

SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
COLLEGE DISTRICT

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

# Combined Report of the College Presidents

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## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND INSPIRING STUDENT SUCCESS AT CAÑADA

On February 4, Cañada College's Outreach and Umoja teams joined College of San Mateo and Skyline College to participate in the Black College Expo in Oakland. Students had the opportunity to connect with representatives from 40 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to learn about student life and potential scholarship opportunities.



On February 8, the College welcomed back Cañada alumna and UCSF Social Epidemiologist, Dr. Marilyn Thomas, as the guest for Cañada's Speaker Series. Rance Bobo, Cañada's STEM Career Exploration Coordinator, sat down with Dr. Thomas as she discussed her academic journey as a non-traditional student, her motivation to stop racism through STEM and the methods she uses to obtain success. Dr. Thomas also shared her research in structural racism, racial inequities in mental illness and social policy. The event was recorded and the community can listen to the exciting and informative work of Dr. Thomas [here](#).



On February 10, the Umoja Community hosted lunch and a special screening of Jordan Peele's *Get Out*. Later this month, the Umoja team will also host a screening of *The Woman King* featuring legendary actress Viola Davis. And, on February 22, Student Senate is hosting Black Excellence featuring Cañada College alumna and HBO Max Story Editor Stephanie Johnson! Ms. Johnson will share her inspiring story and experiences that led to her career at HBO Max.



In addition to Black History Month, the Learning Center hosted a Student Success Series during the week of February 13. Students learned tips and strategies to help them succeed in their classes and accomplish their academic goals. On February 14, the Associated Students of Cañada College hosted Club Rush, where more than 95 students had the opportunity to join 15 ASCC-sponsored clubs that were present at the event. With Club Rush held on Valentine's Day, the ASCC also provided a chocolate fountain where students enjoyed an array of chocolate-dipped goodies.

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### CONTINUED GROWTH FOR CAÑADA'S ZERO- AND LOW-TEXTBOOK COST PROGRAMS



Cañada College's Textbook Affordability Subcommittee recently shared the zero-textbook cost (ZTC) and low-textbook cost (LTC) course data for the Spring 2023 semester and it is quite impressive:

- ZTC: 60 courses (142.86% from Spring 2022), 90 sections
- (152.54% from Spring 2022)
- LTC: 12 courses (same as Spring 2022), 17 sections (68% from Spring 2022)
- 51 unique faculty (150% from Spring 2022)
- 2,917 (duplicated) students in these sections (249.32% from Spring 2022)

- \$266,600 estimated savings in these sections (263.83% from Spring 2022)

Additionally, the College has made some significant strides in offering zero- and low-cost course sections. Since Spring 2021, a total of 9,878 students (duplicated) have enrolled in a ZTC or LTC course, with the estimated savings of \$928,800 over those five semesters and two summer periods. This coming summer, Cañada's Textbook Affordability Subcommittee shared that the College will top 10,000 students served and \$1,000,000 estimated savings!

To support this work, the ZTC/LTC team is routinely including sections that are part of Umoja and College for Working Adults, working with more Promise sections, and looking to incorporate more sections that involve dual enrollment students. In addition, the team will be making significant strides in the Math Department in the upcoming semesters and is working to set up Z-Degrees and Z-Certificates. Z-Degrees and Z-Certificates are pathways to those degrees and certificates that are 100% zero-textbook-cost (ZTC).

There will be more data coming soon, including upcoming data on the fall 2022 ZTC Student Survey that was conducted in November 2022.

## College of San Mateo

### FORMER CSM TRANSFER STUDENT AND UC BERKELEY GRADUATE MAKING AN IMPACT

Maggie Morgan-Butcher grew up in the Bay Area and started her college experience at a 4-year institution on the East Coast. She thrived in the college environment, but after a year and a half, Maggie realized she could not continue paying for school; it just wasn't something she could afford. So she made the heartbreaking decision to leave college as a sophomore. Maggie returned to the Bay Area, where she attended several community colleges. She found that she was not ready to commit because she was scared of how much it would cost and

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struggled with the stigma of a nontraditional journey. But then Maggie enrolled at CSM, and everything changed.



Maggie took evening classes while working full-time during the day. A significant key to her success was finding a supportive group of peers while taking evening courses at CSM, "I discovered this dedicated group of like-minded students. All of us were committed to this college-to-career pipeline and were thriving in this community of people all invested in building their future," she shared. At this point, Maggie knew where she belonged, and her future brightened.

Not only was she inspired by her peers, but Maggie also found community with CSM's counselors and her professors, "My professors were supportive and encouraging as I was trying to transfer. They read all my essays, gave me great feedback, and helped with submitting my transfer applications. In particular, my philosophy professor, Jeremy Ball, was incredibly supportive. He read my college transfer essays multiple times and gave me excellent advice. He also got me into logic and even more deeply into ethics, which is ultimately what I graduated with a degree in from UC Berkeley."

Maggie graduated from CSM in May 2020 with an associate degree in philosophy while working towards her IGETC requirements for transfer to a University of California school. Maggie was accepted into her top colleges and ultimately

transferred to UC Berkeley. She also received merit-based scholarships that made attending UC Berkeley affordable. She graduated with her bachelor's in philosophy in May 2022.



Maggie currently works for HandsOn Bay Area as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Specialist supporting SAP. Her current role allows her to help large organizations make a more significant impact in their community by developing CSR initiatives that radically impact the lives of under-resourced individuals and marginalized communities. In addition, she designs and runs high-impact volunteer events for corporate employee groups. Along with being involved in Pride@SAP, Maggie has a strong passion for improving the lives of others and credits CSM with providing her with the foundation she needed for success.



## CSM LAUNCHES EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE WEBSITE



College of San Mateo has a long history of academic excellence in the service of students. That pursuit of excellence is inspired and embodied by the efforts of our faculty, staff, and administrators. To share our employees' outstanding work and accomplishments, CSM has launched a new website that spotlights members of our campus community.

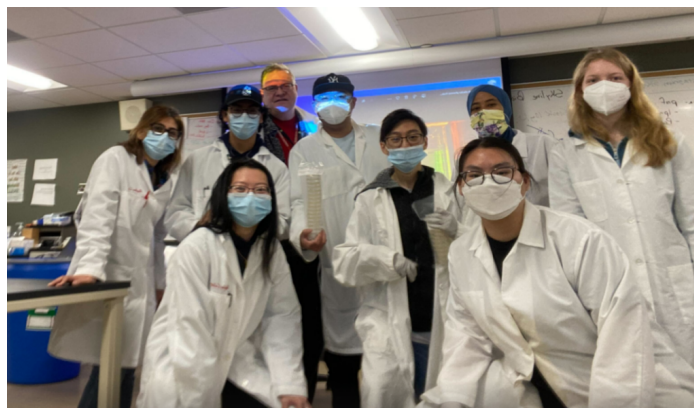
The site has launched with ten employees, with more being added each month. Not only is this an excellent way for employees to get to know their colleagues better, but it also provides students with an avenue to learn about the CSM instructors and staff who educate and support them daily.

Many students often use sites like [ratemyprofessor.com](https://ratemyprofessor.com) or LinkedIn to research faculty before enrolling in their classes. With this Employee Excellence website, CSM is providing prospective and current students with an engaging overview of the dedication and accomplishments of CSM's fantastic team.

Explore the profiles at [collegeofsanmateo.edu/excellence](https://collegeofsanmateo.edu/excellence).



## BIOSCOPE TEAM AND BIOMANUFACTURING CLUB AT SKYLINE COLLEGE DELIVERS HUNDREDS OF MATERIALS TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS



The BioScope Team and Biomanufacturing Club, which meets once a week, kicked off the semester by pouring and shipping out nearly 3,000 microbiological growth plates to BABEC (Bay Area Bioscience Education Community). These plates will be distributed to high schools in the Bay Area. Skyline is one of two community colleges which teams up with BABEC to procure supplies and collaborates to provide materials at free or reduced cost for Biotech and science classrooms around the Bay Area.

Dr. Nick Kapp, a professor at Skyline College's Biology department, and the student-led BioScope Team take initiative to encourage and guide the Biomanufacturing Club through technical and documentation procedures to enhance their in-lab skills and techniques. This also allows students to gain work and leadership experience while collaborating with their peers.

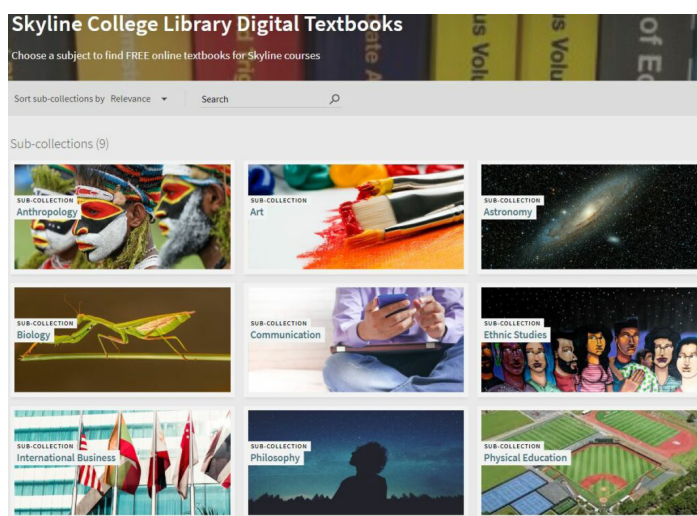
The BioScope project is a federal grant funded by the NSF. Skyline is in its 3rd and final year of this project. The BioScope Team and Biomanufacturing Club consists of students from Skyline College who are first- and second- year students, students who are seeking to gain work experience and/or

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transfer, as well as those who are interested in learning more about the field of biotechnology and instrumentation.

*Article by Kaileiani Louie | Photos by Biomanufacturing Club*

### INTRODUCING FREE DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS AT SKYLINE COLLEGE LIBRARY



#### Introducing Free Digital Textbooks at Skyline College Library

Thanks to a President's Innovation Fund (PIF) grant, Skyline College Library began a pilot project in fall 2022 to digitize selected textbooks not otherwise available in digital format. This project aims to further reduce the cost burden of traditional textbooks for students and make these books more easily accessible.

Textbook affordability can be a barrier to student success. Skyline's Zero-Textbook-Cost (ZTC) Initiative and the library's print textbook loan program have been alleviating some of this financial pressure, but there are still many courses that require expensive print textbooks.

The PIF grant has enabled the Library to give students another option. The Library's student assistants have recently finished scanning several textbooks and more are in progress. Anthropology, Ethnic Studies, Philosophy, and Physical Education are some of the subjects for which digital textbooks are now available.

Faculty and students can find these recently digitized textbooks at our [Digital Library](#). All scanned books in the Library's Digital Textbook Collection are freely available to students 24/7. The PDF files are fully searchable, although they cannot be downloaded for copyright reasons.

How does it work? Students search for a book by subject in the library catalog using the [Digital Textbooks tab](#) or by Course/Professor/Title through a [Course Reserves](#) search of the library catalog. When they find their book, they sign in with their SMCCD/Canvas login. They then can "check out" the book and read it online for up to two hours. After two hours, students have the option to renew the book if no other students are waiting. Otherwise, they can join the waitlist. They receive an email message when the book becomes available. Please note that not all textbooks can be scanned, but we are happy to consult with faculty about options.