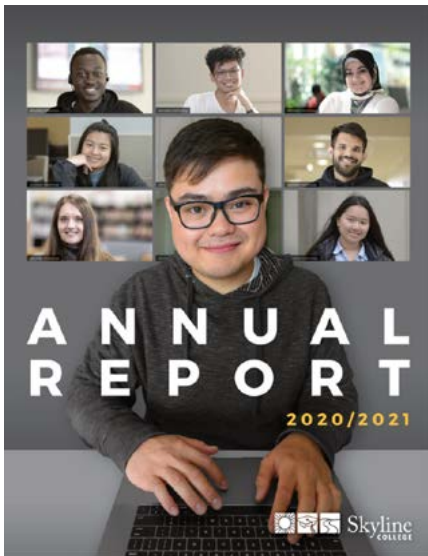


SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

Combined Report of the College Presidents





**CAÑADA HOSTS FIRST-EVER IN-PERSON/
VIRTUAL OPENING DAY**



Cañada College held its first combined format Opening Day celebration on August 17 and it was a success! The Opening session was held in a hybrid format with 40 employees participating in person and more than 110 joining virtually. The Cañadians who attended in person enjoyed catching up over breakfast on the Building 23 patio with beautiful views of the morning fog rolling through the trees.

Opening session was live streamed from the Building 23 patio and the theme of the day was Recovery with Equity. With that focus in mind, remarks from college leadership included progress and on-going challenges in addressing the needs of our students and community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cañada’s three Vice Presidents provided updates on guidance from the State and District leadership and how the College plans to chart its course for this academic year and beyond. There was a five-minute transitional break for in-person attendees to move from the patio into a HyFlex classroom in Building 23 where the opening session concluded with a presentation from the Career Ladders Project and report outs from the campus-wide Leadership Retreat, EMP and Strategic Enrollment Management Plan.

Cañada staff and faculty presenters provided a diverse array of topics for the morning and afternoon concurrent sessions. Feedback from the campus community on the hybrid format was positive. They shared that it was a good experience overall and the virtual attendees felt like they were there in person due to the strong audio and sound. Many faculty members commented that attending the session made them feel more comfortable about multi-modal teaching formats.

A special thank you to Cañada’s Flex Day Planning team and presenters as well as our Facilities, ITS and Marketing teams who played an integral part in ensuring the success of the first in person and virtual event. For those who were unable to attend, please find a recording of the Cañada Opening Day [program](#), Flex [slide deck](#) and other [resources and presentation items](#).

**CAÑADA COLLEGE HOSTS 2021 ANNUAL
COLTS-CON**



COLTS-CON, Cañada College’s Annual Summer Bridge Program, was offered virtually for the second year in a row on August 3 and 4. The COLTS-CON Planning Team held a two-day conference style event to help prepare 107 new students for their first semester at Cañada College.

This year, COLTS-CON kicked off the first day with a fun welcome video put together by Xitlali Curincita, President of the Associated Students of Cañada College (the official voice of students on campus) and the Student Senate Officers. Then, a warm welcome message was provided by Cañada College administrators, Vice Presidents Dr. Manuel Pérez and Dr. Tammy Robinson. Student participants were then invited to learn about

Interest Areas and the handy tools available, particularly for students still exploring their educational goals at the college. Interest Areas were presented by faculty members from the Art, Design & Performance, Business, Science & Health and Human Behavior & Culture programs.

The day continued with a session on campus resources such as the Library, free tutoring, peer mentoring, SparkPoint, Disability Resource Center, Dream Center and more. Representatives presented information about their areas and were available for live questions. Following the resources session, a student panel session was held and continuing students shared their own tips on how to be successful at Cañada while answering questions from the incoming attendees. The day ended with a final session on the Colts Values, led by Vice President Pérez, which provided a bridge for the Anti-Racism & Social Justice session that would begin the next day.

The second and final day of COLTS-CON included discussions on anti-racism and social justice. The students got to break out into sessions and deep dive into discussions about their own experiences and perspectives. Another breakout session featured students meeting faculty within their Guided Pathways Interest Area. Students chose their next couple of sessions from topics such as Financial Aid, Technology Navigation Support and a workshop about Cañada College's pathway to transferring to a four-year university.

Students were able to access COLTS-CON via Zoom and the sessions and presentations were recorded so that they are accessible for students that were not able to attend live. They can be viewed at the links below:

Day 1: [Link 1](#) and [Link 2](#)

Day 2: [Link 1](#)

COLTS-CON was a tremendous success and continues to be a model for virtual bridge programs in the future!

College of San Mateo

GRANT FUNDS FLOW TO MATH/SCIENCE DIVISION & LEARNING COMMUNITY

Math & Science Division Awarded \$3 Million HSI STEM Grant



College of San Mateo's Math & Science Division was recently awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program. The award provides \$600,000 per year, totaling \$3 million over five years.

The Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program provides grants to assist HSIs in expanding educational opportunities for and improving the attainment of Hispanic students. The grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

CSM's grant funds will be used to expand the STEM@CSM umbrella that currently houses multiple HSI-focused STEM initiatives. Four new strategies will be pursued with these funds, including:

1. Establishing a centralized STEM Center
2. Increasing undergraduate research/internship opportunities
3. Revising STEM curriculum and updating equipment
4. Establish a Science Faculty Institute for Teaching and Learning

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A big thanks go out to faculty members Paul Hankamp, Alex Wong, Lena Feinman, Jay Lehmann, Mohsen Janatpour; staff members Olivia Viveros and Jessica Damian; Dean Charlene Frontiera; and many other math/science faculty and staff for their shared vision and dedication in attaining this grant.

Mana Learning Community Receives \$10,000 Grant



College of San Mateo's Mana Learning Community has been selected to participate in the APIA Scholars Strengthening Institutional Capacity for NHPI Students in Higher Education Program for 2021-2022, and will receive a grant award in the amount of \$10,000.

CSM will be a part of a group of institutions that represent a wide geographic region, and that serve a diverse NHPI student demography. As a result, CSM Mana will have access to a wide range of specialized resources to expand and further NHPI ontologies in academia and education from other institutions that currently provide specialized support to NHPI students at their campuses. Moreover, this co-investigative research project will bring together professionals and faculty from across the United States (Pacific Nation territories included) to share knowledge and NHPI student climate on campuses.

It is with hope that this opportunity opens rich discussion and learning opportunities between institutions. Thanks go out to Dr. Ronald Andrade, Melissa Aliu Manuofetoa, and Dr. Finausina Tovo for their strong teamwork and dedication in securing this research grant. (Contributed by ASLT Dean Tarana Chapple.)

CSM FLEX DAY BRINGS IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS



On Tuesday, August 17th, CSM kicked off the new year with yet a new Flex Day format! It was the best of both worlds this year with 77 employees convening in Bayview Dining Room as well as over 140 joining via live stream. In both regards, it was a full and well-attended day of reconnection after a busy and eventful summer.

The event kicked off with an Opening Presentation from President Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza. She reflected on CSM's history, its upcoming centennial and asked that the campus use the next year to learn lessons from the past to serve current students better. One example provided was the need to expand CSM's visibility in the community, specifically by developing and strengthening community partnerships on the Coastside.

"CSM must provide a liberatory education to empower all, now and for future generations," said Taylor-Mendoza, before laying out other priorities for the upcoming year:

- Student-focused recovery
- Centennial celebration
- Antiracism/equity initiatives
- Effective communication
- Strategic planning

This was followed by a [Safety Panel Discussion](#) with an up-to-date medical report and safety guidelines and protocols for campus. The morning activities then continued online with sessions facilitated by faculty, staff, and administrators, covering a variety of topics on pedagogy, technology, self-care, equity, and student support.

While there is no substitute for everyone gathering in person, the new flexible format allowed for more folks to connect and participate in a variety of ways—face to face and virtually, both synchronously and asynchronously.



SKYLINE COLLEGE RECEIVES US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GRANT AWARD TO WORK ON NEXO



nEXO stands for the next-generation Enriched Xenon Observatory for double beta decay. It is an international nuclear physics experiment designed to search for an extremely rare form of radioactivity. The nEXO collaboration consists of over 150 scientists at 35 institutions in nine countries, among them Stanford University and the SLAC National Accelerator

Laboratory. The special form of radioactivity that nEXO will search for is called neutrinoless double-beta decay, and the search will take place using a common isotope of xenon. Xenon, like neon, is part of the family of chemical elements in the periodic table that we call noble gases. Neutrinoless double-beta decay has never been observed, and if discovered would represent revolutionary new physics with the potential to provide many important insights into the fundamental nature of our Universe.

Earlier this year, Skyline College's physics department, led by Prof Emilie Hein and Prof Kolo Wamba, formally became a part of nEXO and was awarded a grant by the US Department of Energy's Office of Science to participate in this research. This award has made it possible for Skyline College to partner with Stanford University and SLAC and to take on four amazing student trainees who are now contributing to the ongoing detector R&D activities for nEXO. In initiating the program, Profs Wamba and Hein have also partnered with Fabrication and Physics Lab Coordinator Marco Wehrfritz, who has played a major role in supporting the nEXO trainees. He has provided lab equipment and software, and organized and led an extremely successful soldering workshop for the students. This year's nEXO student trainees are Shannon Hoang, Jiries Kaileh, Madeleine McSwain, and Brendan Murtagh.

Shannon Hoang is an Environmental/Energy Engineering student. This summer she has worked on special hardware to support one of the nEXO detector subsystems currently under development at SLAC. SLAC scientist Dr. Brian Mong provided much of the equipment along with helpful advice for Shannon's project. Throughout the academic year she will continue to take on various other projects at SLAC and Stanford as they come up.

Jiries Kaileh is a Computer Science student. His nEXO project is called the "Analog Discovery 2 Synchronization and Triggering Project." It consists of a study that is vital to scaling the measurements of neutrinoless double beta decay events within the nEXO detector. He has been working closely with Stanford Postdoc Evan James Angelico, who has been an invaluable source of mentoring and advice.

Madeleine McSwain is a Computer Science student. Over the summer, she worked on some electronic hardware to be used in the Xenon Purity Monitor (XPM) experimental setup at SLAC.

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Over the academic year, she will shift her focus to supporting more of the software in use on the same experimental setup at SLAC.

Brendan Murtagh is a Physics student. He has been working on testing ways to restore the performance of optical fibers used on the Xenon Purity Monitor (XPM) at SLAC. Over the summer he finished the preparations for the experiment and is now working on data collection and analysis.

An important goal for this project is to increase the number of students from underrepresented populations who choose to pursue graduate studies in nuclear physics. The Skyline College trainees are currently the only Community College students who are part of nEXO. This unique approach to diversifying the field was presented at this year's Low Energy Community Meeting (LECM). Additionally, mentors and trainees have become active members of the nEXO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, chaired by Dr Sander Breur and Dr Erica Caden, and whose priorities are to increase diversity in physical science and engineering by fostering an inclusive, equitable environment within nEXO.

The nEXO trainees have done amazing work this summer that they will continue throughout the year. They are excited to share their work with the community and will be presenting at a Science in Action Seminar this semester.

This work has benefited from important contributions from both within and outside of Skyline College. Dean Carla Grandy has been a strong supporter of the project since its inception. The Skyline College nEXO group would also like to acknowledge SLAC scientist Dr Lisa Kaufman, for giving Prof Wamba the idea to introduce Skyline College to nEXO, and Stanford physics Prof Giorgio Gratta, from whom Prof Wamba first learned about the US Department of Energy's "Research Traineeships to Broaden and Diversify Nuclear Physics" grant program. We would also like to thank SLAC scientist Dr Peter Rowson for hosting our team at SLAC and for being a great mentor to Prof Wamba and our students. Finally, the group of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars at SLAC and Stanford have also been incredibly valuable in helping to mentor the Skyline nEXO trainees.

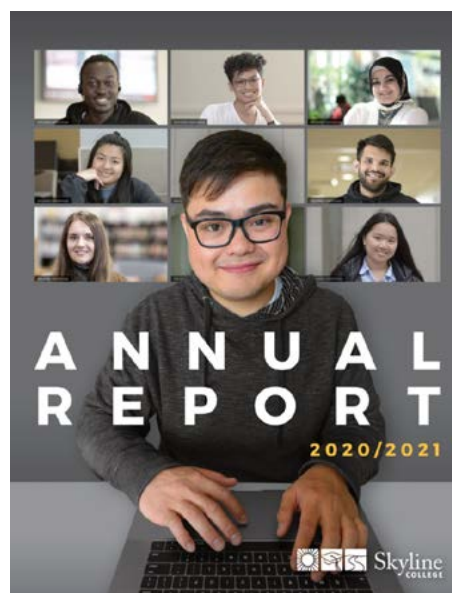
This work is supported by the DOE Office of Science (Office of Basic Energy Sciences).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Professor Emilie Hein (heine@smccd.edu) and Professor Kolo Wamba (wambak@smccd.edu).

Article by Shannon Hoang, Jiries Kaileh, Madeleine McSwain, Brendan Murtagh, Emilie Hein, and Kolo Wamba | Photo by Emilie Hein

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

Each year, Skyline College releases an Annual Report which showcases a few of the milestones and accomplishments of the past academic year, alongside an at-a-glance look at some key statistics and financial updates. Normally, we print the report and distribute it at our Opening Day celebration, but this year, in an effort to be increasingly sustainable and to ensure all employees can engage with the document, we are promoting the report virtually.



The 2020-2021 academic year was one we won't soon forget. Take a moment to read through the report, along with the introduction by President Melissa Moreno, to reflect back on the last year at Skyline College.

[Read the Annual Report online.](#)

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick