Combined Report of the College Presidents

San Mateo County Community College District
Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College
On Saturday, January 7, Cañada College hosted a successful Super Saturday single-stop registration event! The goal of this event was to help anyone who attended to complete all enrollment steps and walk away registered for Cañada College’s Spring 2023 semester. More than 45 faculty, staff, administrators and student ambassadors were on hand to help 92 students enroll, leave with a course schedule and/or have their questions answered for the Spring semester. The event resulted in 94 course enrollments.

At the Super Saturday event, DJ Antit Dope provided a happy and energetic ambience for excited attendees. Due to the rain, the team pivoted from holding an outdoor event in the Upper Lawn to utilizing all three floors of Building 9. Some of the Cañada teams that provided on-site student support included: Admissions & Records, Cashier’s Office, Welcome Center, Financial Aid, Counseling, Umoja, Office of Student Life & Leadership Development, Promise Scholars Program and Outreach. The teams hosted stations that helped prospective students submit their college applications, complete orientation, submit Financial Aid applications, meet with an Academic Counselor and register for classes. In addition, ESL students were also able to take their Assessment tests. When students completed their enrollment steps, they were invited to enjoy a free lunch. Community members remarked that they felt comfortable and welcomed while attending the event. And, the results were successful as Cañada observed an increase in Spring enrollment.

The one-stop registration event was created in alignment with Cañada's Educational Master Plan Strategic Initiative 1.1: Make Registration Easier. Other initiatives that the College has undertaken to make registration easier includes a manual override and push to produce a G# (student ID number) which now takes 15 minutes to produce versus several hours. The expedited method helps students continue the process to registration. The team has also created a streamlined enrollment process for Cañada’s ESL students that has greatly reduced the wait times for processing placements for students. Lastly, the College has made significant strides in amplifying their translation of documents and processes in Spanish and has now begun to also offer translation of key documents in Tagalog as well. The Super Saturday Planning Team is exploring future Saturday events, including a Friday event to welcome high school students as part of their school day.
CAÑADA COLLEGE WELCOME WEEK

Cañada College was ready and excited to welcome students (both in-person and virtually) during the first week of classes, affectionately called Welcome Week. Cañada’s Outreach team held a welcome station with Student Ambassadors ready to greet fellow Cañadians and help them to find their way to classes. In addition, the Associated Students of Cañada College (ASCC) planned a series of Welcome Week activities such as free school supplies and goodies from Chuck’s Donuts, Mademoiselle Colette and Jamba Juice as well as a Lunar New Year celebration.

In addition to Welcome Week festivities, Cañada’s Welcome Center and Counseling Departments have been humming! Cañada College Counselors have assisted more than 570 students this January with almost 40 percent of the students served in-person. Compared to this time last year over a similar time period, 378 students were served with only about 20 percent in-person. The Welcome Center and Counseling Departments have extended drop-in hours in general counseling through January 30, which is the last day to add courses. Extended hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. As part of the drop-in process, Counselors are prioritizing ESL students and Spanish-speaking Counselors are available on site.

CSM HOSTS COUNTY SHERIFF’S INAUGURATION AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

On Saturday, January 7, 2023, San Mateo County Sheriff-elect Christina Corpus took the stage at College of San Mateo in front of more than 600 attendees to take her oath of office. As the first female sheriff in San Mateo County since the department’s inception in 1856, and one of the first Latina sheriffs in the state, the event marked a significant milestone in her 22-year law enforcement career.
The afternoon program began with bagpipes and the presentation of colors, followed by an invocation and the national anthem sung by CSM music student Laura Oliver. Next, CSM President Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza welcomed the audience and congratulated Corpus on her new role. Author and non-profit cofounder Elizabeth Quiroz then took the stage to share an emotional story of how Corpus helped her turn her life around. Retired Marine Colonel William Peacock followed Quiroz, and State Senator Josh Becker provided remarks before the oath of office was conducted.

After the oath, the entire house gave a standing ovation to Corpus before she provided her closing remarks, “This is where it all started for me, right here at College of San Mateo, where I attended the Police Academy.”

Corpus’ path into law enforcement began when she was just 16. While waiting to pick up a friend at Tanforan Mall, an armed man attempted to carjack her. A struggle ensued, and Corpus fought off the attacker.

Left shaken and scared, the police officers that arrived on the scene that day altered the trajectory of her life forever. “They made a terrified 16-year-old girl feel safe. The officers consoled me and helped me navigate through a very traumatic circumstance. They treated me with respect, compassion, empathy, and dignity.” Corpus shared how that experience informs her perspective on community policing to this day.

Looking forward, Corpus shared her vision, “One of my top priorities will be to implement new incentives, improve working conditions, and instill a culture of support and mentorship in our organization.” She also noted the imperative to change the mental wellness culture in law enforcement, saying, “As sheriff, I will implement a robust mental wellness program for our organization… it’s time to break the stigma.”

Corpus closed her remarks with a dose of inspiration, saying, “If I can leave you all with something today, it’s that you should never underestimate your ability to make everlasting changes in the lives of others. Each of us has an extraordinary capacity to inspire and motivate.”

College of San Mateo congratulates Sheriff Corpus on her historic accomplishment and looks forward to working with her directly through her involvement on our President’s Advocacy Council.
CENTENNIAL YEAR YIELDS HISTORICAL OUTCOMES FOR CSM ATHLETICS

Softball

At the end of the Spring 2022 Semester, CSM’s softball team brought home their first-ever title as state champions. CSM’s Bulldogs won the California Community College Athletic Association State Championship following an 8-1 win over Sierra at Bakersfield College. The softball championship title was not only during CSM’s Centennial year, but also notably occurred 50 years after the passage of Title IX, which implemented official women’s sports in competition.

The softball team was recognized and honored during a San Francisco Giants game in September, in addition to receiving a special video message from NBA Legend Stephen Curry during their ring ceremony in December.

CSM also had four players who were awarded the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Cal JC North All-American Award this year; Kealani Cardona for Pitcher, Sarah Giles for First Base, Lafu Malepeai for Outfield, and Bubbah Fa’aita for DP or Utility/Non-Pitcher.

Football

CSM’s football team also won their first state championship in the program’s history with a wipeout 55-0 win over the previously unbeatable Riverside City College this past fall. CSM set a few records in the victory as well. The 55-0 final score was the largest margin of victory in the state championship game, dating to 1967. It was also the first title-game shutout since Fullerton’s 41-0 win over American River in that 1967 championship game.

Shortly after they won the state title, the Bulldogs heard, officially for the first time, that they were named the JCgridiron.rival.com junior college/community college national champion.

Volleyball

CSM head coach Katie Goldhahn, who helped launch the women’s volleyball program in 2016, led the Bulldogs to their first Coast Conference championship this season as well as its first-ever appearance at the state tournament.
Aquatic Programs Return

CSM made headlines this fall with the announcement of the return of CSM’s Aquatics Program, swim teams, and water polo teams. "After a long hiatus, we are excited to bring back an intercollegiate aquatics program to CSM," said Andreas Wolf, CSM’s Dean of Kinesiology, Athletics, and Dance. "The return of women’s water polo and men’s and women’s Swim will provide much-needed opportunities for our students interested in competitive aquatics. We are also excited to announce the return of men’s water polo after decades of being on the shelf."

In addition to these four newly formed teams, CSM named Andrew Silva as a full-time Kinesiology instructor and head Aquatics coach.

“The search for a coach to lead this endeavor was highly competitive, and after the conclusion of the process, it was clear Andrew Silva was the right fit,” said Wolf. “Not only has he experienced success at all levels, from high school to community college to NCAA Division I, he is also a member of the coaching staff of USA Water Polo, where they just completed a gold medal finish in Serbia this summer. He fits the mold of a true Bulldog, and we are elated to have him join our staff and make a mark on the aquatics community. He has hit the ground running, and I am confident he will develop successful programs.”

Skyline College Conducts Student Voice Survey

The Skyline College Student Voice Survey has concluded and it was a major success! With more than 1,300 students responding (20% response rate), Skyline College students showed up to make sure their voices were heard. Climate surveys truly help us better understand the needs and priorities of our students, information crucial to improving our overall campus climate.

The survey responses are currently being analyzed by the RP Group, and the complete results will be shared with the college community in Spring 2023. For now, we can share a few top-level results that caught our attention. For example, if you’ve ever wondered how much time Skyline College students spend on campus outside of class time in a typical week:
We also learned that 64 percent of respondents are working at least part time, with just under twenty percent working full time. More than half of student respondents care for dependents, with 15 percent dedicating more than 30 hours each week to dependent care. Our students have busy lives, but they are still committed to furthering their education, with 94 percent of respondents expressing confidence in their ability to achieve their educational goal at Skyline College. Way to go, Trojans!

As a thank-you for participating in this valuable work, respondents were eligible to win one of ten Amazon gift cards, with a $200 gift card grand prize! Some of these lucky student winners include Andrew Hines, Vairea Samn, Adrian De Leon, Ronin Morata, Zaemel Santos, Keyahna Lopez, and Sara Morrison. We want to thank each one of them and all of the student participants for taking the time. Skyline College doesn’t work without you! Stay tuned for more student survey results in the Spring 2023 semester, as well as the rollout of the Skyline College Employee Voice Survey. We look forward to hearing your voice!

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**FORENSICS TEAM (SPEECH & DEBATE) HAS AMAZING FALL SEASON**

Four students (pictured from left to right): Ben Cook, Anthony Tolosa, Lindsey Ayotte (Coach), Isaiah Angeles, and Julia Rogers competed in individual events (speech events). Anthony Tolosa advanced to finals in Novice Persuasion placing 3rd place overall!

On September 30 – October 2, 2022, Skyline College’s Forensic team competed in the Golden Gate Season Opener tournament that spanned over the course of three consecutive days. Twenty-four schools from across the Bay Area, Southern California, Oregon, Nevada, and Texas participated in the intercollegiate speech and debate tournament hosted by the San Francisco Collective: San Francisco State University, City College of San Francisco and Skyline College. Students had the opportunity to showcase talents in over fifteen different categories of speech and debate events.

Trojans competed in Novice Impromptu Speaking. In this event, students are given a set of quotations and have 2 minutes to pick one quotation and then have to prepare a 5-minute speech. This is not an easy task. The following five students participated in Impromptu Speaking (alphabetical order): Isaiah Angeles, Ben Cook, Illeana Guillen, Julia Rogers and Anthony Tolosa. The first tournament of the academic year is stressful, especially
when new team members are navigating the world of forensic tournaments for the first time. Julia Rogers broke to the final round in novice impromptu placing 6th overall earning bronze.

Traditionally tournaments will hand out actual medals and trophies, but the SF Collective awards students with succulents and plants. The plants represent growth in many ways. Students who compete in forensics are pushed to expand research, analytical, and performative skills and due to this foundational structure students in turn “grow”. The plant awards are a physical reminder of how we should strive to grow: our minds, skill sets and potentially change the way we see concepts or ideas through participatory discourse. On Saturday November 19, 2022, Skyline College’s Forensic team competed in the “DVC Thing” tournament. Twenty-two schools from across the Bay Area, Southern California, Arizona, Nevada and Washington participated in the inaugural tournament held at Diablo Valley College located in Pleasant Hill, CA.

I would like to take the time recognize Skyline College colleagues who came out to support not only Skyline College, but who continue to foster growth within the larger Forensics community: Language Arts Division Assistant Kenny Ruiz, Communication Studies Professors Jessica Hurless, Joanne Babin, Sage Russo and Danielle Powell, Business Professors Grace Beltran and Soledad McCarthy, Dean Chris Gibson, and Dean Dino Nomicos. Thank you for your continued support. If you are interested in joining the speech and debate team, please consider enrolling in COMM 172: Forensics. No previous skills or experience required to join; all are welcome! If you know someone who may be interested in joining the speech and debate team, please help spread the word! If you have any questions about joining the team, contact Director of Forensics, Lindsey Ayotte at ayottel@smccd.edu and (650)738-4276.