inspiring speeches about cultivating their most authentic self. The celebration also featured a performance by Jocquese Whitfield, also known as SirJoQ, which everyone loved. Lavender Grad was a fantastic way to honor the graduating LGBTQIA2S+ students district-wide.



Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula College Week at Cañada

You may have seen a bit more foot traffic on our Cañada College campus this week as Cañada College served as the host location for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP) summer programming, Future Grad. Future Grad is a free college access program that guides students to and through college graduation. More than 140 students participated in this week's event. Later this month, Cañada will host a camp for

around 60 BGCP middle school students every Wednesday for five weeks. The special programming is a part of the MOU Cañada College holds with BGCP to build a seamless pathway for middle school, high school and college students in Southern San Mateo County.



Welcome to Our New Hires!

Please give a warm welcome to the following Cañadians in their new positions:

Dr. John Fraire, Interim Vice President of Student Services

Please welcome, John Fraire, Ph.D. who will serve as our Interim Vice President of Student Services, pending board approval on June 26. Dr. Fraire is an educator, theatre artist, and historian. Dr. Fraire has worked more than 40 years in higher education and has served as the senior enrollment and/or student affairs officer at several institutions such as Washington State University, Portland State University, Truman State University, Western Michigan University, and Brooklyn College/City University of New York. He was one of the first Mexican Americans to attend and graduate from Harvard University where he earned his BA and M.Ed. He also has an MA in History from Western Michigan University and a doctorate in history and humanities from Union Institute and University.

Dr. Fraire began his professional career in 1978 when he served on the Harvard admissions staff and helped establish their nationally recognized minority student recruitment programs. Throughout his career, he has been an advocate for access, equity, diversity, and first-generation students. Dr. Fraire is also an historian specializing in Midwest Chicano history and a playwright. His first play, co-authored with his brother Gabriel Fraire, *Who Will Dance With Pancho Villa*, was produced off Broadway by the Castillo Theater in New York City in 1994, and is planned for production by the Raven Playhouse Theatre Company in Healdsburg in their 24-25 season. The Raven Theatre produced another play by the Fraire brothers, *Cesar Died Today*, in January 2023. Dr. Fraire is the co-founder of *Performance As Education/Las Memorias*, a college readiness program for Latino and first-generation students that uses theatre and performance. He is currently a consultant with the Registry, an organization that provides individuals with senior leadership experience to interim positions throughout the country. He recently completed two years as the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs at CSU/Monterey Bay as a member of the Registry.



Ruth Jimenez, Interim Director of the Disability Resource and Personal Counseling Centers

We are pleased to introduce Ruth Jimenez as our Interim Director of the Disability Resource and Personal Counseling Centers. For the past two years, she has worked at Cañada College as an adjunct counselor for the Disability Resource Center (DRC) assisting students in providing accommodations and helping them reach their academic goals. Ruth is a first-generation Latina college student, a graduate of the University of Southern California with a master's degree in education in School Counseling. She has also received a graduate certificate from California State University Sacramento Adult Learning Disabilities certificate program. She steps into the role with 10 years of higher education work experience, having worked with a diverse population of students at various community colleges. Ruth believes there is no diversity, equity and inclusion without disability and she is dedicated to serving students in their accessibility needs.



Colin Masashi Ehara, Ethnic Studies Instructor

Colin Masashi Ehara (he/him/his) is a Yonsei-Nikkei (4th Generation Japanese diaspora)/Scottish/German/Haudenosaunee-Mohawk heritage Ethnic Studies and English Language Arts Educator, who was born (Berkeley, CA) and raised (Richmond, CA) on unceded Bay and Plains Miwok, Confederated Villages of Lisjan, and Muwekma Ohlone territories. He received a bachelor of arts degree in American Ethnic Studies from UC Santa Cruz, a master of arts in Asian American Studies from San Francisco State University and a master of arts in Teaching-Urban Education and Social Justice from the University of San Francisco. Over the last 20 years, Colin has found joy and community via labors of love in San Francisco, San Rafael, Berkeley, East Oakland and

his hometown of Richmond, as a Basketball Coach, Poet/Emcee/DJ-Producer, documentary film narrator, Journalist, Educator-Organizer, After School Program Coordinator, Youth Development Case Manager, Educational Researcher and high school Lead Teacher, Instructional Coach and Dean of Culture. He is honored to be joining the incredible learning community at Cañada College and finds affinity with those who appreciate Kendrick Lamar, Arundhati Roy, Eduardo Galeano, *The Simpsons*, the Warriors/49ers/Giants, ramen/tacos/burgers, Anthony Bourdain, E-40, bell hooks, Akira Kurosawa, James Baldwin, Yuri Kochiyama, 2Pac, and/or Paulo Freire. Colin and his wife/partner, Educator/Artist, Emalyn Lopez, reside with their beloved daughters, Aya (6) and Mayari (1) in El Cerrito, CA.



John D. Perez, Communication Studies Instructor

Please welcome John D. Perez as the new Communication Studies Professor, pending board approval on June 26. Prior to his new full-time role, John served the college as an adjunct instructor in the Communications Studies Department. John is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where he received his master's degree in Communication. John also holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento. He is also a proud product of the community college system and a Bay Area native. John is excited to give back to his community by working with students to help them fulfill their education goals. In addition to classroom instruction, John is a proponent of Study Abroad programs, and he encourages all students to explore the world while learning and earning units!



Emilio Villalba, Studio Art Instructor

Emilio Villalba is a Fine Artist (painter) living and working in San Francisco. He has been teaching college since 2011 throughout the Bay Area including at The Academy of Art University of San Francisco, Cogswell College and The Art Institutes of California. He was a regular instructor at Sadie Valeri Atelier in San Francisco from 2017-2019 and has hosted private workshops throughout California as well as in Spain. Since 2016, Emilio has had numerous solo and group exhibitions. He has paintings in the permanent collection at the Crocker Museum in Sacramento, The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas and the Colección Solo Museum in Madrid. His work was also featured in the Peaceable Kingdom group exhibition at the De Young Museum in San Francisco. He is currently represented by Dolby Chadwick Gallery in San Francisco. Before pursuing a life as a painter, Emilio worked as an animator and visual effects artist in Los Angeles working on television commercials and film. Some of the projects include *Pirates of the Caribbean 3* (2007), Nike NBA commercial (2007), Pepsi Super Bowl Commercial (2006), and a NASCAR/ESPN tv spot (2008). Emilio was born in Chula Vista, CA. His parents are immigrants from Mexico and he is bilingual. He currently lives in the North Beach district of San Francisco with his wife, Michelle, who is also an artist. They are both very involved in the community, curating art shows, photographing events and DJ'ing on occasion. He loves music and is currently learning how to play the guitar.



Pacific Dining Services - Summer Hours

Campus dining services are open through Thursday, July 25, 2024 as follows:

- The Grove Cafe: 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. M-TH, Closed Fridays
- Pony Espresso: 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. M-TH, Closed Fridays
- Colts Cafe: 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. M-TH, Closed Fridays

This will be my last Weekly Update for the academic year and I will resume Weekly Updates when the Fall semester begins. We will share important and timely information as needed throughout the summer. Thank you for all of your hard work over this past year. I wish you and your loved ones an enjoyable and relaxing summer and I look forward to continuing our work together in the new academic year!

Sincerely,
Kim

