



A Message from President Kim Lopez

Weekly Update: 4-26-24

Dear Cañada Colleagues,

It is with great excitement and a little sadness that I share the announcement below. I have had the pleasure of working side by side with Manuel for the past three years and I will miss him as a valuable member of our Cañada College community when he transitions to College of San Mateo this summer. I plan to meet with our constituent group leadership over the next few weeks to discuss my ideas and solicit feedback for filling the Vice President of Student Services position in the short and long term. I will communicate the next steps as soon as possible.

I plan to honor Manuel at our end-of-year celebration on May 16th at Canada Vista. Please join us!

Dr. Manuel Alejandro Pérez Named President of College of San Mateo

College's first queer-identified and Latino president brings passion for equity and student success.



Following a national search, San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) Chancellor Melissa Moreno has announced that she will recommend Dr. Manuel Alejandro Pérez to the Board of Trustees as the next president of College of San Mateo (CSM). The Board of Trustees will take formal action on Dr. Pérez's appointment at their meeting on May 22, 2024.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Pérez to College of San Mateo," said Chancellor Moreno. "He is a passionate leader who has demonstrated a deep commitment to underserved student communities with innovative programs to provide equitable and inclusive student experiences that engender their success. We are confident he will lead CSM to new heights of excellence and innovation using an uncompromised collaborative and collegial approach."

Dr. Pérez brings 20 years of professional experience in higher education, from his doctoral work in education to his teaching work in social justice, international and multicultural studies, and the performing arts, to developing a career in the community college system, and now currently serving as the Vice President of Student Services at Cañada College.

"I am honored and humbled to serve as the next president of College of San Mateo," said Dr. Pérez. "I look forward to working collaboratively with the faculty, staff, students, and community partners to advance the mission and vision of this transformative institution. I am committed to fostering a culture of care, belonging, and excellence that supports the success and well-being of all our students, especially our historically marginalized and underserved communities."

Before joining SMCCCD, Dr. Pérez served as Interim Assistant Vice President for Equity & Community Inclusion at San Francisco State University. Before that, he served as the Dean of Student Development and Dean of Equity Programs & Pathways for American River College (ARC).

Dr. Pérez holds a bachelor's degree in communication studies with a minor in ethnic studies from Santa Clara University, a master's degree in communication studies from San Diego State University, and a doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco, where he also teaches courses as part-time faculty.

Dr. Pérez will start his new position on July 1, 2024. His selection is subject to the approval of a written contract, whose terms will be available for public review before the May 22 board meeting.

Deadline is Today! Please Help Evaluate Our Participatory Governance Processes

PBC is kindly asking everyone to 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! The survey closes today at 12 p.m.

“Creating Space of Indigenous Oceania Knowledge” with Jasmine Marie Mageno Torres

The Office of Equity, ARC (Access, Relevance and Community) Program and Cultural Center organized a talk featuring speaker Jasmine Marie Mageno Torres on "Creating Space of Indigenous Oceania Knowledge." The event began with an ice breaker where participants introduced themselves based on their self-perception, fostering powerful sharing within groups. Torres delved into the history of Indigenous Oceania, highlighting the omission of islands in maps and revealing that there are approximately 25,000 islands in the region. She also explored the impact of Pacific Ocean Colonial trauma on indigenous communities, shedding light on a topic often overlooked in academia. The event provided valuable insights and discussions, accompanied by a selection of tropical fruits such as jackfruit, coconut, and mango.



AANHPI Cultural Showcase

Yesterday, we celebrated the AANHPI Heritage Month Cultural Showcase, a special event dedicated to honoring Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander heritage. The showcase featured performances by students, staff, and faculty showcasing various forms of art. One particularly impactful performance was led by Dr. Michiko Kealoha and Dr. Mary Ho, who conducted a breaking boards and barriers demonstration. They shared personal obstacles they had faced and symbolically broke wooden boards to represent overcoming these barriers. The event also included numerous poetry performances, highlighting the talent and creativity of our community's writers and poets. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate our diverse cultural heritage.



MESA Open House and Cañada Engineering Alumni Inspires Panel

Cañada College hosted an Open House celebration to mark the return of the MESA Program. The event aimed to commemorate the program's comeback and highlight its significance on campus. A special feature of the celebration was the presence of MESA alumni, who shared their experiences at Cañada College with attendees. Their insights provided valuable information and inspiration to current students, showcasing the impact and importance of the MESA Program in fostering academic success and community engagement. We are immensely grateful to our alumni for their continued support and contributions to the program.



2024 Umoja Regional Symposium - Northern California

The Cañada College Umoja Community recently attended the Northern California Umoja Community Education Foundation Regional Symposium at UC Merced. This event encompassed a rich array of activities, including workshop sessions, engagement

with UC Merced student programs, connection to the African Diaspora, cross-regional support, and alliance building. Moreover, the Symposium offered targeted training and development sessions to acknowledge the successes and opportunities to continue developing thriving Umoja programs.



Behind the Scenes - The Path to Becoming an Interior Designer

Join for an immersive journey into the world of Interior Design with "Behind the Scenes - The Path to Becoming an Interior Designer." The exhibit is on display in the Cañada College Art Gallery (Building 9, Room 152) Mondays-Thursdays from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. This captivating showcase offers a glimpse into the intricate process of crafting stunning interiors. Don't miss out on this inspiring showcase - the exhibit runs from April 18 to May 22.



This Weekend – Designer Exhibit from the Fashion Department

The Fashion Department is hosting a Designer Exhibit in its classroom. Closely view garments from Chanel, Christian Dior, Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci, Oscar de la Renta, and Valentino from the collection of student Wendy Jade Hernandez.

Friday, April 26

[Designer Exhibit - Fashion Department \(Part 1\)](#)

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Building 3, Room 255, Fashion Department

Saturday, April 27

[Designer Exhibit - Fashion Department \(Part 2\)](#)

10:00am - 12:00pm

Building 3, Room 255, Fashion Department



Designer *Exhibit*

Staff Support 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](#). Commencement assignments include: setup crew, graduate registration, getting grads ready, commencement usher, cleanup crew and more. 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.



Save the Date: Employee End-of-Year Celebration – RSVP by May 9

Please join us for our Employee End-of-Year Celebration! The event will be held at the Cañada Vista Clubhouse on Thursday, May 16 from 12-1:30 p.m. All college employees are invited to celebrate the end of the year together. During the celebration, we will be honoring our retiring faculty and staff, faculty who have achieved tenure and our Classified Employee of the Year. The event flyer is attached. Please RSVP to tinyurl.com/EEOYC24 by May 9.



I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Kim