



SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

Combined Report of the College Presidents





CAÑADA COLLEGE HOSTS 11TH ANNUAL OYE LATINX YOUTH CONFERENCE



On March 25, Cañada College hosted the 11th Annual OYE Latinx Youth Conference: Honoring Our Roots & Launching Into the Future! More than 550 community members visited the Cañada campus and joined in person, with additional live-streaming viewers and virtual participants. It was a day to explore and express Latinx culture and identity and engage in finding tools to overcome challenges, pathways to the future and strategies to strengthen our communities. It was an inspiring time, hearing how our community can connect and learn in this ever-growing online world.



This year, the OYE Conference offered 26 workshops for young people (ages 12-22) and families to explore their community strength through the workshops they attended. The information from the workshops helped our community learn about their rights, explore traditional dance, create art as a healing practice and find educational opportunities, including attending Cañada College. Participants also had the opportunity to connect with 30 resource partners and enjoy various performances from local musicians and dancers. You can watch the livestream recording [here](#).

Cañada students, alumni and employees were a major part of the event and collaborated with the OYE Planning Committee to build a memorable and inspiring event for our community. Maria Huning, Cañada's TRIO Project Director, has been the co-convenor of the OYE Conference for the past two years, leading Logistics and Planning Committees with our community partners on behalf of Cañada College. This year, Nicki Dulmage-Bekker (Outreach Program Services Coordinator) joined in the Fundraising and Outreach Subcommittees, Nimsi Garcia (DREAM Center Program Services Coordinator) served on the T-shirt and Livestream Subcommittees and led the Workshop Subcommittee. There were several Cañada employees who supported the OYE Conference and worked in a variety of capacities: John Winchester, Olivia Cortez-Figueroa, Melissa Maldonado, Adolfo Leiva, Officer Zorie Gomez, Officer Mike Kuchac, Jose Soliman, Yolanda Valenzuela, Sandra Mendez and all of the Outreach Ambassadors. There were also Cañadians who worked behind the scenes, such as alumna Paloma Felix Esparza as the Main Theater Tech, TRIO Ambassadors Alexis Arevalo Murillo and Cristina Moreno working as Tech Support for workshops and ESL Conversation Club Presidents Jose "Lalo" Hernandez and Luis Romero who served as workshop monitors. Some Cañada alumni and current students (Cristina Moreno, Chris Valdez, Precious Sunday, Alberto Mora and Jules Thomas) were also featured in the panel called, "I'm First," where they shared how they were the first in their families to obtain a degree, come to this country on their own or become business owners and entrepreneurs. Thank you to all who supported the conference making it a truly special event for our college, community and partners.

PRESIDENT LOPEZ HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD



Cañada College President Kim Lopez is one of 28 College Presidents (including one of three college presidents in the State of California) to receive Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK)'s Paragon Award. This award recognizes new college presidents for their outstanding support of student success and for providing high-quality learning environments both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, President Lopez was selected from among 406 college presidents, chancellors and CEOs who were eligible to receive this award.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) recognized 28 college presidents with the Paragon Award for New Presidents during PTK Catalyst 2023, the Society's annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, on April 20-22. The award recognizes college presidents who have shown support of student success initiatives leading

to stronger pathways to completion, transfer and employment. The recipients not only support high-achieving students and developing student leaders on campus but also share a commitment to the success of students.



President Lopez was nominated by PTK students on the Cañada campus, recognizing the hard work she dedicates to provide students with opportunities and stronger pathways to completion, transfer and employment. "These college presidents have students-first leadership styles and made it a priority to support student success both inside and outside the classroom," said Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Phi Theta Kappa President and CEO. This award is special because it comes directly from the students, and it is evidence of the gratitude they feel for the support for them and students like them."

College of San Mateo

CENTENNIAL CLOSING WEEK AND PRESIDENT'S ADVOCACY COUNCIL DINNER BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION



College of San Mateo closed out its Centennial Year through a weeklong series of events from April 3–7. The week began with the launch of a new shuttle service for students providing free rides from the Millbrae BART station to the CSM campus.

Over the next few days, open house events for MESA, Makerspace, and the Nursing Skills Lab introduced their spaces and services to the community. In addition, a public planetarium show highlighted the effects asteroids and comets have had on Earth. Finally, stepping outside, students from the Drone Mapping Club provided drone demonstrations and shared examples of the 3D maps they had made.

On Thursday, April 6, the inaugural President's Advocacy Council Dinner drew over 175 attendees to raise funds for student support and increased innovation on campus. Students, community members, and employees of CSM and the San Mateo County Community College District began the night with

a lively reception, mingling with one another while enjoying passed appetizers.



Original artworks were on display by two talented CSM faculty members, Susan Matthews, whose work explores Cuban music and dance, and Jane Williams, who paints people in a style that bridges between impressionism and realistic art. KCSM DJ Harry Duncan spun a freestyle Roots & Rhythm music mix that kept the reception engaging.

Following a welcome by President Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza and Executive Director Andrea Vizenor, CSM students George Ward and Miracle Evans gave a riveting vocal performance. Eight more students then took the podium individually to share their personal stories about how CSM inspires them.

After dinner, the highlight of the evening was a live musical performance by Tony Lindsay, the former lead singer of Santana and 11-time Grammy Award winner. His powerful voice and upbeat rhythms had guests dancing and singing along, creating an energetic and fun-filled atmosphere.

Thanks to the CSM President's Advocacy Council, the Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development team, and the SMCCCD Foundation, this first event was a great success, raising \$22,000. The night was an excellent example of how art and music can unite to support a great cause while showcasing the incredible talent and generosity of the campus community. It left attendees feeling inspired and energized.

The Centennial Closing Week ended on Friday, April 7, when over 70 SMCCCD retirees reconnected at a special luncheon full of historical memorabilia and great food. Later that evening, Professor Mohsen Janatpour held his 34th Presentation of Art

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and Science in the theatre, where he spoke about the need to see the world through artistic and scientific eyes.

HUNDREDS ATTEND BLACK COLLEGE AWARENESS FAIR AT CSM



On March 18, 2023, College of San Mateo had the honor of partnering with Ivy and Pearls Foundation and the women of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. for the 32nd Annual Black College Awareness Fair. The event garnered participation from over 200 individuals who engaged in panels, HBCU and CSM tabling, music, scholarships, and other activities.

During the fair, participants had the unique opportunity to learn from esteemed post-secondary leaders who shared insights on strategies for supporting Black/African students and their families. Distinguished college leaders such as Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, president of College of San Mateo, Dr. Dyrell Foster, president of Las Positas College, Dr. Jamal Cooks, vice president of Academic Services at Chabot College, and Dr. Wendi Williams, provost & senior vice president at Fielding Graduate University, shared their respective institutions' campus-wide efforts in this regard.

In addition, the fair featured a panel of accomplished entrepreneurs who shared their perspectives on success and opportunity. Furthermore, parents and students shared their personal experiences and provided valuable advice on navigating the community college system and transferring to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The CSM Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development Team, under the leadership of Executive Director Andrea Vizenor, has established a meaningful partnership with Zina Slaughter

from Ivy and Pearls Foundation. Notably, the foundation's mission is to serve communities of color, with a specific focus on women and girls, primarily in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Their tireless efforts encompass promoting health and wellness, academic excellence, economic empowerment, civic engagement, arts appreciation, and environmental and social justice. The Ivy and Pearls Foundation has garnered repeated recognition within the community for their outstanding contributions.



Thank you to the Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development team at College of San Mateo for all of their efforts in making this event a wonderful success.



**BETA THETA OMICRON GETS RECOGNIZED
IN THE NEVADA/CALIFORNIA PTK REGION
DURING SPRING 2023 LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**



Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society – Beta Theta Omicron (BOO) Skyline Chapter is part of the Nevada/California PTK Region. BOO is one of over 90 chapters in the region. On March 20 and 21, the spring regional conference was held in Pomona, California.

A variety of activities are held during the regional spring leadership conference. Aside from the educational forums, active chapters are recognized for their work over the previous year, and elections for the new regional officer team are held. This year, BOO’s VP of Honor in Action, Sahil Niwas, presented an educational forum on healthcare, and BOO members Arthur Veloso, Florence Thwe, and Jerry Hnin ran for regional officer positions.

Following the educational forums, officer candidates presented a 3-minute research speech and presented themselves

in a 5-minute caucus interview. Elections are performed electronically through a chapter voting delegate, each chapter can cast one vote for each position. Florence Thwe and Jerry Hnin were elected as new regional officers, as Vice President of the Northwest District and Vice President of Communication respectively.

During the awards ceremony, the Beta Theta Omicron chapter was praised for participating in all seven regional projects, and the chapter received ten regional awards. This year, the Skyline chapter received six individual awards. Kaileiani Louie received the Poetry Award for the poem “Collateral Damage.” May Myat Chel Myint was named the second most distinguished chapter member. Lasheana Dilian Husni was named the Nevada/California PTK region’s second most distinguished chapter officer. The Nevada/California Regional Alumni Association presented Jerry Hnin with the Salvatore Addotta Award of Distinction. Thanh Nguyen and Dr. Susanne Schubert were named the most distinguished advisor team in the region. And Dr. Schubert received the award for 3rd most distinguished Paragon Advisor. The Beta Theta Omicron chapter, and especially the entire officer team, was awarded: the Most Distinguished Honors in Action Theme 3 – Systems of Play – Award, the 2nd Most Distinguished Honors in Action Award, the 3rd Most Distinguished Chapter in the Nevada/California region, and the 2nd Most Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award.



PTK Leadership Conferences and campaign activities provide excellent opportunities for students to develop as leaders and practice a multitude of professional skills.

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Jerry Hnin reflected on his PTK journey so far: "Ohana means family, and family never gets behind or forgotten. PTK is the second family that I picked up along my life, which always supports me to grow as a leader as well as to become a well-rounded person."

Florence Thwe reflected on the campaign experience: "What an amazing journey and experience. ... I've gained public speaking skills, networking skills and communication skills by campaigning, giving a speech and connecting with a lot of people..."

Arthur Veloso reflected on the experience: "I have never had the opportunity to leave my campus before, and I can say that this experience was by far memorable. For the first time since I came to the U.S., I really feel like a regular student. For the first time, I feel like being an active part of American society."

SKYLINE MIDDLE COLLEGE STUDENTS WIN HONORABLE MENTION IN NATIONAL FILM MAKING COMPETITION



On Wednesday, March 10th, 2023, the 150 C-SPAN StudentCam national student documentary competition winners were announced. Over 3000 documentaries were submitted by students from 43 US states, Kenya, and the UAE. This year, CSPAN asked all student participants to create a short (5-6 minute) video documentary on a topic related to the competition theme, "If you were a newly elected member of Congress, which issue would be your first priority and why?"

Skyline Middle College 12-grade students Jizelle Oliva, Mia Tolentino, & Lori Huang were among the winners. Their documentary, titled "[Health is Wealth](#)" was awarded the Honorable Mention prize, earning the student's recognition on the CSPAN Student Cam webpage, social media platforms, and a monetary cash prize for their hard work.

The students began working on their film in October 2022 and submitted their final cut to C-SPAN in January 2023. Skyline Middle College Seniors have participated in the StudentCam competition for three years, beginning in the Fall of 2018. Jizelle, Mia, and Lori are our 3rd group of students to be part of the winning selections.

In response to their victory, I asked the student filmmakers Jizelle, Mia, and Lori the following question: "What did you learn from participating in this competition?"

Jizelle: "C-SPAN has taught me that you don't have to be in government or politics to share your voice. With knowledge, we can empower ourselves to start the conversation and recognize issues that threaten our own communities. This documentary has been our small step in becoming the change that we need for generations to come."

Mia: "I am proud to have worked and researched an ongoing topic citizens face daily around ensuring a healthy life for everyone. It is our time to help all generations supplement a safe and affordable healthcare system for all of us before it's too late."

Lori: "It has been a great experience to create a documentary and contribute to an important topic of discussion. Participating in the C-SPAN competition gave me a platform where my voice could be heard and make a difference through our documentary." For me, as one of the advisors that helped oversee the completion of these documentaries, it has been



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an exciting experience watching and helping our students do a deep dive into such culturally relevant and critical topics that allowed them to have a voice, a platform and share their view from a young adult perspective.