

SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College*

# Combined Report of the District Chancellor and College Presidents



*SMCCCD celebrates its graduates.*

**SMCCCD CELEBRATES ITS GRADUATES**



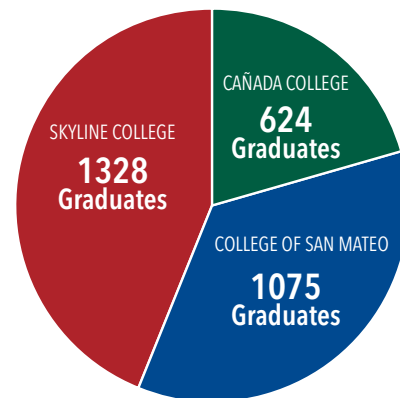
Congratulations to the Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College Class of 2021 for the hard work each graduate put in to achieve their educational goals. The SMCCCD Class of 2021 was comprised of 2,995 students who were awarded 4,718 degrees and certificates.\*

Snapshot of the SMCCCD Class of 2021:

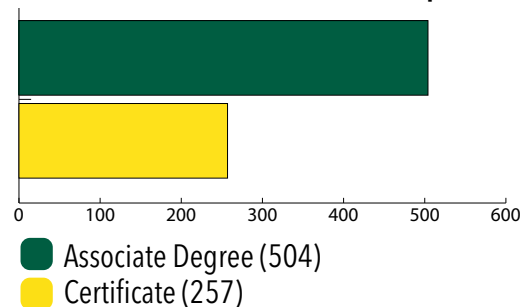
- Oldest Graduate: 74
- Youngest Graduate: 15
- Average Age of Graduates: 27
- First Generation: 1560
- Promise Scholars: 581
- Veterans: 133
- Foster Youth: 17
- TRiO: 109
- International Students: 212
- Number of Countries: 46

In addition, due to the emergence of COVID-19 early last year, the SMCCCD colleges did not hold a 2020 commencement ceremony but promised our 2019–2020 graduates one at a future date. On Friday, May 28, 2021, the colleges followed through on that promise by premiering the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 Virtual Commencement ceremonies. Both ceremonies are available to watch anytime for [Cañada College](#), [College of San Mateo](#) and [Skyline College](#).

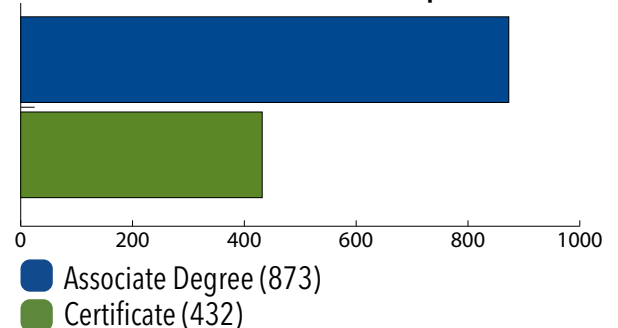
\*Note: The number of degree and certificate awards for 2020-21 are not yet final. Spring 2021 final evaluations began on Monday, June 14. The number of awards may still change slightly.



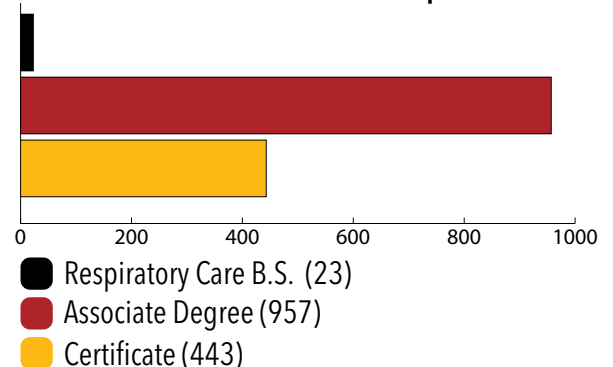
**CAÑADA COLLEGE**  
Number of Graduates in the Given Discipline



**COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO**  
Number of Graduates in the Given Discipline



**SKYLINE COLLEGE**  
Number of Graduates in the Given Discipline





## CAÑADA PHI THETA KAPPA HONORED AS ONE OF THE PREMIER CHAPTERS IN THE COUNTRY

Beta Zeta Nu (BZN) is Cañada College's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for two-year colleges. BZN has been honored as one of the premier chapters in the country. BZN was also recently recognized at the honor society's international convention as one of the organization's most esteemed chapters.

To gain membership in BZN students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.45 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 units at Cañada College in courses that are degree applicable. BZN Advisor Autumn McMahon says, "The BZN meetings contribute to the Cañada student experience because students are able to include their BZN accomplishments on applications for transfer and scholarships, making them more competitive. Having weekly chapter meetings amidst the pandemic provides students a sense of normalcy and opportunity to connect with fellow classmates. Officers and members alike are emboldened to pursue their academic passions through research and project implementation. BZN prepares students not only to transfer, but to have successful careers wherever they continue to question 'how the world works?'"

Cañada's BZN Chapter of the PTK society once again brought home awards from the 2021 PTK International Catalyst event. The chapter's engagement over the year earned them four-star chapter status, which can be attributed to their participation in a successful college project, numerous community service activities, and individual hallmarks. While there are several awards for individual

achievement, the award that the chapter is most proud of receiving is the Distinguished Officer Team Award, which is given to the chapter officer teams who overcome great difficulties to guarantee participation in the activities of the PTK Hallmarks: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship.



The Cañada BZN Hallmark Awards include:

- Distinguished Chapter Officer Team PTK International, #3 in the NV/CA Region
- Paragon Award for New Advisors PTK International, #1 in the NV/CA Region
- Chapter Team Honors Case Study Challenge – International Honorable Mention: Reopening Schools During COVID-19
- Individual Research Award #1 in the NV/CA Region: Going Off-Role
- Distinguished College Project: Zoom Sessions on Transfer Success
- 2021 Reach Award: Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors



## BOARD REPORT | JUNE 23, 2021

The BZN Chapter's awarded achievements at the recent 2021 PTK International Catalyst event not only recognized the immense work that is being accomplished but also showcased the chapter's selflessness, resilience, and dedication in providing a stimulating environment for Cañada students. Despite such a difficult year, the BZN team has managed to prosper and further develop the notability of the Cañada Chapter. BZN advisors include Katherine Ramirez, Patty Hall, Paul Roscelli, and Autumn McMahon. BZN officers include President Katherine Milla, Vice President of Service Jirou "Bella" Zhang, Vice President of Scholarship Alexander Lanza, Vice President of Public Relations Katie Chen, and Vice President of Finance/Treasurer Sophia Giorgi. For more information about Cañada College's Beta Zeta Nu chapter go to <https://canadacollege.edu/phithetakappa>.

# College of San Mateo

## HONORS PROJECT SPRING 2021 VIRTUAL STUDENT SHOWCASE LAUNCHED



At the close of each semester, students enrolled in selected transfer courses, and concurrent Honors Project research seminars present advanced research projects in the Honors Project Student Showcase. The research topics always span

a wide variety of intersecting academic areas, including education, the arts, race, gender, ethnicity, the pandemic, cultural myths and values, health sciences, technology, economics, politics, climate crisis, and much more.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, this bi-annual event was held in person, with the entire campus community invited to see and hear participating students' presentations. At the events, the Honors Project students gave large group presentations and displayed presentation boards that summarized their findings for individuals and smaller groups of attendees. During our virtual operations, the Showcase has been presented on the [Honors Project website](#).

Under the guidance of CSM Film Professor and Honors Project Program Coordinator David Laderman and Honors Project Seminar Instructors Sarah Mangin (English), Christopher Walker (Math), and Laura Woltag (English), the Spring 2021 Virtual Student Showcase is now available for public viewing.

Featuring almost 30 presentations in slide and video formats, this Showcase covers a wide range of topics from unique angles. A few examples include:

- [Shades of Science: The Intersection of Ethnic Studies and Science & Technology Studies](#)
- [Lesbian Feminists and the World of AIDS Activism](#)
- [To Become a QAnon Follower: An Analysis of the Cult's Indoctrination](#)
- [College Students Losing Their Minds: How Has COVID-19 Affected the Mental Health of College Students?](#)
- ["Money Never Sleeps": The Dissemination of Greed in the Accounting Sector](#)

Please view the complete list of engaging and informative presentations and the students behind them at the [Spring 2021 Virtual Student Showcase webpage](#).



**VITAL VOICES: TRANSFORMATIVE STORIES OF MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN**



**TRANSFORMATIVE STORIES OF MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN**

The online chat room was already buzzing when Dean of Social Science & Creative Arts, Danni Redding Lapuz, and Vice President of Instruction, Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, welcomed attendees to the 1st Annual Stories of Transformation Film Festival on Thursday, April 29th. The evening's topic, *Vital Voices: Transformative Stories of Middle Eastern Women*, was uniquely relevant, and the organizers and participants were ready to spotlight the strength and spirit of a group and individuals who had experienced their own transformative journeys.

Funded through the generosity of the [San Mateo Community College District EEOC Diversity Project Grant](#). The "Stories of Transformation" Film Festival provides a forum to celebrate through film our Skyline College community's rich cultural diversity as well as our district's diverse student enrollment and discuss important issues of diversity, equity and inclusion that promote a shared humanity.

To import the Stories of Transformation module into Canvas, search for *Skyline Stories of Transformation Film Festival* or Pia Walawalkar in Canvas Commons. Faculty who prefer to provide direct links to films can find the links to the Films in Panopto on the Canvas page along with a link to the panel discussion. Library resources on the two films and on related topics can be found at: <https://guides.skylinecollege.edu/sotff/home>.

The organizing team behind the film festival are excited to share stories that reflect the ideas of discovery, innovation, and change that are integral to stories of transformation. All members of the Skyline College and greater district community are welcome to email organizing team members with any questions:

Tamara Perkins  
Film Instructor/Filmmaker

Danni Redding Lapuz  
Dean, Social Science & Creative Arts

Pia Walawalkar  
Associate Professor, Outreach and Equity Librarian

Chris Woo  
Program Services Coordinator, SS/CA

Clair Yeo-Sugajski  
Interim Program Services Coordinator, International Student Program

Event attendance and participation spanned the district with 169 registered faculty, staff, and student attendees from all three district campuses as well as community members. The panel of all women included a renowned San Francisco Film Editor, the President of the CSM Muslim Student Association, Editor-in-Chief of Skyline View, an instructor from SVIEP the districtwide Intensive English Program, and Skyline College faculty in art and film.

## BOARD REPORT | JUNE 23, 2021

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### The Films

Event Emcee Clair Yeo-Sugajski introduced the highly anticipated first film which offers a unique portrait of Judge Kholoud—the first female Shari’a Court Judge in the Palestinian territories. Depicting her brave journey as a lawyer and her tireless fight for justice for women, *THE JUDGE* presents an unfolding vérité legal drama, with rare insight into both Islamic law and gendered justice. In the process, the film illuminates some of the universal conflicts in the domestic life of Palestine.

Judge Kholoud’s statement about the origin of the idea to become a judge, “I should throw a rock to stir these stagnant waters”, resonated with attendees.

*WE ARE NOT PRINCESSES* is a documentary film about the incredible strength and spirit of four Syrian women living as refugees in Beirut as they come together to tell their stories of love, loss, pain, and hope through the ancient Greek play, *Antigone*. One attendee expressed “it’s just uncanny how well *Antigone* paired with their (the cast members) experience.”

The play is not included in the film as some cast members were restricted from appearing on camera. Animated sequences are used instead to represent these cast member’s stories and attendees noticed that the “animation has patterns and colors reminiscent of the (centuries old Palestinian) tatreez embroidery.”

### The Filmmakers

Organizers were thrilled to have [Sara Maamouri](#), Co-Producer and Editor of both films at both the event panel discussion and filmmaker reception. Sara is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker and editor who has explored a diverse range of topics for over 20 years. Her work touches on social, educational, and political issues. Her most recent films include *We Are Not Princesses* (2018) and the Peabody Award-winning film *The Judge* (2017). A multilingual Tunisian, Sara brings cultural sensitivity to

her editing, production, and story development, creating impact-focused narratives to attract and engage rapidly evolving audiences.

Skyline College Film Instructor [Tamara Perkins](#) is an award-winning filmmaker and changemaker focused on documentaries that inspire transformative change through dialogue, healing and advocacy. Tamara’s film [Life After Life](#) (2018) began in her yoga class inside San Quentin State Prison when the men asked her to tell their story. Her upcoming films, [Clarissa’s Battle](#) and [Rebound](#), are each similarly inspired by a personal connection to the subject matter.

As the panel moderator Tamara showed her expertise in documentary film, as she deftly directed panelists through a variety of questions and topics.

### The Panelists

The amazingly articulate Umaina Ejaz is a Skyline College student and [Editor-in-Chief, Skyline View](#) whose “brilliant star” shined at the event. Umaina shared during the panel, “I think these films (*The Judge* and *We Are Not Princesses*) are so important. Highlighting the success of women and amplifying our voices”; and made even more impactful by the fact that they were directed and edited by women.

Hajer Mkawer is a student at College of San Mateo and President of [CSM Muslim Student Association](#). Hajer took on the challenging topic of how to separate conservative traditional Muslim culture from Islamic religious values and the ignorance that exists around this subject. Her scholarship and critical thinking impressed attendees who said “Thanks for educating us, Hajer!”

[Mahsa Tavakkoli](#), an ESL instructor for the Silicon Valley Intensive English Program (SVIEP), was born and raised in Iran, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in English-Farsi translation and a Master’s degree in TEFL. She’s enjoyed teaching language learners of all skills and backgrounds for 14 years.

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Mahsa reminded everyone during the panel that “feminism or women’s rights are not an attack on men, we are all living on this earth . . . Women’s Rights are Human Rights” and connected the festival films to the importance of communication, education, and creating understanding.

[Kathy Zarur](#), PhD, Associate Professor Art History at Skyline College, is an educator, curator, and conference organizer in the San Francisco Bay Area. Kathy’s curatorial work centers on place as both a lived and imagined subject to consider themes such as belonging, exile, landscape, and mutual care in collectivity.

During The Judge, Dr. Z pointed out that individuals could not “get past the checkpoints, so their case was dropped”, leading chat participants to make connections to voter suppression and red lining in the U.S. Later during the panel, Dr. Z described how the roads dividing Palestine create the equivalent of the “Bantustans in South Africa.”

Sara Maamouri ended the panel by sharing the experience of traveling the world with both of these important films, reinforcing the mission of Stories of Transformation to share transformational stories from around the world. Attendees ended with a litany of thanks to the panelists including...

“Sara, Umaima, Kathy, Tamara, Mahsa, and Hajer...thank you for this wonderful conversation and for debunking all the stereotypes!”

Watch the [panel discussion](#). View [information about our panelists](#).

*Article by Chris Burwell-Woo*

### **Want More Film?**

Checkout these Film course offerings for summer and fall 2021.

### **Summer at Skyline College**

[FILM 440 - Film Study and Appreciation](#)

### **Fall at Skyline College**

[FILM 100 - Introduction to Film](#)

### **Summer at CSM** (coming soon to Skyline College)

[FILM 123 - Documentary Film: Studies & Practice](#)

Library Films on Kanopy - <https://skylinecollege.kanopy.com/>